

BSAC report on the conference: Joining Forces for the Energy Transition in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture (launch of the Energy Transition Partnership)

22/06/2023

Attended in person in Brussels by the Chair of the Executive Committee – Jarek Zielinski, and the Chair of the Energy Transition FG – Peter Breckling-.

The event was organised by the European Commission.

The high-level conference was the start of new stakeholder cooperation on the energy transition in the sector.

It featured [the launch of the process of establishing the new Energy Transition Partnership for the fisheries and aquaculture sector](#). The Conference brought together all the stakeholders that are needed to act together to accelerate the transition towards a resilience and climate-neutral sector by 2050.

The conference aimed to:

- Generate broad interest in the for the Energy Transition Partnership, gathering the first community of actors and boosting further adhesions to the Partnership;
- Start a dialogue about opportunities and challenges within the sector;
- Mobilise actions and measures to contribute to a roadmap with concrete and feasible actions to accelerate the transition in the sector;
- Showcase concrete examples of initiatives from stakeholders, and give visibility to the projects and best practices on energy transition.

The current energy intensity and reliance on fossil fuels makes the fisheries and aquaculture sector vulnerable to increases in energy prices, which became especially clear during the high energy prices in 2022. By strengthening the fuel efficiency and ultimately switching to alternative and low-carbon energy sources, the sector can grasp the opportunities of an energy transition towards a more resilient and sustainable sector.

On the 21st of February 2023 the European Commission published a Communication on the Energy Transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture setting out concrete next steps for supporting the sector in the energy transition.

The Energy Transition Partnership

Currently, several technical, financial, regulatory, and other barriers prevent many EU fishers, aquaculture producers and other stakeholders from accelerating in the transition. Working together with a wide range of stakeholders to achieve concrete and practical solutions is therefore essential for making the transition.

The Energy Transition Partnership aims to invite all stakeholders to work together on a voluntary basis bringing forward the energy transition in the sector. It will be the platform for stakeholder dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge sharing. Stakeholders expressing interest in the Partnership will participate in dialogue and workshops of different themes, and will be engage in the process to propose a roadmap with practical solutions to accelerate the energy transition in the sector.

The event showed that the issue of decarbonisation is high on the political agenda. The energy transition partnership will serve as a platform to discuss specific topics and to create a voluntary roadmap for the sector for this transition by 2024.

The core messages of the first session of the meeting on Energy Transition Partnership was close cooperation of all stakeholders in partnership and the need for the outcome of energy transition to be profitable and competitive. Energy transition in the fisheries sector implies a renewal of the entire fleet in the future. From the Baltic perspective, the small scale fleet may be faced with problems with the use of alternative fuels. Energy transition requires a lot of research and technological developments.

The second session dealt with skills and finance for innovation and the third session with knowledge, research and innovation.

The fourth session consisted of overview of projects on the energy transition in fisheries sector.

Pilot projects are needed to show that innovative solutions work in practice.

Recording of the event is available here:

<https://etransition-fish-aquaculture.eu/components/32070>