

**Question for written answer E-006385/2017  
to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Solid support for freshwater aquaculture

It was a welcome development when ten Member States recently signed a joint declaration to maintain EU support for the aquaculture sector post 2020. Saltwater and freshwater aqua farms have developed hugely in recent years and provide Europe's citizens and rural areas with a great many benefits in terms of rural development, job creation, food safety, food quality and environmental benefits.

It is clear that in future, sustainable sea fishing will not be able to satisfy completely Europe's demand for fish in terms of quantity. In addition, there needs to be a qualitative change in aquaculture development in the EU. The joint declaration recognises that freshwater aquaculture, which accounts for 20% of the fish farming sector in the EU, is already hugely important in economic and environmental terms (jobs and maintaining biological diversity / Natura 2000 areas, respectively).

1. How do the ministers responsible for fishing and agriculture see the future of freshwater aquaculture?
2. Does the Council of Fisheries Ministers support maintaining – or even increasing – EU support for aquaculture?
3. What measures does the Council of Fisheries Ministers propose in order to increase fish consumption in the Member States?

