

Background document

This document serves to provide the background to the forthcoming EATiP Meeting in Brussels on 10-11 September 2013.

Following completion of a range of assessment procedures, EATiP was recently recognised as an official European Technology Platform, alongside 37 others; all of the ETPs are now published at the following web address - <http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/>

This approval was accompanied by the publication of a new strategy for European Technology Platforms – ETP 2020 (available at same web address) – which sets out the Vision and Mission of ETPs, as a Commission Staff Working Document.

The Vision for ETPs puts forward that they should take a holistic view of their sectoral interests, identify pathways for the commercial deployment of research, provide strategic insights into market opportunities and needs and mobilise and network innovation actors across the EU to enable European companies gain a competitive advantage in global markets.

The Mission for ETPs includes 3 main functions:

1. **Strategy function** = develop strategies and provide a coherent business-focused analysis of research and innovation bottlenecks and opportunities related to societal challenges and industrial leadership actions
2. **Mobilising function** = mobilise industry and other stakeholders within the EU to work in partnership and deliver on agreed priorities
3. **Dissemination function** = share information and enable knowledge transfer to a wide range of stakeholders across the EU

Achieving this Mission requires the industry-led and focused ETPs to be inclusive and representative of businesses, research organisations and universities in their respective fields and to be open to new members.

They will have to work in close partnership with Member States and Member State-based networks as well as with countries¹ associated with the framework programme, where appropriate.

It is also anticipated that ETPs will also need to actively work with one another and engage with stakeholders, including those along the value chain, NGOs, social platforms and consumer/societal groups, as appropriate, to address wider challenges and foster solutions that are socially responsible, inclusive and sustainable.

EATiP has partially fulfilled these objectives already.

Nonetheless, EATiP has been requested to:

- Develop a strategy to expand the engagement of smaller players, SMEs in particular, to as to improve representation
- Explore ways that EATiP's work can incentivise further investments in aquaculture research – by both the private sector and Member States – so as to implements EATiP's SRIA.

¹ Switzerland, Israel, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, Albania and Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Republic of Moldova



Annual General Meeting of the EATiP

HOTEL METROPOLE • Brussels • Belgium
10th-11th September 2013

There will be a cross-ETP workshop (later in 2013) to discuss how this European view and strategy can be interpreted in terms of operations and delivery, strengthening the relationship between ETPs and the Commission.

The completion of the EATiP Vision and SRIA in 2012 has been integral to its official recognition and the 'Aquainnova' project demonstrated EATiP's commitment to openness and transparency in its operations. The commitment and contributions of the members of the EATiP Thematic Areas have been invaluable in attaining this position.

As indicated at the launch of EATiP's Vision - the Future of European Aquaculture – the EATiP Board has recognised that the initial goals of EATiP have been largely achieved, namely by providing the Vision, the SRIA, first Action Plans – followed by official recognition of EATiP as an ETP.

During the last 3 years, there have been additional actions that have or are continuing to contribute to EATiP's development, influence and achievements. If these are analysed within the ETP Mission functions, one can categorise these as follows:

Strategy function

- Completion of 'Aquainnova', the Vision and the SRIA
- Recognition of the importance of European aquaculture in the Strategic Guidelines for its sustainable development, and for EATiP's SRIA in enhancing competitiveness
- A new Common Fisheries Policy (includes aquaculture) and related instruments – starting 2014 – that is also promoting innovation and skill/knowledge transfer actions, in line with the expectations of Europe 2020 – and which also foresees
 - o the creation of a European Aquaculture Advisory Council (late 2013-early 2014) to provide recommendations to policy-makers and to help them adopt evidence-based decisions, where it is anticipated that EATiP would be a representative stakeholder.
- Incorporation of aquaculture representation in the new Bioeconomy Panel (DG RESEARCH)

Mobilising function

- Participation in partnerships with other stakeholders
 - o E.g. BECOTEPS & MARCOM projects
- Development of Action Plans (e.g. Aquainnova)
- Synergy developments
 - o With FEFAC (EUFETEC), Global Animal Health, FABRE & Animal Task Force
 - o AquaMed – Mediterranean Research
 - o AqAsem – cooperation with Asia – leading to EATiP Missions to China/Vietnam
 - o Euroshell – shellfish strategy and SRIA

Dissemination & Cooperation function

Existing examples include

- 'Aquainnova' RTD leaflets & project transparency
- AquaTnet – education and teaching platform
- AquaExcel - Aquaculture infrastructures for excellence in European fish research

In summary, the scene is well set for EATiP to move forward in its ambitions.

Nonetheless, debates and discussions are needed within the EATiP membership as to how EATiP should and can address these new issues, particularly in the light of the expectations of ETPs.

EATiP has worked with well-defined Thematic Areas since its creation but has to discuss several important points concerning its own strategy, direction and structure:

- how best to incorporate shellfish interests within EATiP (viz. Euroshell)
- the collaboration potential with AquaMed, as a **regional** research interest platform
- adapting to synergy requests (i.e. other ETPs & developing interests (e.g. potential fisheries and feed TPs))
- how to forward higher levels of active industrial interest and participation in existing networks & projects, giving as examples
 - o AquaTnet, where education, skill development & lifelong learning are focal points of interest
 - o AquaExcel, where an important network of Institutes and Universities provides access to research facilities and training courses.
 - o Short presentations will be made on these activities at the 2013 AGM
- approaches to international cooperation; this topic is divided into 2 components
 - o Examining the potential for international cooperation for companies active in aquaculture (e.g. AqAsem)
 - o Examining the potential for international cooperation on science and technology, covering both academic research actors but also technology-led SMEs
- how to increase the participation of SMEs within EATiP's activities

Effectively, several of these issues go outside of the mandates of the existing Thematic Areas and it is therefore necessary to consider how best to structure and operate EATiP over the next 18 months.

These points will be discussed on the first day of the Annual Meeting for decision by the Assembly in the AGM on 11th September 2013.