

BRUSSELS UPDATE 01/06/2015

- [SEAFISH meets Girst Stenders from the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU to discuss the Official controls regulation proposal](#)

On 21st May, Seafish met the Latvian Presidency to explain the UK Border Inspection points concerns regarding the review of the Official Controls Regulation. More specifically we discussed the proposal to transfer the inspection responsibilities for all food that includes animal products to veterinarians. For the UK this would mean a change in staff in at BIPs for the inspection of fish and fishery products. This would have a negative effect on the quality and efficiency of official controls.

The next meetings in the Council at “Attachés” level will be held on 29th, 2nd, 3, 9th and 10th June where the new consolidated text will be discussed article by article.

The most controversial issues are the following:

- Scope
- Definitions (e.g. food fraud: as written in the GFL and it will be developed by the EC. It could be part of the negotiations with the EP)
- Fees: 3 options (partial harmonization; subsidiarity or none of the two) The Latvian Presidency is in favour of the first option

- [Fish Labelling](#)

The traceability and labelling of fishery products will be discussed in the next General Food Law Standing Committee on 10 June. The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit has not yet been published but is expected to find mislabelling as fish is often the subject of food fraud, with cheaper species passed off as more expensive ones. A joint fact-finding investigation by DG SANTE and DG MARE will be carried out to analyse the use of additives in fish. The project will start in October 2015 and will finish with an overview report at the end of 2016.

- **IUU fishing: update on Thailand, Korea and Philippines**

On 28th May during the WP on Internal and External Fisheries Policy the EC informed that Philippines and South Korea had both made significant improvements in the fight against IUU fishing. Both had overhauled their legislation, introduced action plans to combat IUU fishing and now they have a proper system of sanctions in place. These actions seem enough to justify the lifting of the yellow cards. Beside this, the EC explained how it was the situation of Thailand. There remained though a lack of an up to date legislative framework (the two main laws date from the 1930s and 40s and recent redrafts were nowhere enough to meet the EU's concerns), a lack of stock management (the bad state of the stocks is shown by the fact that one hour's fishing now only caught 14 kg of fish compared to 300kg a few decades ago) as well as no vessel registry, no control, no sanctions and no VMS or certification. All this also affected the aquaculture sector which uses a lot of fishmeal originating from this unsustainable fishing. In the EC's view this lack of progress was unacceptable, hence Thailand's yellow card.

- [EFSA: New dioxins risk assessment](#)

A new EFSA scientific statement reviews the different recommended safe levels of dioxins in food and feed. EFSA recommends and recently accepted a request from the European Commission for a comprehensive risk assessment for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed. This will be the first EFSA risk assessment of dioxins in feed.

Useful links:

- [The trawler PECH Committee Magazine of May - published by the EP](#)
- [Science for food - Joint Research Center Report.](#)
- [European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products](#)

Agenda:

- [Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy](#), June 4

Events:

- EXPERT GROUP FOR MARKETS AND TRADE IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS. 17 June 2015. Brussels
- [State of play of the EU-Japan trade negotiations and update on the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment, 26 June.](#) Brussels

DG MARE:

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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