

Seafish Regulation Alert Monitor 22/01/16 - 29/01/2016

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EC Comitology - EMFF (November 9) – source – [European Commission](#)

The Committee for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) met on November 9 2015. Please find the meeting agenda below and the summary record of the meeting (including a list of participating bodies)

The main point on the agenda was:

1. Annual work programme for 2016 and financing decision for funds under direct management under Chapters I and II of Title VI of the EMFF – Draft Commission Implementing Decision

Ship owners and seafarers guidance on shipboard harassment – source – [IFT Global](#)

Maritime employers and seafarers' unions have joined forces to publish new international 'Guidance on Eliminating Shipboard Harassment and Bullying'.

The new Guidelines, developed by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), can be downloaded from the ICS and ITF websites.

Food Safety and Consumer Protection

Written Question on Consumer fraud in the labelling of fish in the EU – Source EP Register

To be answered within eight weeks

Question for written answer E-000149/2016 to the Commission Rule 130 José Blanco López (S&D), Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D), Renata Briano (S&D), Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Isabelle Thomas (S&D) and Richard Corbett (S&D)

A new study by Oceana has again highlighted the seriousness of consumer fraud in the labelling of fish in the EU. The study has pointed out that in Brussels in particular, the 'error' labelling average is 31.8 % (95 % in the case of bluefin tuna). Oceana had already reported in 2013 that 33% of the information on the origin labelling of fish was misleading.

These are not isolated practices – they almost always involve cheaper fish rather than the more expensive ones and in percentage terms, they are increasing every year.

What measures have been taken or are planned to ensure a systematic and coordinated control of fish labelling in the interests of consumer protection in the EU?

Manual for reporting on food-borne outbreaks - [EFSA](#)

Please click here to access EFSA's manual for reporting on food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC for information deriving from the year 2015.

This manual provides specific guidance for reporting on food-borne outbreaks under the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC. It is based on the reporting format described in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) report on 'Updated technical specifications for harmonised reporting of food-borne outbreaks through the European Union reporting system in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC'. The objective is to harmonise and streamline the reporting to EFSA by the Member States (MSs). The manual includes the definitions used for reporting food-borne outbreaks data and the variables to be reported. It provides guidance with some examples on how to report and classify the causative agents, food vehicles implicated, places of exposure, places of origin of problem and the contributory factors

EU commits to €32.5 million to support EU Reference Laboratories in 2016 and 2017 – [Source – European Commission](#)

The European Commission has awarded a total of €32.5 million, for the years 2016 and 2017, to support the 43 EU Reference Laboratories (EU-RLs) designated for food and feed safety, as well as animal health. EU Reference Laboratories provide essential scientific and technical support, as well as advice on improved laboratory techniques, to the national laboratories in the Member States (i.e. developing analytical laboratory methods, organising know-how tests and training of Member States laboratory staff). The area of the EU Reference Laboratories' specialised activity is very broad, ranging from pesticides and GMOs to animal health issues and food products testing. The assistance they provide to Member States ensures high-quality and uniform testing and controls when applying EU food and feed legislation..

Common Fisheries Policy and Landing Obligation

Europêche - Multi-annual Management Plans in the CFP – Source - [Europeche](#)

A briefing note has been prepared by Europêche on Multi-annual Management Plans in the Common Fisheries Policy.

Question for written answer on Dutch flatfish fleet entangled in Brussels regulations – Source – EP Register

New Brussels legislation is threatening to deal the death blow to the already much reduced Dutch flatfish fleet. In just under two months' time, new European laws will require crews to land all undersized fish — 'by-catch' — dead. This by-catch will earn fishermen nothing but will count towards the maximum quantity of fish that may be caught. In the industry it is feared that, unless this rule is amended quickly, bankruptcies will follow.

1. Is the Commission aware of the concerns of the Dutch fishing industry and if so, will it withdraw this misbegotten plan and immediately stop adopting damaging legislation which is damaging to the Dutch fishing industry and economy?

2. If not, will the Commission, possibly jointly with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, seek grounds for exemptions for these fishermen? If not, why not?
3. How does the Commissioner for 'Better Law-Making', Mr Frans Timmermans, intend to stop or alter this new, superfluous legislation so as to avoid problems for the Dutch fishing industry?

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

Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy (recast) - Adoption - Source: European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs

On January 28, the JURI Committee adopted its opinion on the recast technique concerning the Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.

Documents: [Opinion](#) / [Commission Proposal](#) / [Legislative Observatory](#)

Supply Chain

Supply Chain Initiative – Year 2: Achievements and Perspectives – Source – [The Supply Chain initiative](#)

The Supply Chain Initiative (SCI), an initiative aimed at promoting good trading practices in the food supply chain, has published its second Annual Report .

Launched in September 2013, the SCI now boasts 379 groups and companies representing over 1,206 national operating companies, who signed up to the Principles of Good Practice and SCI commitments. Two-thirds (68%) of the companies registered are SMEs, a real reflection of success and a key target for the SCI. These figures however, do not include the dozens of SMEs , which have so far only registered in national platforms or initiatives inspired by the SCI.

Food supply chain - DG GROW

There is a new report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on unfair business-to-business trading practices in the food supply chain. The report assesses the existing regulatory frameworks in EU countries and the voluntary [Supply Chain Initiative](#) . The report is a follow-up to the [2014 Communication on tackling unfair trade practices](#) .

There is no link to the report please contact f_wright@seafish.co.uk for a copy

The Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture – source – [European Commission](#)

The Agenda and minutes from the meeting on November 26 2015 can be found [here](#)

The main points on the agenda were:

1. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX amending Annex I to Council Regulation 1342/2008 as regards the definition of gear groupings in certain geographical areas

2. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX renewing the derogation from Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 as regards the minimum distance from coast and the minimum sea depth for boat seines fishing for transparent goby (*Aphia minuta*) in certain territorial waters of Italy

Trade policy promotes sustainability and human rights - [DG Trade](#)

The European Commission and the EU High Representative published today the first report on the concrete effects of the GSP+ , the EU trade policy instrument devised to encourage third countries to comply with core international standards in the areas of human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and good governance. Through this system, which builds on the existing Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), the countries involved pay no duties when exporting a range of products to the EU. In return, they must have ratified 27 core international conventions – including the United Nations (UN) conventions on human rights and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on labour rights – and agree to cooperate in monitoring their implementation. Today's report provides the first compliance assessment.

The 14 countries covered in the report are Armenia , Bolivia , Cabo Verde , Costa Rica , Ecuador , El Salvador , Georgia , Guatemala , Mongolia , Pakistan , Panama , Paraguay , Peru , and the Philippines. According to the report, all 14 GSP+ beneficiary countries demonstrated progress. They strengthened their domestic institutions responsible for an effective implementation of the 27 key international conventions, improved relations with the international bodies – including various UN agencies – responsible for monitoring of the conventions' implementation, and upgraded their reporting activities.

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