

DECLARATION & RESOLUTION

4th International Carp Conference

September 21st – 22nd 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

The participants of the 4th International Carp Conference together with the representatives of the national carp farmers associations across European Union

RECALLING the

1. Letter of Recommendations from International Carp Conference held in Kaziemierz Dolny (Poland), September 15th – 16th 2011;
2. Resolution of the 2nd International Carp Conference held in Wrocław (Poland), September 12th – 13th 2013;
3. Declaration & Resolution of the 3rd International Carp Conference held in Vodňany (Czech Republic), September 3rd – 4th 2015;
4. Other European and national structured initiatives trying to point out equally to the legislators and the society, the complex importance of the pond fish farming for the rural economy;

WELCOMMING

1. the establishment of the Aquaculture Advisory Council, the Market Advisory Council and the adoption of their working programme;
2. the response of the European Commission and European Parliament to some of the concerns of pond aquaculture sector included in the documents mentioned above;
3. the improved cooperation among pond fish farmers organisations due to their efforts and passion;

UNDERLINES that

1. there are still major bureaucratic and legislative confinements which tend to become chronic issues for pond fish farming such as:
 - a. increasing predation of the pond farms by the protected birds and mammals due to unlimited protection which caused a tremendous increase of their populations and the limited accessible food resources in the wild;
 - b. maintaining KHV, despite the scientific based evidence of its common management procedures, as a high risk level notifiable disease;
 - c. guidelines prepared by Commission services (WFD/MSFD, Natura 2000) are still a useful communication tool for the farmers themselves but they are not

considered seriously by the national legislative and administrative bodies in-charge with applying the respective Directives;

AGREES that

1. pond aquaculture is a part of the cultural heritage which also perpetuates the biodiversity providing high quality ecosystem services;
2. pond aquaculture development is still impeded by the related legislation concerning other activities such as water management, environmental protection, animal health legislation;
3. research and innovation are indispensable tools for pond farming development and the fish farmers involvement is essential;

INVITES the fish farmers and their organisations

1. to be active in all forms of supplying data, opinions and views to the local, national and European decision makers in order to provide a consistent background for the desired change in pond fish farming approach;
2. to strengthen the cooperation with the research and the academic bodies and supply the legislative and administrative bodies science based information in order to have an adequate legislative framework for fish farming activities;

INVITES the National legislators and administrative bodies

1. to work together with the fish farmers organisations in order to understand the specificity of this sector and ensure that their acts are applicable in a coherent manner;
2. to consider aquaculture development strategies and policies as simplifying tools for fish farmers providing more opportunities and not more bureaucratic obstacles;

INVITES the European Commission and European Parliament

1. to evaluate the contribution and the impact of the guidelines issued on WFD and N2000 Directives at the national level;
2. to consider pond fish farming as an agricultural activity and provide the adequate support in terms of access to production facilities, of simplifying the overlapping licensing procedures and ensure the environmental services provided by pond fish farming to the society are recognised and compensated in a coherent manner.