



WWF

ACTION PLAN



2014



*Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fisheries are criminal activities which unfortunately are not perceived as such in many regions around the world. These deprive the seas and the communities fully dependent of these resources. EU has been a key leader in the fight against IUU, and currently the only market state with a legal framework in place to impose seafood trade barriers. WWF's work has been crucial in helping to counteract IUU activities. I have joined WWF and the EU in this fight and will continue to do so.*

**Raül Romeva –**  
Former Greens/EFA  
MEP and rapporteur on Illegal,  
Unreported and Unregulated fishing

**88%**

**of Europeans believe that fish products on sale within the EU should come from sources that are sustainable and not overfished<sup>1</sup>**

## END ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

The EU is the world's largest fisheries market, consuming 25% of the world's seafood, 65% of which is imported. This gives the EU tremendous potential to influence global seafood supply chain practices. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a serious global problem that contributes to overfishing, creates unfair competition, and impedes sustainable fisheries. It is evident that combatting IUU fishing and establishing effective seafood traceability should be a high EU priority. As a starting point, the EU IUU Regulation was adopted in September 2008, and came into force on 1 January 2010. However, to date seafood sourced from criminal activities still enters the European market, due to lack of implementation of the regulation, and policy gaps in the legislation.

### HOW CAN MEPs IMPROVE THIS POLICY?

- Urge Member States to effectively implement the EU IUU Regulation.
- Promote the centralisation of information on Catch Certificates presented to the border inspection points around the EU, as the lack of electronic systems allows fraudulent activity by third countries. This includes primarily the re-use of the same or copied versions of one Catch Certificate for importing IUU products through border control points of different EU countries.
- Promote the consumption of seafood products originating from well-managed sustainable sources, e.g. MSC certified products.
- Encourage other key international markets, such as USA, Japan and others, to adopt similar legislative measures.

## YOUR ACTION PLAN

- 1 Ensure proper implementation of the existing EU IUU Regulation by:
  - Raising parliamentary questions to the European Commission and Council on the implementation of border control procedures by EU Member States.
  - Urging the Commission to ensure Member States allocate specific funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to the fight against IUU.
  - Calling on the Commission to publish criteria for listing non-cooperating countries, as well as requested measures and initiatives to strengthen their commitment to fight IUU.
  - Supporting policies and resolutions that promote best-practice seafood sourcing and traceability.
- 2 Support the introduction of stronger measures against IUU by the Commission, including:
  - The establishment of an EU-wide system of recording catch certificate information, in the form of a centralised database.
  - Refining required procedures for the issuing and handling of catch certificates and processing statements in third countries.

## TIMELINE

**By December 2014:**  
the Commission issues an evaluation of the impact of the IUU Regulation

**During 2015:**  
the Commission improves the implementation of existing requirements of the EU IUU Regulation

**By 2016:**  
the Commission strengthens and refines catch certificate handling and processing requirements

## WE MUST ACT NOW!

- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a serious global problem that contributes to overfishing, creates unfair competition, and impedes sustainable fisheries:
  - Global IUU fishing is estimated to cost between €7 and 17 billion annually, representing 11 to 26 million tonnes of catch. This also causes major loss of income to coastal countries and communities<sup>2</sup>.
  - 20% of worldwide fish catches, and up to 40% of some regional catches, are estimated to be from IUU sources<sup>3</sup>.
- The EU, Japan and USA are the world's largest seafood markets, and therefore they have an increased responsibility to stop IUU and promote sustainable fishing practices at global level.
- It is estimated that the quantity of illegal seafood products imported into the EU each year is 45,000 tonnes, worth €1.1 billion<sup>4</sup>.



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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