

## Brussels Weekly Update - 25/01/2018

### FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [EU risk assessments in food sector: EC launching public consultation on transparency](#). Source European Commission.

The EC has launched a public consultation on The European Food Safety Agency work in the area of risk assessment. In particular this consultation aims to gather EU stakeholders experiences on:

- the transparency and independence of the EU risk assessment system with respect to the underlying industry studies and information on which EFSA's risk assessment/scientific advice is based;
- risk communication; and,
- the governance of EFSA, in particular the involvement of the EU Member States (MS) in the EU risk assessment system.

The deadline for contributions is March 20th 2018.

- [EFSA: Listeria monocytogenes contamination of ready-to-eat foods and the risk for human health in the EU](#). Source EFSA.

On 24 January EFSA published a report on Listeria monocytogenes contamination of ready to eat foods and the risk for human health in the EU. On 'fish and fish products' the report says that RTE products continue to be of significance from a food safety perspective. However EFSA recognises that the increasing trend of listeriosis for some population groups may potentially be attributed to numerous factors which not only include the contamination levels in food, but also other factors, such as consumption, strain virulence, health status of consumer and demographic changes. This indicates the need for continuous review of the food safety management system in EU to achieve the appropriate level of protection. Among other recommendations the report says that awareness needs to be raised among all stakeholders in the food chain, including vulnerable groups, people supplying food to vulnerable groups, caterers, producers and authorities, about the potentially increasing problem of L. monocytogenes in RTE foods since the proportion of citizens in high-risk groups is expected to increase in the EU.

- [Commission report on the implementation of the Union Customs Code](#). Source European.

On 22 January 2018, the European Commission has published a report on the state of play of implementation of the UCC since its entry into force on 1 May 2016. The report also deals with how the Commission has exercised its power to adopt delegated acts supplementing the UCC. The UCC provides a framework of EU customs rules that are adapted to a more globalised trade environment and modern communication tools, so as to facilitate cross-border flows of goods while protecting the financial and economic interests of the EU and Member States. The Commission is considering a legislative proposal to prolong the application of transitional rules to customs processes governed by the systems to be postponed; this will ensure the continued smooth functioning of the customs union in the period between 2020 and 2025. The Commission also considers that this delegation of power should be extended in order to enable it to propose any further measures necessary to adapt customs legislation to technical and technological progress as well as to the dynamics of trade.

- [South Korea - importation of Live Animals and Animal Products](#). Source DG TRADE

DG SANTE reported that for animals or products of animal origin subject to quarantine inspection intended to be imported for the first time from a specific country into South Korea, the responsible authority in that country must apply for an import permission at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA). The MAFRA then sends a questionnaire on animal health to the exporting country and, after having received the answer, assesses the possibility of disease introduction associated with the importation of the commodity and evaluates necessary quarantine measures to reduce the risk. Moreover, it conducts an on-site investigation of the health status in the exporting country and consults with that

country for finalising the health requirements which should be met for exporting the animals or products to South Korea. The final animal health requirements will be enacted by being published in Korean Official Gazette or being posted on the Ministry's website. The importation of products of animal origin requires an import permit issued by the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (QIA). Furthermore, importers should note that live animals, animal products, aquatic animals as well as any articles likely to spread aquatic animal diseases (e.g. feed, equipment, water, etc.) are subject to quarantine and will not be released if they do not conform to the requirements stipulated by the QIA or the National Fishery Products Quality Management Service (NFQS); the latter authority is responsible in case of aquatic species.

In case of fishing tackles and fish bait to be imported, such goods exceeding a stipulated maximum amount of contained hazardous goods are prohibited. Any consignment of live animals or products of animal origin must be accompanied by a health certificate confirming that they are not infected and do not carry any infectious diseases.

---

### Agendas:

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain](#). 01/02/2018
  - [Codex Committee on contaminants in food](#). 12/03/2018.
- 

### Useful links:

- [Second report on the effects of GSP and the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance \(GSP+\) covering 2016-2017](#).
  - [Commission refers Portugal to Court over its failure to adequately protect natural habitats and species](#)
  - [Ocean productivity index for fish in the Arctic Ocean](#).
  - [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1006/2008](#).
- 

### Events:

- [8th Annual European Food Sure Summit](#). 16 - 18 April 2018. Amsterdam