

Brussels Weekly Update – 20/07/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and a MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below there are two EP questions related to the Brexit to be responded by the EC.

- [Status of UK citizens' personal data post-Brexit.](#)

Brexit Steering Group:

The Brexit Steering Group's purpose is to coordinate and prepare Parliament's deliberations, considerations and resolutions on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The Deputy Secretary-General supports the work of the Brexit Steering Group.

Composition:

- [Guy Verhofstadt](#), Brexit coordinator and Chair
- [Elmar Brok](#)
- [Roberto Gualtieri](#)
- [Philippe Lamberts](#)
- [Gabriele Zimmer](#)
- [Danuta Hübner](#)

- **European Commission:**

- [Speaking points by Michel Barnier at the press conference following the second round of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [Brexit: devolution.](#) House of Commons Library.

The author's intention in this report is to draw the attention of both EU and UK readers to the implications of Brexit for the devolution settlements.

- [EU and Britain to present post-Brexit plan on WTO membership.](#) Source Euractiv.

An EU source has informed Euractiv that both the European Union and Britain will put forward a joint proposal for reform of the terms of their World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership in September or October.

- [A Food Brexit: time to get real. A Brexit Briefing.](#) Source University of Sussex.

This report which has been written by the food policy specialists Professor Erik Millstone (University of Sussex), Professor Tim Lang (City, University of London) and Professor Terry Marsden (Cardiff University), concludes that leaving the EU poses serious risks to consumer interests, public health, businesses and workers in the food sector.

- [International Trade Secretary delivers trade speech: 'Beyond Brexit: Britain and the Global Economy'](#). Source UK Government.
- [Brexit update](#) – Source National Assembly for Wales.

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It includes sections on the work of the Assembly and Welsh Government; EU; UK; and Scotland and Ireland. The period covered is 28 June – 12 July, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

- [David Davis' closing remarks at the end of the second round of EU exit negotiations in Brussels](#).
- Podcast: [Brexit negotiations: Players and process on the EU side](#). Source Centre for European Reform.
- Video: [EU External Affairs Sub-Committee](#). UK Parliament.

Events:

- [Brexit: Legal Consequences for the EU](#). Source Academy of European Law. 28 September.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Outcome of the EU Council on Agriculture and Fisheries](#). Source European Council.

Member states generally welcomed the communication and the progress achieved on a number of stocks. They stressed the importance of better communicating on these achievements and the need to acknowledge the specificities of the different regions and fisheries. The Council was briefed on a Commission communication on the state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and on the consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2018.

Fishing opportunities for 2018:

The Council did not oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending regulation No 2015/242 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy. Commission delegated regulation 2015/242 of 9 October 2014 lays down detailed rules on the functioning of these bodies in general and on their structure and organisation in particular.

Rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy:

The Commission communication on fishing opportunities kick-starts the annual exercise of fixing total allowable catches (TACs) and national quotas for the following year. TACs for the Baltic Sea will be set in October; TACs and quotas for the Black Sea and all other Union fleet in December 2017

- [Initiation of a partial interim review of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of certain rainbow trout originating in Turkey](#). Source European Official Journal.

EC has received a request for an interim review pursuant to Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the EU. The product subject to this review is rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) originating in Turkey. The purpose of the review is to establish if the continued imposition of the measures is still necessary to offset the countervailable subsidy.

Following the review, it may be necessary to amend the rate of duty imposed on imports of certain rainbow

trout originating in Turkey.

The applicant alleges that the continued imposition of the measure on imports of the product under review at its current level is no longer necessary to offset the countervailable subsidisation. In this respect, the applicant has provided sufficient evidence showing a significant change in the structure and the terms of the implementation of the direct subsidies granted to producers on a per Kg of rainbow trout produced. With the new modalities eligibility limits are reached much faster, and for any production above that limit, no more subsidies are granted. Therefore this change resulted in a significant decrease of the subsidy amount received by, in particular, the large exporting producers of the product under review.

- [CODEX ALIMENTARIUS update](#)

The United Nations food standards body Codex Alimentarius Commission is meeting in Geneva from 17 to 22 July 2017 to adopt food safety and quality standards. Among the topics for discussion it can be highlighted the following:

Maximum levels of mercury in fish: The Codex Alimentarius Commission has decided to start new work to establish maximum levels of methylmercury for certain fish: tuna, alfonso, kingfish/amberjack, marlin, shark, dogfish and swordfish. The new work of the Commission will take into account the negative health effects of methylmercury, as well as the health benefits of nutrients in fish.

Standard for fish oils: The Codex Alimentarius Commission has adopted the Standard for Fish Oils, which reflects the latest available scientific information on use of such oils. Like all Codex texts, the new Standard for Fish Oils is freely available for use by all stakeholders in the global fish oil value chain, from producers through to consumers.

- [EU and Canada agree to set a date for the provisional application of CETA](#). Source European Commission.

EU and Canada agree to set a date for the provisional application of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. On 21 September 2017 will start the provisional application of the CETA. The agreement will now be provisionally applied and will enter definitively into force once the Parliaments in all Member States of the EU ratify the text according to their respective domestic constitutional requirements.

EP Questions:

- [Illegal fishing in Antarctica](#) - Carolina Punset (ALDE)
- [Improvements to the EU-Guinea-Bissau fishing agreement](#) - João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
- [Bluefin tuna recovery plan for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean](#) - Siôn Simon (S&D)

Useful links:

- [Report on the fourth round of negotiations for modernising the trade pillar of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement \(Mexico city – 21 June to 5 July 2017\).](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation laying down administrative & scientific requirements for traditional foods from a Third Country](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1345 of 18 July 2017 operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2017 on account of overfishing in the previous years.](#)
- [Overview of FTA and other trade negotiations.](#)
- [EU funding opportunities related to innovation in agriculture, food and forestry.](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1130 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 defining characteristics for fishing vessels.](#)

Events:

- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.