

TTIP

Cooperating to deregulate: TTIP fits neatly with the domestic deregulation agenda of the EU

Regulatory cooperation under TTIP and the Better Regulation Agenda are set to introduce a new style of rulemaking in the EU.

When negotiations began on the EU-US trade deal known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP, it was clear that “regulatory coherence” was to become the cornerstone of the agreement. It was less clear to most, how negotiators would tackle the diverging approaches to regulation that have been a source of conflict between the two powers for at least two decades. Now, after two years of negotiations, “regulatory cooperation” has emerged as the key strategy chosen.

Regulatory cooperation is a series of procedures designed to allow the two regulatory rulebooks to converge over time. Especially at this current moment, the implications for the decision making process in the EU are serious. In the EU institutions, a strategy to roll back “burdensome regulation” for businesses, has been unfolding for the better part of 15 years, and recently, this “Better Regulation Agenda” has been stepped up. This context combined with Regulatory Cooperation under TTIP could open up a new phase of hyper-deregulation.

For more details contact f_wright@seafish.co.uk

Malmström speech on TTIP and social partners

Cecilia Malmström joined Luxembourg Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, European Parliament President Martin Schulz, and others to discuss the benefits of TTIP for the EU’s social partners.

She pointed out that TTIP's advantages include prosperity and growth for workers and companies and also that the EU wanted TTIP to include the most advanced provisions ever on labour rights in a trade agreement. For details of the speech contact f_wright@seafish.co.uk

Forthcoming Civil Society Dialogue Meeting on TTIP – INVITATION TO ATTEND

As part of its commitment to transparency, DG TRADE is organising a sixth Civil Society Dialogue to discuss progress and to exchange views on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement negotiations.

The eleventh Round of TTIP negotiations took place in Miami from 19 to 23 October 2015. The negotiating teams discussed all three pillars of the negotiations: market access, regulatory cooperation and rules.

02/12/2015, 14:30 – 16:30

The meeting is to be held in Room JENKINS, Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels on 02/12/2015 at 14.30-16 :30

To register and find more information on the meeting please click [here](#).

Third Country Updates

EU and Mauritania sign a new 4-year Sustainable Fisheries Protocol

A new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between EU and Mauritania has been signed.

The renewal of the Protocol means that EU vessels may resume their fishing activities in Mauritanian waters. The new Protocol will enter fully into force only after the necessary procedures have been completed, including the consent of the European Parliament.

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=27277&subweb=343&lang=en

FVO Report for Cuba- Fishery Products

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=3530

Food Issues

The EU food chain and its contribution for health: how to overcome the challenges?

This discussion paper aims to shed light on the question regarding whether health classification of food by regulatory bodies are part of a wider trend towards increasingly viewing the agri-food chain under the sole perspective of public health and neglecting cultural, economic and leisure aspects of food consumption. A closer look soon reveals the increasing dominance of public health rationales when regulating food.

References from the United Kingdom or Ireland show that alcohol and certain food categories are increasingly treated as hazardous products.

The question is to what extent the EU agri-food chain can be part of the solution, and what can it contribute to balance the debate in order to include economic, cultural and behavioural effects of regulation in the equation?

www.farm-europe.eu/our-works/the-eu-food-chain-and-its-contribution-to-health-how-to-overcome-the-challenges/

Commission launches IT tool to underpin cooperation on possible fraudulent practices

The European Commission has today launched a dedicated IT tool, known as the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system to facilitate the exchange of administrative information between national authorities working to combat cross-border violations in Europe.

This continues the work of the European Food Fraud Network (FFN). Each Member State has appointed a contact point to handle requests from contact points in the other Member States that form part of the network. This network has been operational since July 2013 and since its creation, the Commission has observed a marked increase in the number of exchanges from 30 in 2013 to 90 so far in 2015, adding up to 180 cases in total since its creation.

The AAC system will ensure that the Food Fraud Network works even more efficiently and is able to respond more swiftly to information requests.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?al_id=1646

Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain – Adoption of draft opinion

The AGRI Committee adopted the opinion drafted by Mairead McGuinness (EPP, IE) on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain with 39 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Meeting documents can be found here

[www.emeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201511/AGRI/AGRI\(2015\)119_1P/sitt-1444445](http://www.emeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201511/AGRI/AGRI(2015)119_1P/sitt-1444445)

More detail can be found here

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2015/2065\(INI\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2015/2065(INI))

Blue Economy

Commissioner Vella's speech at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy, in Brussels

http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/vella/announcements/union-mediterranean-ufm-ministerial-conference-blue-economy-brussels_en

Sharing knowledge on R&I will boost the potential of the blue economy in the Mediterranean

The declaration adopted this week by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), a partnership of EU28 countries, the European Commission and 15 Mediterranean countries, recognised the potential of the blue economy for a sustainable growth in the Mediterranean region and emphasised the need for more research and innovation, closer cooperation and improved maritime governance to promote growth, jobs and investments deriving from the marine and maritime sectors.

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/declaration-adopted-union-mediterranean>

Answer to written question on the Fisheries Control Agency

Under Article 95 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, the Commission and the Member States may determine which fisheries are to be subject to specific control and inspection programmes.

Could the Commission state which fisheries are currently subject to a specific programme, and what the grounds were for choosing those fisheries over others? Why are some fisheries not subject to such programmes, even when those fisheries are known to be problematic?

The full question and answer can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bP-2015-013581%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=SV>

Ethics

Council Decision 2015/2037 authorising Member States to ratify ILO Protocols relating to social policy

Council Decision (EU) 2015/2037 of 10 November 2015 authorising Member States to ratify, in the interests of the European Union, the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, of the International Labour Organisation with regard to matters relating to social policy.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.298.01.0023.01.ENG

EU Social Partners in the fishing sector encourage Spanish authorities to swiftly ratify ILO Work in Fishing Convention C188

In the framework of a joint EU co-funded project, the European social partners in Fisheries, Europeche and ETF, organised a meeting in Madrid to prompt Spain to swiftly ratify the International Labour Office (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention C188. This landmark convention is applicable to all types of fishing vessels and seeks to provide minimum standards that protect fishers in all aspects of their work, in what is considered one of the most hazardous professions.

During the meeting several speakers expressed their frustration at the blocking of the social partners' agreement which implements the Convention 188 into EU legislation. 'Our frustration over the lack of a social dimension in the Common Fisheries Policy is made even bigger by the fact that our agreement is disregarded. The implementation of the ILO C188 rules into EU legislation would certainly contribute to deterring some of the unacceptable violations that are reported to be taking place in our seas', concluded TCM-UGT's head of Maritime Sectors, José Manuel Perez Vega.

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/97532/eu-social-partners-in-the-fishing-sector-encourage-spanish-authorities-to-swiftl>

EP INTA Committee Holds Initial Debate on Social and Environmental Standards, Human Rights and CSR

The European Parliament's International Trade (INTA) Committee held an initial debate on the expected own-initiative Report on social and environmental standards, human rights and corporate responsibility at a meeting on 19 November 2015. For more details of discussions please contact f_wright@seafish.co.uk

Fisheries Policy

Report on Member States' efforts during 2013 to achieve a sustainable balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities

The report can be accessed here <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14074-2015-INIT/en/pdf>

The **annexes** to the Report can be found here <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14074-2015-ADD-1/en/pdf>

Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy - November 18-19 2015

The agenda of the meeting of the Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy that will held on November 18-19 2015 can be found here

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/CM-4595-2015-INIT/en/pdf>