



PRESS RELEASE
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The European Parliament Recreational Fisheries Forum has a new Chair!

Mr Niclas Herbst, Member of the European Parliament elected in North Germany



Following the official relaunch of the European Parliament Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic environment last November in Strasbourg, the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) and the European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA) are glad to count on the support of Mr Niclas Herbst, who has accepted to become the Chair of the Forum for the next five years.

“Regular dialogue with anglers from across Europe is important to my parliamentary work in the Fisheries Committee. And beyond that, I am convinced that the recreational fisheries sector can provide a distinct perspective on many issues that will be very high on the Parliament’s agenda during this mandate, including in the context of the Green Deal roll out” said Niclas Herbst, reacting to the official announcement of his appointment as Chair of the Forum.

MEP Herbst was elected to the European Parliament for the first time in July 2019. He is a member of the Fisheries Committee and Budget Committee. Originally from Kiel, a town by the Baltic Sea, he is very active on fisheries policy issues and has had an open ear for the recreational fisheries sector early on during his mandate.

Fred Bloot, President of the EAA and Olivier Portrat, EFTTA CEO welcomed the new Chair of the Forum: “We look forward to a very constructive partnership with Mr Herbst and to lively discussions in the Recfishing Forum”.

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Note to the editor:

Short biography of Niclas Herbst:

Niclas Herbst was born in Ratzeburg, Germany in 1973. In the 1990’s, he studied Political Science, Public Law and the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, where he was also engaged in the CDU and its youth branch, the Junge Union. He worked as political advisor in the national parliament and CDU section of the Landtag Schleswig-Holstein. In the 2000’s and 2010’s, he held different local and regional mandates in the same state, by the Baltic Sea. In May 2019 he was elected to the European Parliament. He is Vice-President of the Budget Committee and member of the Fisheries Committee.

About the Forum:

The RecFishing Forum Secretariat is provided by [EAA](#) and [EFTTA](#)
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The Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment (Recfishing Forum) was created in 2014, at the beginning of the previous European Parliament legislature. **By providing a cross-party discussion platform**, the Forum has been an essential tool for the **Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to establish a direct connection with the recreational fishing community, its network of scientists, in-house experts and other representatives of the sector** in order to gather knowledge, information and data on the topics that were discussed in the European Parliament.

[More information about the Forum](#)

About EAA and EFTTA

The **Secretariat of the Forum is provided by two associations working together**: the [European Anglers Alliance](#) (EAA) and the [European Fishing Tackle Trade Association](#) (EFTTA). The EAA and the EFTTA work at the EU level and beyond to improve the aquatic environment, to achieve sustainable management of the fish stocks and to protect and promote recreational angling [rod and line fishing] in Europe. They also advocate for recreational fisheries to be managed in a fair and equitable way with respect to the other fisheries sectors.

The **European Anglers Alliance (EAA)** is a pan-European organisation for recreational angling, which defends European recreational anglers' interests at the European level and beyond. EAA was launched in Brussels in 1994. There are about 3 million affiliated members to EAA's 16 member organisations and affiliates from 15 European countries.

The **European Fishing Tackle Trade Association** 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. Every year, EFTTA organises EFTTEX, the leading European Fishing Tackle Trade Exhibition.