

## Brussels Weekly Update - 25/10/2017

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

- [Commission warns Vietnam over insufficient action to fight illegal fishing](#) Source European Commission.

On 23 October the European Commission has warned Vietnam, with a "yellow card", about the risk of it being identified as a non-cooperating country. The decision does not, at this stage, entail any measures affecting trade. The "yellow card" is considered as a warning and offers the possibility for Vietnam to take measures to rectify the situation within a reasonable timeframe. To this end the Commission has proposed an action plan to support the country in addressing the identified shortcomings.

- [Protecting aquaculture by vaccinating fish](#). Source CORDIS.

The EU-funded TARGETFISH project consist in using vaccines to help combat the outbreak of disease in farmed fish species. As the project moves towards completion, it has already helped improve in-vitro read out systems and in-vivo procedures, as well as succeeding in producing improved vaccines and new vaccine prototypes. 'TARGETFISH was revolutionary in that it not only generated fundamental knowledge for the development of next generation vaccines and different routes of vaccine administration, but it also validated this knowledge by actively working on rapid implementation of improved or new prototype vaccines,' says Project Coordinator Geert Wiegertjes.

- [TiLV threatens food security](#). Source Globefish.

TiLV, a highly contagious disease, is spreading among farmed and wild tilapia. It has now been reported in five countries. While the pathogen poses no public health concern, it may destroy huge infected stocks which are a source of food security and nutrition. An estimated 180 000 tonnes of tilapia (whole and fillet frozen) were traded in the international market during January-March 2017, approximately 10 percent lower in volume from a year ago.

- [Commission approves new promotion programmes for EU agri-food sector](#). Source European Commission.

The programmes are designed to help producers in the EU agri-food sector communicate about the quality of their products, with a view to opening new markets and building on their existing market share. They focus on a number of priorities such as highlighting the quality of European food, on specific market sectors, or on specific countries and/or regions.

Out of the 52 approved programmes, 32 target non-EU countries, while 10 are focused specifically on the EU's quality schemes, which include geographical indications such as protected designated origins (PDOs) or protected geographical indications (PGIs), as well as organic certification.

- [EU partners with EAC to facilitate cross-border fish trade](#). Source Xinhuanet.

The European Union (EU) has stepped up efforts to facilitate fish trade and safeguard public health among the East African Community (EAC) member states. As part of the strategy, the EU through the various EAC fisheries agencies has trained about 200 border inspectors on how to make formal cross-border trade in fisheries more attractive than the current informal and unethical practices. The program, according to the Commission, is expected to develop a Border Fisheries Inspector's manual which will among other things improve food safety, a key component that is required for the export of fisheries products to the European market.

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### Agendas:

- [Committee for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#). 07/11/2017.

- [Advisory Group on the food chain and animal and plant health on the revision of official controls in food of animal origin](#). 07/10/2017.
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#### **Useful links:**

- [Report from the Commission to the European parliament and the Council annual report on the implementation of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement](#).
  - [Council Regulation fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea](#).
  - [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) .../... amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2374 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters](#).
  - EU Roadmap: [Evaluation of the entry-exit fleet scheme](#).
  - [Tuna and tuna loins in Eastern and Southern Africa, Salted Snoek around Mauritius](#).
  - [Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's GSP: Review of final interim report](#)
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#### **Events:**

- [2nd ASEM Conference on SPS- Food safety new policies, new challenges, new cooperation and technical aspects](#).