

## BRUSSELS UPDATE 20/03/2015

- [WELMEC GUIDE – without developments](#)

The EC confirmed that after several exchanges of views with the experts of the MS the discussion has not yet shown to be conclusive. It is necessary to define the appropriate scope and describe the corresponding laboratory procedure(s) for a harmonised rule according to the highest standards, taking into account that several instruments are available.

At national level MS may also have developed a validated in-house method for the purpose of official controls. Work is therefore ongoing to finalise the above mentioned harmonized rule.

- [EFSA launches anti-fraud strategy](#)

The proposed strategy is based on the findings of a fraud risk assessment exercise performed on the basis of the definition of 'fraud' as provided by OLAF (European Anti-fraud Office). According to that definition 'fraud' encompasses misbehaviour of both internal and external actors that has an impact in particular on the financial interest of the European Union but also misbehaviour which albeit not having a direct financial impact can be detrimental.

The following areas were identified as requiring attention: plagiarism, falsification of documents, misbehaviour when completing a declaration of interest and favouritism. On the basis of the above-said exercise and by taking into consideration the specific context of EFSA four objectives have been identified: a) maintaining a high level of ethics and fraud awareness, b) ensure robustness of fraud detection, c) strengthening cooperation with OLAF as key actor in the fight against fraud and d) ensuring effective implementation of anti-fraud measures.

The action-plan contains a set of 7 actions linked to the four objectives covering a period of 2 years. For each action an indicator is set in order to be able to monitor and report on the implementation of the action.

- ['FAD-free' tinned tuna](#)

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Francisco José Millán Mon and Gabriel Mato (both from the Spanish Conservative Party) sent the following parliamentary question to DG MARE on the use of fads in EU tuna fisheries.

*"Fish aggregating devices (FADs) are among the most commonly used methods in tuna fishing. The sustainability of FADs has not been called into question from a scientific point of view.*

*Over the last few weeks press reports have suggested that the European tuna industry is concerned at the appearance on the EU market of tinned tuna from outside the EU labelled 'FAD free'. The tuna industry has two problems with this: first, the label concerned does not stem from a certification scheme and is not based on the independent checks needed to ensure that the tuna has been caught without the use of FADs (it is believed that in many cases the labels are fraudulent); and second, the label could mislead consumers, who might think that 'FAD-free' tuna is more sustainable than tuna caught using FADs.*

*Is the Commission aware of this problem, of the harm it is apparently causing to the EU fleet and of the confusion it can create among consumers?*

*If so, what steps has the Commission taken, or what steps does it intend to take on this matter?"*

Moreover, Europeche an European organisation which represents 80,000 fishermen in 9 European countries, recently pointed out that some tuna products appearing on the EU market are falsely claiming to have been caught without the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs).

**Agendas:**

- [Standing committee on plants, animals, food and FEED Section Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain, 14 April 2015](#)
- [EP Fisheries Committee, 30-31 March](#)
- [EP Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, 26 March](#)

**Useful links:**

- [EUMOFA – European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products](#)
- [Workshop - Unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain \(UTP\)- 23 March 2015](#)
- [E-Congress Food Fraud: Food Safety, Authenticity and Global Supply Chain Integrity](#)
- [Conference “Assuring the integrity of the food chain: food authenticity research priorities and funding opportunities”. 26 March, Brussels](#)

**DG MARE:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/mare/news.cfm?subweb=342&sub=1&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/mare/news.cfm?subweb=342&sub=1&lang=en)

EU Presidency: <http://www.es2015.lv/en/>

EFSA: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>

**Other events:**

<http://europa.eu/newsroom/calendar/?siteLanguage=en>

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