

# INVITATION

## MAKING AQUACULTURE A VITAL PART OF THE EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

HUNATIP WORKSHOP

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE  
EUROPEAN COUNCIL

**14 OCTOBER 2024, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

The Hungarian Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (HUNATiP) has the honour to invite you to the workshop **“Making aquaculture a vital part of the European sustainable food system,”** hosted by the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union (Rue de Trèves 92-98, Brussels, Belgium). The half-day workshop aims to bring together representatives of European institutions, industry organisations and member states in order to discuss the different views and recommendations on the way forward for the aquaculture sector of the EU.

Detailed information and the programme of the workshop are attached.

We kindly ask you to register via the following link before 11 October 2024: <https://forms.office.com/e/XDrPumHC4m?origin=lprLink>. To facilitate attendance, we also offer the option of following the workshop remotely. The access link for virtual participation will be sent to registered participants in due course.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. László Váradi**  
*HUNATiP President*

**Dr. Gábor Réczey**  
*Director General for Fisheries*

## **RATIONALE**

Aquaculture plays a special role in global food supply, a role that is growing in importance because the sector has comparative advantages compared to other food sectors in overcoming challenges the food system is facing. It is well known that aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing food sectors in terms of production volume; however, we must emphasise that robust innovation programs are behind the growth numbers. The EU is a leader in aquaculture innovation, having evolved its aquaculture sector into a modern food system over the past few decades. However, food systems, including fisheries and aquaculture, have recently faced significant challenges in meeting the growing population's requirement for healthy food. There is a need for change driven by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. In addition, there are increasing global political and economic tensions, which also affect European societies and agri-food actors.

Given the sector's commitments and the complexity of the issues, stakeholder dialogue in EU aquaculture has a prominent role in the Hungarian Presidency's programme. We believe that this aligns well with the dialogues started in the EU, particularly in aquaculture, aimed at developing a sustainable and resilient EU food system.

HUNATiP has been actively involved in aquaculture innovation for more than 15 years (as the mirror platform of EATiP since 2018) and has strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and the Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Inter-branch Organisation, MA-HAL. We strongly believe that aquaculture has the potential to be a vital component of the European food system. Its appropriate integration into the wider-scale food system would be beneficial to both the overall European food system and the sustainability, safety, and sovereignty of the aquatic food supply. Innovation actions in the EU aquaculture sector are on the right track towards a climate-neutral circular economy while also maintaining economic and social benefits. There is a need, however, for the reform of the aquaculture policy for the sector to find its right place in the Common Food System of the EU. Further joint efforts in cooperation by all stakeholders of EU aquaculture are required to tap into its unexplored potential and eliminate obstacles to its development.

## PROGRAMME

- 13.45–14.20 Registration and coffee
- 14.20–14.30 Welcome addresses by:
- **Gábor Réczey**, Director of Fisheries, Hungary;
  - **László Váradi**, President of HUNATiP

### Invited speakers:

Chaired by **Márta Janakakis** (Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU)

- 14.30–14.45 Aquaculture and the EU policy agenda  
**Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias** (European Commission)
- 14.45–15.00 Role of aquaculture in the global food system and FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap  
**Raschad Al-Khafaji** (FAO)
- 15.00–15.15 The need for an aquaculture policy reform  
**Brian Thomsen** (AAC)
- 15.15–15.30 Navigating the future of EU aquaculture: key insights and strategies  
**Javier Ojeda** (FEAP)
- 15.30–15.45 Priorities and opportunities for innovation in European aquaculture  
**David Bassett** (EATiP)

15.45–16.00 Shellfish farming: A keystone in the European Turquoise Aquaculture Revolution

**Thibault Pivetta** (EMPA)

16.00–16.15 Aquaculture multifunctionality as a response to the challenges of sustainable development

**Tomasz Kulikowski** (MIR Gdynia, Poland)

16.15–16.45 Coffee break

16.45–18.05 **Roundtable discussion on the future of EU aquaculture**

Moderator: **Cécile Fouquet** (Aliénor)

**Participants:** Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias (EC)

Raschad Al-Khafaji (FAO)

Brian Thomsen (AAC)

David Bassett (EATiP)

Javier Ojeda (FEAP)

Addy Risseeuw (EMPA)

Daniel Źarski (PAN Olsztyn, Poland)

Charlotte Epinay (Eurogroup for Animals)

Paul Mosnier (MRAG)

Béla Halasi-Kovács (HUNATiP)

18.05–18.15 Closing remarks

**Gábor Réczey**