

Brussels Weekly update - 10/02/2017

Over the next few months, we'll be reporting back how Brexit is playing out across the water. Deeper insights will be shared on our website and through our Seafish Round-Up' industry newsletter - contact [Nick.Connelly@seafish.co.uk](mailto:Nick.Connelly@seafish.co.uk) to subscribe.

## EU INSTITUTIONS

- [European Parliament: discussion about the situation of devolved territories in Brexit](#)

On 9<sup>th</sup> February the EP Committee on Constitutional Affairs continued its regular exchanges with experts about the constitutional and institutional consequences of Brexit. This time Dr. Kirsty Hughes was invited for discussions with the Committee. Dr. Hughes is a writer and commentator on European and international politics, and Associate Fellow of Friends of Europe, Brussels. She has worked at a number of think tanks including Chatham House and the Centre for European Policy Studies, and as a senior political adviser in the European Commission. The Committee's exchange focused on the situation of the devolved territories in the UK, notably Scotland.

Further information:

[Scotland's Choice: Brexit with the UK, Independence or a special deal?](#) Source Friends of Europe

- [European Commission's chief negotiator for Brexit, Michel Barnier meets representatives from the EU fisheries industry](#) – Source European Commission

On 16 January EC chief negotiator for Brexit, Michel Barnier has met representatives from the Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association (PFA); Comité national des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins (CNPMM); Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO); Confederación Española de Pesca (CEPESCA) and the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC). The content of this meeting is not available for the public.

## EU COUNTRIES

- [Spain and the EC examine implications of 'Brexit' in fisheries sector](#) – Source Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment.

The Secretary General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, Alberto Lopez Asenjo, met with representatives of the European Commission (EC) to address the consequences of Brexit in the Spanish fishing fleet and in the market. The meeting is part of the bilateral consultations that the EC's DG Mare is holding with the fishing authorities of the Member States to discuss different aspects of the negotiation for the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the so-called Brexit, and its possible impacts on the European bloc.

The Brexit is one of the main topics on the agenda of the Secretary-General, and for that reason a comprehensive follow-up is being made, betting on a negotiation that is not limited to the availability of quotas, but linked to water access and to conditions of access to the market.

- [The Netherlands: MP's gather information about Brexit in London](#) - Source Dutch House of Representatives.

On Monday 6 February 2017 a delegation of the standing committee on European affairs visited London. The programme included talks with representatives from international think tanks, British parliamentarians and the Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Mr David Jones.

## **.MORE INFORMATION**

- [\*\*Brexit: the launch of Article 50\*\*](#) – Source European Policy Center

In this Discussion Paper its author Andrew Duff gives an outline of what will follow after the launch of Article 50 based on what we know so far (the content of Article 50, Theresa May's speech at Lancaster House and the Brexit white paper), and discusses the points of ambiguity and contention that will need to be resolved.

- [\*\*House of Commons: The International Trade Committee - Oral evidence: UK Trade Options Beyond 2019\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Brexit and trade: what EU and WTO rules imply\*\*](#) – Source Bruegel

Bruegel in collaboration with Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies organized an event on 6 February to discuss the options for redesigning trade relations in the post-Brexit era. Please follow this [LINK](#) to see the video and audit record of the event and the presentations made by the speakers Petros C. Mavroidis, Edwin B. Parker Professor of Foreign & Comparative Law, Columbia University; André Sapir, Senior Fellow and Professor Jan Wouters, Director, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies - Institute for International Law, KU Leuven.

- [\*\*A well-managed Brexit is a priority for the entire EU\*\*](#) – Source European Policy Center.

According to the author of this paper EU should offer Britain the right to remain in a customs union with the EU. The EU's external tariff will harm British exports to the EU, but it will also lead the UK to impose tariffs on EU imports, its main trading partner. Tariffs on components in EU value chains will be extremely disruptive and will require long lead times to accommodate changes, if they are to be at all possible. But administrations will also need time to adapt to implementing the tariffs, in the event that the UK stays outside of a customs union.

