

Grußwort

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27.4.10 (WWF und Industrie-Empfang, Europäisches Parlament, ASP 1E3)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to welcome you to the European Parliament. I am very happy about having you here. First of all I would especially like to welcome the representatives of WWF, of the processing industry and of the retailers. I am glad to sponsor this event, together with my colleagues Kriton Arsenis, Chris Davies, Corinne Lepage, Isabella Lövin, Guido Milana and Maria Patrão Neves.

I think for us MEPs this event is a good opportunity to deepen our dialogue with stakeholders; that's why I will keep my opening remarks as short as possible. However, there are some things I would like to point out before giving the floor to our experts.

Firstly: We all know that we are in an important phase of the reform process. The consultation on the Green paper is over but the lawmaking process has not yet begun. So there is still room to take influence on the debate. That's why I think that it was a very good idea of WWF and industry to hold this event now.

Secondly: Another thing we all know, is that the reform of a sensitive policy like fisheries policy will lead to a lot of fighting. That's ok, that's part of the game. But: To have a good reform we should not only fight but we should work together as much as possible. That's why I am very happy about this common initiative of an important NGO and important industry and retail stakeholders.

I will now give the floor to XY ... but I also want you to know that later on there will still be time for MEPs to make remarks and to ask questions. My colleague Mr. Cadec has already signalled his wish to take the floor.

Thank you all once again for being here!