

Sustainable development in aquaculture

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| Official reference | COM (2013) 229: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Strategic guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture | |
| Relevant dates | Document | 29/04/2013 |
| Policy level | European | |
| Type of instrument | Communication | |
| Geographical reach | EU Member States | |
| European contact point | Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) | |

// abstract:

The European aquaculture production is facing a period of stagnation while other regions in the world experience strong growth. To unlock the potential of aquaculture in the EU four priority areas will be addressed: (1) simplify administrative procedures in order to reduce the costs and lead time; (2) use coordinated planning to ensure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture by reducing uncertainties, facilitating investments, addressing the lack of space and accelerating the development of sectors such as aquaculture; (3) enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector in the EU by means of improved market organisation and by making full use of the proposed EMFF for production and marketing plans and for better links between R&D and the industry, and (4) promote a level playing field for EU operators by fully exploiting their competitive advantages, such as strict environmental regulations, food safety and consumer protection.

Member States are asked to prepare a multiannual national strategic plan (2014-2020) based on the strategic EU guidelines mentioned above. Where aquaculture is concerned, the national operational programme needs to merge with the multiannual national plan. The communication also states that an exchange of best practices takes place between the EU Member States via seminars. Furthermore, an Advisory Council for Aquaculture was established to enable the Commission and Member States to benefit from the knowledge and experience of all stakeholders through the preparation of recommendations for policy makers.