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**Press release:**  
**EU/fisheries: European fishing fleet owners to present  
the European Fisheries Technology Platform**

*On 18 May, as part of the Navalia Fair and the E-Fishing ([www.e-fishing.eu](http://www.e-fishing.eu)) celebration, European fishing fleet owners will be officially presenting the European Technological Fisheries Platform (ETFP). The EFTP has been set up to bring together all research and technological innovation projects relating to the fisheries sector, to facilitate their application, and to encourage the adapting of entrepreneurial and administrative policies, right along the chain, to the new reality of the industry and in so doing promote the sustainability, efficiency, selectivity and profitability of Europe's fishing industry.*

The President of the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the EU, Europêche, Javier Garat, stated today during the presentation of Navalia in Vigo, that the European Technological Fisheries Platform, which *"has already been joined by more than 30 associations and organizations from different European countries, has been set up with the objective of integrating all relevant players in the fisheries value chain in the process of **R**esearch, **D**evelopment and **I**nnovation, in order to successfully modernize the activity and make it more sustainable and competitive in the long term"*.

Mr. Garat highlighted the usefulness and necessity of Technology Platforms as tools for combining forces and adopting consensual positions on the **RDI** priorities in specific economic sectors and concrete technological areas. The priorities established by the sector in this way need to be integrated into a Strategic Research Agenda, taking part in projects and transferring technology to bring it to market as fast and effectively as possible.

The President of Europêche announced that current EFTP members *"have spent several months developing the document 'Vision 2025', a preliminary step towards developing a Strategic Research Agenda. Our objective is to bring together the most interested parties in this sector in order to achieve a better consensus on all the technological priorities for the European fishing industry."*

*"The European fisheries sector is already a world reference, both at the socioeconomic level and at that of applied technological research. It remains for us to take the next step for this scientific-technological capacity to result in greater resources and the improved sustainability, efficiency and profitability of the fisheries sector and to create, via this Platform, communication flows between the public and private areas involved."*

The EFTP has the vocation of giving a new impetus to the current situation, bringing together a major critical mass of resources and capacities ready to be mobilized to convert Europe's fisheries sector into a more competitive and sustainable sector. It takes its cue from other European Technology Platforms, which have since 2003 set out with similar objectives in other economic areas and have demonstrated their effectiveness in putting across RDI priorities to governments. The EFTP will in this way enable Community and Member State policies to be more closely aligned with the market and with the reality of the fisheries industry as a whole.

The invitation made by the Navalia organization and the E-fishing event to be present in this forum and to present EFTP to the interested public there for the first time represents a very important boost to the initiative in terms of the publicity, dimension and visibility that this gives us.

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