



Press Release Immediate Release

EFTTA AISBL have total focus and clarity of important role ahead

EFTTA AISBL informs:

Following Brexit and the closure of EFTTA Ltd. & EFTTEX Ltd. in England in 2021, EFTTA AISBL was established in Brussels, Belgium in early 2022. Since then, times have become ever more challenging for the future of recreational angling within Europe. Threats come from multiple sides and the list of tasks for EFTTA AISBL is long. EFTTA AISBL has been established as a registered Nonprofit Association (EFTTA AISBL – *Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif*). EFTTA AISBL membership fees are entirely dedicated to finance our lobbying work in Brussels. This important role is time consuming, and demands our full attention.

In 2022, EFTTEX Kft. was founded in Hungary as an independent, privately owned company to organize the EFTTEX Show. For the sake of clarity and good order we highlight that EFTTA AISBL has no shares within EFTTEX Kft. and there is no legal or operational connection between EFTTA AISBL and EFTTEX Kft.

EFTTEX Kft. is solely responsible for the organization and execution of EFTTEX 2022 and EFTTEX 2023 and is run and operated totally independently of EFTTA AISBL.

On behalf of EFTTA AISBL and the board of directors we emphasize that EFTTA AISBL is not the organizer of EFTTEX 2022 and EFTTEX 2023 and that EFTTEX 2022 and EFTTEX 2023 is not being run for or on behalf of EFTTA AISBL. Membership in EFTTA is no longer a condition of participation in EFTTEX.

Olivier Portrat, CEO of EFTTA AISBL

Brussels, 05/12/2022

Editors Notes:

The European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA) was established in London in 1981 with a clear purpose: to support the European sportfishing tackle sector - the manufacturers and wholesalers, the importers and exporters.

Our mission is to promote and protect the interests of the Recreational Angling Industry in Europe by lobby activities and raising awareness among politics and society. More than 3,000 European manufacturing and wholesale companies trading in sport fishing or related to the recreational angling industry benefit from our lobby work in the EU institutions. Our work aims at ensuring that millions of recreational anglers can continue practicing their hobby in a responsible and sustainable way. To do so effectively EFTTA has registered as an official lobbying association in Brussels.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of the main topics that EFTTA is currently taking care of with its lobbying work at the EU (European Union):

- **Fish species:** Sea bass; western and eastern Baltic cod; Baltic salmon; eels, Bluefin tuna.
- **Fish farming:** Pushing for closed installations.
- **Hydropower:** Awareness raising about the negative impact from small hydropower vs. the minuscule power production (lobbyid the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Taxonomy, Nature Rest. Law, Renewables Directive).
- **The EU's fisheries Control Regulation:** in particular the recreational fisheries article 55; we push for more and better data collection (catch and economics). Angler registration or license proposed. Fishing apps. Citizen Science.
- **The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030:** in particular 'strictly protected areas'. We managed to get angling free from being deemed an '**extractive activity**' on par with mining and forestry, which, per definition, should not be allowed access to any strictly protected area.
Despite this success, we cannot rest on our Laurals. Process continues, implementation, evaluations, revisions etc.
- **Cormorants:** Continued push for regional management plans (Baltic) and European (together with EIFAAC).
- **Plastics in fishing gear:** The implementation of the SUP Directive + other litter legislation (e.g. the MSFD)
- **Lead in fishing sinkers and lures:** ECHA ban proposal. Report to the EU Commission Dec 2022. Thereafter: Work on a legislative proposal.
- **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) :** we are lobbying for years to be part of the CFP. Although and we are in a good position, the recent reform has just been postponed to the next legislative period from 2024 onward