

BRUSSELS UPDATE 13/02/2015

- [The European Commission has granted six month extensions to the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Ghana as they work towards eradicating illegal fishing in their countries](#)

Today the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, declared that the Philippines and Papua New Guinea have taken their warnings seriously, and that Ghana continues to cooperate closely with the Commission. All three countries have shown political will and have made tangible progress in fighting illegal fishing. That is why DG MARE has offered each country an additional six months.

- [European Court rules on shellfish safety test](#)

The European Commission was justified in replacing the biological method of detection of marine biotoxins in live bivalve molluscs with a chemical test, the General Court of the European Union ruled on Wednesday.

Spain challenged the Commission over the withdrawal of the biological method which was the official method of detecting the toxins until 2011. However, the Court considers that the chemical test, which was assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), better protected public health.

- [The EC confirmed that it is NOT authorized under the new FIR to also label the gross weight of glazed fishery products](#)

This week the EC confirmed that under Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, it is not allowed to continue declaring the weight of the glazed food inclusive of the glaze (total/gross weight), in addition to the indication of the net weight exclusive of the glaze, as this possibility would be contrary to the intention of the Union co-legislators and it would go against the objective and spirit of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011

- [Japan: Import quotas for fisheries products](#)

The Commission explained during the last Market Access Advisory Committee that the quotas put in place by Japan to limit the volume of imported fish were not fully used by EU exporters. The species affected by these measures and which are of interest for EU exporters are horse mackerel (NL, IRL, UK and DE), mackerel (IRL) and herring (NL). The EC mentioned that although no specific issue was signalled by Member States in relation to these import quotas, the Commission asked the committee to check whether any difficulties and/or additional costs for companies would be associated with these quotas.

[EU NGO's encourage the European Commission to develop a Communication on the sustainability of the food system.](#)

A group of NGOs have urged to Jean-Claude Juncker and four other Commissioners, to publish a long-awaited communication on sustainable food, originally planned for release in 2013. These organisations said that the focus should be on food production, distribution and consumption; it should examine options that enable conscious consumer choices towards sustainable diets, including a reduction in the consumption of animal-based foods,

Minutes

[ENVI Committee EP](#), 29 January
[INTA Committee EP](#), 21-22 January

Useful links:

- [Hearing on Maximum Sustainable Yield in Fisheries management](#). 23 February - Brussels.
- [The Global Food Safety Conference 2015: FOOD SAFETY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY](#) 3-5 March Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- [E-Congress Food Fraud: Food Safety, Authenticity and Global Supply Chain Integrity](#)
- [Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment support of the ongoing negotiations of a free trade agreement between the European Union and Japan](#)
- [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

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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