

Seafish Regulation Alert Monitor 18/03/16 - 25/03/2016

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Food Safety

EC Comitology - PAFF Toxicological safety (February 4) – Source - European Commission

The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section: "Toxicological safety of the food chain" met on February 4 2016..

The main points on the agenda were:

SECTION A - INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Exchange of views on the follow-up of the EFSA opinion on FGE.203
2. Acrylamide in food
3. Feedback from the Expert Committee "Agricultural Contaminants" on tetrahydrocannabinol in food, pyrrolizidine alkaloids in honey, tea, herbal infusions and food supplements and opium alkaloids in poppy seeds
4. Endorsement of a Commission Recommendation on the monitoring of nickel in food
5. Information and exchange of views on the voting procedure of approximately 106 individual Decisions authorising plastic recycling processes for food contact materials under Regulation (EC) No 282/2008
5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of Propionic acid – propionates (E 280 – 283) in tortillas

Agendas, minutes and papers can be viewed [here](#)

Acrylamide in Food

The discussions noted at the meeting above were,

The Commission representative indicated that the approach as possible way forward is as follows :

- application by the food business operators of Codes of practice to reduce the presence of acrylamide is made mandatory by Regulation;

- the Codes of Practice have to be endorsed by the Standing Committee and shall be made available in all Union languages;

- indicative levels as foreseen in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2013/647 to be used as benchmark to check effectiveness of applied mitigation measures provided for in Code of Practice. These indicative levels would be provided in Annex to the Regulation and the indicative levels to be reviewed (in view of a lowering) once the Codes of Practice are implemented;

- for the products of the sectors for which the Standing Committee does not endorse the Code of practice or from which the Committee is not assured that it shall result in levels of acrylamide below the indicative values, alternative/additional risk management measures shall be considered.

A large majority of the Committee welcomed the approach. The need to have a tailored approach for micro-enterprises was highlighted. Furthermore, the need to establish specific provisions on sampling and analysis was mentioned.

Delegations were invited to provide specific comments on the draft Codes of Practice as developed by the relevant sector organisations by 26 February 2016 to the Commission.

Common Fisheries Policy

European Parliament Committee on Fisheries

The EP PECH committee adopted three reports:

- Motion for a resolution: Traceability of fishery and aquaculture products in restauration and retail: 19 in favour (unanimous)
- Draft report (Alain Cadec (EPP, FR)): Community Fisheries Control Agency: 14 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions
- Draft report (Marco Affronte (EFDD, IT)): Fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other: 18 in favour, 1 against

See [here](#) for documents (Traceability is item 6)

Briefing| EP PECH - New framework for technical measures

Technical measures in fisheries govern the different fishing practices which can be used to catch fish, as well as the areas and seasons for fishing. Aimed at limiting unwanted catches (notably of juvenile fish) or at reducing the impacts of fishing on nature (protected species and vulnerable habitats), EU technical measures in fisheries have, over time, developed into a complex set of prescriptive measures, which do not fully achieve their objectives. The European Commission finalised, on 11 March 2016, a long-awaited proposal to overhaul a number of existing rules and to establish a new legislative framework in this domain. Building on the latest reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the proposal would provide measures of general application in all seas, and baseline measures

supporting given objectives, by maritime region. It would also set a new approach on governance and delegation of powers for the development of regional approaches. The Commission estimates that this new regulation would contribute to reaching CFP objectives, notably on delivering maximum sustainable yield for fish stocks, with positive socio-economic and environmental impacts. The European Parliament Fisheries Committee will hold a hearing on the new technical measures framework on 21 March 2016.

Please click [here](#) to access the full briefing.

New framework for technical measures – Public hearing - Source: European Parliament Committee on Fisheries

On March 21, the PECH Committee held a public hearing on a New framework for technical measures. For a summary of discussions please email f_wright@seafish.co.uk

TTIP

TTIP Report of the 12th round of negotiations – Source - DG TRADE

The European Commission has released the TTIP Public Report of the 12th round of negotiations. Please click [here](#) in order to access the full document.

IUU

Question for written answer on Information on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing received by the Member States - Source – EP Register

In its answer to my question No E-013840/2015, the Commission said that with reference to the fight against IUU fishing, records showed that over 180 mutual assistance messages had been sent to EU Member States and that Member States had issued over 200 import refusals.

Could the Commission confirm the period of time over which the notifications referred to occurred?

Could the Commission give details of which Member States sent messages of mutual assistance and import refusals, and how many in each case?

What ideas and initiatives is the Commission considering to improve current systems and simplify and update enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing?

Answer given by Mr Vella on behalf of the Commission can be viewed [here](#)

Ethics

Question for written answer to the Commission on Commission action against the use of slave labour in fishing - Source – EP Register

In a previous question to the Commission, I denounced the activities of a global agri-food group which was buying fisheries products from a Thai supplier which itself was acquiring its produce from

fishing vessels that use slave labour. These people, some of whom are children, had been sold to the captains of fishing vessels and forced to work 20 hours per day for nothing or next to nothing. It would seem that large quantities of the fish and seafood sold in Europe and the United States is being caught by vessels operating in this way.

The agri-food group in question, following pressure from NGOs and the media, has now announced an action plan to put a stop to these practices. Europe, however, has taken no action, instead closing its eyes to this trade which runs counter to the values it espouses.

I would therefore put my question to the Commission once again: where such practices are reported, will the Commission restrict imports of fisheries products from countries which fail even to respect the most basic of human rights? Will the requisite penalties be imposed on these callous importers and their associates?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission can be viewed [here](#)

The Conversation - Brexit and UK's fisheries

What would Brexit really mean for the UK's fishing industry?

<http://theconversation.com/what-would-brexit-really-mean-for-the-uks-fishing-industry-56312>

UK Updates

FSA assessment of Food Crime in the UK

The FSA has published the first assessment of food crime in the UK. The potential for fish and shellfish are included.

The full report can be viewed [here](#)