

Liège, 13 September 2021

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To Whom It May Concern:

**Shanghai Declaration: Aquaculture for food and sustainable development.**

Founded in 2007, The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) is an industry led, self-funding, international membership organisation, registered as a not for profit association under Belgian law. Through direct membership and that of our 16 Mirror Platforms (national or regional aquaculture clusters spread across Europe) EATiP has a membership reach approaching some 1000 organisations. EATiP comprises members drawn from across the aquaculture sector and value chain, including industry, academia, the research community, NGOs and interested third party organisations. EATiP is dedicated to developing, supporting, and promoting aquaculture, specifically, technology and innovation in European aquaculture so as to:

- Establish a strong relationship between aquaculture and the consumer
- Assure a sustainable aquaculture industry
- Consolidate the role of aquaculture in society

EATiP remains an impartial and objective association taking a science and evidence based approach. The platform operates to an agreed set of positions and to an agreed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Further information on this and on the platform in general is available through [www.eatip.eu](http://www.eatip.eu)

EATiP welcomes the publication of the *Shanghai Declaration: Aquaculture for food and sustainable development* (the Declaration). The Declaration clearly conveys the vital role aquaculture has to play in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and towards the sustainable development of aquatic foods within an environmentally responsible, sustainable and climate smart food system.

EATiP particularly welcome the commitments within the vision towards:

- Strengthening partnerships to generate and share knowledge, information and technology
- Investing in aquaculture innovation, research and development
- Creating open and transparent communication about sustainable aquaculture

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We believe it is key that we improve the image and social license of the sector to improve knowledge, perceptions and acceptability of aquaculture and its products. We endorse the commitment given to fostering an enabling environment and strengthening partnerships through multi stakeholder innovation platforms, including the reinvigoration of global development, cooperation and networking. The modernising and development of traditional aquaculture through technology, innovative approaches and encompassing digital technologies, capacity development programmes, education and extension activities will be central to the aims of objectives of delivering and fulfilling the stated intentions within the Declaration. We support the promotion of programmes for knowledge transfer, the development or local, regional or national strategic research and innovation agendas and the scope for multi stakeholder platforms to assist in the development and delivery of democratic and objective aquaculture governance models.

EATiP welcomes the *Call for Action* contained within Annex 1 of the Declaration and points A – J contained therein. Within expanding the contribution of aquaculture to sustainable food systems and the integration of aquaculture with the natural environment, other sectors, and within food systems for increased resilience, we particularly welcome the stated commitment to, *“encouraging and promoting the development of regional and national multi stakeholder platforms to instigate collaborative joint working amongst industry, research, academic and other stakeholders to develop strategic research and innovation agendas for local, regional and national aquaculture development.”*

We believe EATiP is a working example of the successful application of this methodology and we pledge to work alongside other partners in the Declaration and FAO in the promotion and development of this approach.

Furthermore, we encourage commitments towards stimulating demand-led and relevant research and innovations through strengthening partnerships, centres of excellence, academia, state and non state actors and encouraging public-private partnerships and investment. We further encourage embracing broad stakeholder involvement through consultation and active participation to build consensus around sustainable development goals and objectives.

On behalf of the President and Board of Directors of the EATiP, we confirm our pledge to support where possible the stated aims and objectives of the Declaration through demonstrating the work of our multi stakeholder platform, particularly in regard to considering the benefits of the multi stakeholder approach from the European perspective and experience and considering the application thereof for the sustainable development of global aquaculture.

Yours sincerely,



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