---

## **FISHERIES**

- [\*\*Commission adopts new regulation on EU Fleet Register\*\*](#) – Source DG MARE

Updates to the European Union's fleet register will soon be available in real time, following the adoption of a new regulation by the European Commission on 6 February. The regulation makes it easier for EU member states to update the fleet register, while giving the Commission the necessary tools to crosscheck the data that member states submit. The new regulation enters into force on 1 February 2018, and applies to all commercial fishing vessels, except aquaculture vessels and blue fin tuna traps.

- [\*\*Commission publishes negotiating proposals for EU-Indonesia trade deal\*\*](#) – Source DG TRADE

EU has published 9 proposals for the trade negotiations with Indonesia aimed to increase participation of European companies in Indonesian public tenders and vice versa; increase cooperation on imports requirements related to food safety, plant and animal health; broaden protection of traditional European products, known as 'geographical indications'; reduce unnecessary overlapping regulatory barriers to trade and increase the part of trade benefits that go to small companies. At the same time, the agreement will uphold levels of consumer, worker and environment protection and promote sustainable development.

- [UN report says need for more data on microplastics in food fish](#) - Source: Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection.

An UN report has described an "urgent need" to study the presence of microplastics, and associated chemicals, in the edible parts of fish destined for human consumption. Microplastics have been found in a variety of fish and shellfish consumed by humans, although data are "rather scarce", according to the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (Gesamp) report for the UN environment assembly.

This report will be discussed on 13-14 February in a UN hearing called "A World of Blue: Preserving the oceans, safeguarding the planet, ensuring human well-being in the context of the 2030". Please follow this [LINK](#) to see the full agenda of this event

- [Brexit poses no export effect for PNG: EU](#) – Source: Pina.com

Attaché – economics and trade coordinator for the EU delegation to PNG, Chiara Tarvido said "The exit of the UK from the EU if confirmed will not be immediate, but will take effect not before two years from now. Proceedings under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union will have to be launched. The UK will have two years to re-negotiate the terms of its settlement with the EU. All agreements between the EU and third parties remain in place, including the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union, Papua New Guinea and Fiji"

"The favourable conditions granted to Papua New Guinea under the agreement on rules of origin for fish (the so called 'global sourcing') remains in place. Mr Tarvido does not foresee any disruption for Papua New Guinea tuna exporters to the European Union market as a result of the referendum on 'Brexit'.

EP Questions:

- [Importing fishery products from Western Sahara](#) - Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)
- [Sea bass fishing](#) - Mike Hookem (EFDD)
- [Fish war and support for fishermen](#) - Michela Giuffrida (S&D)
- [Negative impact of the new plan for swordfish catches in the Mediterranean](#) - Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE)

Agendas:

- [EU Council Working Party on the Generalised System of Preferences \(GSP\)](#). 15 February
- [EP PECH Committee meeting](#). 17-18 February.

Useful links:

- [Overview of FTA and other trade negotiations – Source DG TRADE](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2017/197 of 2 February 2017 amending Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2016/1138 as regards certain deadlines for the use of UN/Cefact standards in the exchange of information on fisheries \(notified under document C\(2017\) 457\).](#)
- [Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau](#)
- [The Trawler: EP PECH Committee Magazine. January 2017](#)
- [Minutes of the Second Round of negotiations to renew the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement \(FPA\) between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union, Brussels, 24-27 January 2017.](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/162 of 31 January 2017 operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2016 on account of overfishing of other stocks in the previous years and amending Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2226 operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2016 on account of overfishing in the previous years.](#)
- [EUMOFA Monthly Highlights n°12/2016](#)

**Events:**

- [Aquaculture Advisory Council Working Group 1 Meeting](#). 14 February. Madrid

[cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk](mailto:cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk)