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Name Participants: Sandra Zafra	
Challenges and Potential for freshwater Aquaculture	
Location: European Committee of the Regions	Date & Time: 22/05/2019 9.30 am
Report:	
Summary report:	
The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Committee of the Regions jointly organised a workshop on the “Challenges and Potential for freshwater Aquaculture”. The goals of the workshop were to identify and propose solutions for landlocked regions aiming to develop freshwater aquaculture, as well as to show the role of freshwater aquaculture in food security and production. The workshop focused on the importance to promote a sustainable aquaculture in the EU, following the UN’s sustainable development goals.	
Detailed report:	
During the session, various aspects affecting the EU aquaculture sector were discussed. The main outcomes of the meeting were the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is a Fish Gap in the EU, since the demand for fish is higher than production.- Asia encompasses the 88% of the total world aquaculture production (China encompasses alone 61% of the total).- Aquaculture must face a change that must be focused on the added value of aquaculture based on the use of high-tech in production, the development of qualified jobs, the sustainability, and farmers and workers education.- The sustainable development (following the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals) is essential. Excessive ocean exploitation might risk future resources. Freshwater aquaculture is the suitable alternative to extractive aquaculture.- The potential obtained with the introduction of a label (increasingly asked by consumers) regarding the production region in order to ensure the traceability of the products and better-informed choices done by consumers.- Freshwater aquaculture is a local activity that provides local jobs and promoted needed regions. It is essential to involve those local communities on the further development of EU Aquaculture.	

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