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Press release

EU/ Fisheries: Javier GARAT elected new Europêche President

Brussels. At its General Assembly today, Europêche has elected the Spaniard **Javier GARAT** to its Presidency for a period of two years. He thus succeeds the Danish Niels WICHMANN.

Born in Cádiz in 1971, Javier GARAT started working in the “Federación Española de Organizaciones Pesqueras” (FEOPE) as Secretary General in 2001. Ever since, he has focused his efforts on defending the interests of the Spanish fisheries world-wide. Since July 2007, he is Secretary General of the “Confederación Española de Pesca” (CEPESCA). Today, the former President of the “Advisory Committee for fisheries and Aquaculture”, a formal consultation body for the stakeholders of the fisheries and aquaculture sector at European level in which he continues seating, is also expert and deputy in the EESC and President of the “International Coalition of Fisheries Associations” (ICFA). More of his numerous functions at national, European and international level are taken up in his curriculum vitae that can be found in annex.



The five elected Vice Presidents are Messrs. **Barrie DEAS**, Director of the “National Federation of Fishermen’s Organizations” (UK), **Luigi GIANNINI**, Director General of the “Federazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Pesca” (IT), **Marc GHIGLIA**, General Delegate of the “Union des Armateurs à la Pêche de France”, **Michael FARRUGIA**, Executive Director of the “Ghaqda Kooperattiva tas-Sajd Ltd” (MT) and **Gerard VAN BALSFOORT**, Secretary General of the “Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij. The position of Treasurer of Europêche held by **María José GONZALEZ**, Deputy Secretary General of CEPESCA, has also been renewed.

The working priorities of the newly elected Presidency are, in particular:

- Pursue and reinforce the influence of Europêche at Community and international level, by tightening the links with the different Community instances (Commission, European Parliament, Council of Ministers, EESC and the Committee of the Regions), FAO and the United Nations;
- Clearly position the organisation, as stakeholder, in the framework of the reform of the CFP;
- Strive for a rapid integration of organisations from the new Member States in Europêche;
- Deliver tangible solutions to the crisis in the sector and to its image;
- Improve the internal and external communication (visibility of Europêche in the field, new web site);
- Pursue the active participation of Europêche in ACFA, the Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fishing and the seven RACs.

Contact presse : Guy Vernaève, Secrétaire général : +32.2.230.48.48 – guy.vernaeve@europeche.org

CV JAVIER GARAT

Javier Garat was born in Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz) 38 years ago, and he got a degree in Law and Graduate in Community Law by the Complutense University of Madrid (CEU San Pablo) and Master's Degree in International and European Law by the Catholic University of Lovaina (U.C.L. Belgium). After Working in Brussels during two years (1996 and 1997) in the Fisheries Team of the Legal Service of the European Commission and as assistant of the Fisheries Counselor of the Spanish Permanent Representation to the European Union, he was practicing lawyer during four years in the Dutch International Law Firm Nauta Dutilh. In April 2001, he joined the Federación Española de Organizaciones Pesqueras (Spanish Federation of Fisheries Organisations), FEOPE, as Secretary General. Since then, he has focused his work in the defense of the Spanish fisheries interests around the world. Since July 2007, he is the Secretary General of the Confederación Española de Pesca (Spanish Fishing Confederation), Cepesca. Until recently, he was Chairman of the EU Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA). He is currently Chairman of ACFA's Working Group 1: "Access to fisheries resources and management of fishing activities", and of ICFA (International Coalition of Fisheries Associations), Expertise and Alternate of the Spanish Fisheries Counselor of the European Economic and Social Committee, member of the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fishing, member of the Executive Committee of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council and the Pelagic RAC, coordinator for the incorporation of the Long Distance RAC, member of the Advisory Committee for the Spanish Fisheries Sector, Counselor of the General Council of the Marine Social Institute, member of the Food Observatory Prices, Lecturer of the "Master's Degree in Maritime Law and Business" of the Spanish Maritime Institute, Lecturer of the "Master's Degree on Economy and Management of Fisheries and Aquiculture" University of Vigo, Lecturer in the "Post.- graduated Course of Specialization in Fisheries Economy" from The University of Santiago de Compostela, Lecturer in the "Master's Degree on the Economy and Management of Fishing Activity" from Barcelona University and lecturer of various fisheries courses of the International Labour Organization (ILO). He has also participated as a lecturer in various Public Hearings of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament, in Conferences organized by the European Commission, by the Nordic Council of Ministers and in numerous international and national fisheries forums, including FAO Fisheries Committee, the OCDE, IUCN, etc., as adviser member of the Spanish Delegation in UN Meetings. In 1996, he received The Cross of Naval Mention with White Emblem.