
AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN EUROPE (EUROFISH)

A Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of the International Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe, which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 23 May 2000, adopted the Agreement establishing the International Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH).

In accordance with paragraph 1(b) of Article 14, the Agreement was signed in Copenhagen on 23 May 2000 on behalf of Estonia, Hungary and Latvia and remained open for signature at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the Agreement, the European States may become parties to the Agreement either by signature of the Agreement at a ministerial level, or by signature followed by the deposit of an instrument of ratification, or by the deposit of an instrument of accession.

Paragraph 6 of Article 14 provides that the Agreement shall enter into force with respect to all States or regional economic integration organizations that have signed it at a ministerial level, ratified it or acceded to it on the date when at least five European States or regional economic integration organizations have signed it at a ministerial level or have deposited an instrument of ratification or accession. In accordance with this provision, the Agreement entered into force on **12 October 2001**. The Agreement was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 15 May 2002 under No. 38415.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 14 and subject to paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Agreement, at any time after the entry into force of the Agreement, any State outside the Region may apply to the Director-General of FAO to become a member of EUROFISH. The Governing Council of EUROFISH shall then decide on the application.

At its 17th Session, convened from 1 to 2 February 2018, the Governing Council adopted amendments to the Agreement, with the effect of, *inter alia*, changing the official name of the Organisation from the “International Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) to the “International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe (EUROFISH)”.

Pursuant to its Article 15, the amendments “*shall take effect, with respect to all Contracting Parties, on the thirtieth day after their adoption by the Governing Council, except for any Contracting Party which gives notice of withdrawal within thirty days of the adoption of such amendment, subject to Article 16, paragraph 1*”. Accordingly, the amendments entered into effect on 2 March 2018. The Amendments were registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 30 May 2018 under no. 68440

Signatories and Parties to the Agreement

The following are the signatories and the parties that deposited their instruments on the corresponding date indicated:

Participants	Signature	Definitive Signature	Ratification	Accession
--------------	-----------	-------------------------	--------------	-----------

Albania		17 Nov 2000		
Bulgaria ¹				20 Jun 2003
Croatia	18 Jul 2002		5 Sep 2003	
Denmark		18 Jul 2000		
Estonia	23 May 2000		21 Dec 2006	
Hungary	23 May 2000		14 Nov 2018	
Italy	8 Jan 2002		24 May 2006	
Latvia	23 May 2000		26 Feb 2001	
Lithuania				21 Jul 2005
Norway		26 Feb 2001		
Poland	12 Jan 2009		23 Jun 2010	
Romania		12 Oct 2001		
Spain				25 Apr 2006
Turkey		5 Mar 2002		

¹ On 14 December 2010, the Director-General received a notification of withdrawal from Bulgaria. In accordance with Article 16, paragraph 1 of the Agreement, the withdrawal shall become effective on 14 December 2011.