



PRESS RELEASE – Bruno LE MAIRE opens OECD Workshop on Aquaculture

Bruno LE MAIRE, France's Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, today opened the OECD Workshop on the development of aquaculture "*Advancing the Aquaculture Agenda – Policies to Ensure a Sustainable Aquaculture Sector*", to be held until 16 April.

The Minister stressed the major role that aquaculture could play in feeding the world population, as fish consumption had doubled in the space of 30 years. He called for the development of this sector to be a priority in the challenge to ensure food security, at a time when most of the world's fisheries had reached or exceeded their sustainable harvesting limits.

Bruno LE MAIRE proposed that all forms of aquaculture, both sea- and land-based, be developed in four directions:

- At the European level, he called for aquaculture to become a pillar of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), along with fishery resource management and the organisation of the markets. The European Union's development strategy, launched during France's Presidency of the EU and adopted under the Czech Presidency in 2009, was a first step. The forthcoming reform of the CFP, to be completed by 2012, should be an opportunity to build a genuine aquaculture policy for the EU.
- At the national level, the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernisation Bill, to be debated in the French Senate as from 18 May, provided for new regional marine-aquaculture plans to foster dialogue and set aside areas for expansion in the sector.
- Funding was required for research into effluent treatment and improvements to fish feed. As environmental concern grew, it was crucial to implement good farming practice and there was still room for improvement in effluent management and feed (less fish meal/fish oil and more plant proteins).
- Funding was also required for public relations exercises to enhance the industry's image and highlight the nutritional value and quality of aquaculture products.

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