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PRESS RELEASE

FIF calls on Minister Coveney for a Compensation Scheme for Fishermen

FIF has today requested as a matter of urgency that Minister Coveney put in place an adequate compensation scheme for fishermen who have suffered significant losses as a result of the recent severe weather over the last two months.

“FIF welcome the scheme for inshore fishermen announced by Minister Coveney last week however we have pointed out that we feel that the scheme is inadequate in the wake of the losses experienced by fishermen and also that a compensation scheme urgently needs to be put in place for trawlers who have been unable to fish activity since the middle of December and therefore have had no income for nearly two months” commented **Sean O’Donoghue, Chair of FIF.**

“ Under the Article 33 (c) 1 of the recently agreed European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, Member States can pay financial compensation to fishermen for economic losses caused by adverse climatic events under certain conditions. While the Fund will not be formally put in place until later on in the year it allows payments to be backdated to the 1st of January 2014. We are therefore calling on Minister Coveney to utilise this provision in putting in place an adequate compensation scheme as matter of urgency which hopefully will allow fishermen who are currently on the brink of financial ruin to remain in business and support both themselves, their families and the rural coastal, peripheral communities who rely on them”

Mr.O’Donoghue concluded.

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