

Brussels Weekly update – 24/02/2017

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 to subscribe.

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:** [Workshop on the consequences of Brexit](#)

- Brexit on matters in competence of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Workshop will take place on Tuesday, **28 February 2017**, from 10.00 till 12.30.

Presentations:

- [Article 50 TEU: The EU legal framework for Brexit and the road ahead](#) - Professor Dr. F. Amtenbrink (University Rotterdam)
- [Economic impact of Brexit on the EU27](#) - Dr. M. Emerson (CEPS)
- [Economic impact of Brexit on EU27 part 2, sectorial consequences](#) - Prof. Dr. J. Pelkmans (CEPS)
- [The consequences of Brexit on services: different scenarios for exit and future cooperation](#) - Professor Dr. Friedemann Kainer

- **European Commission:** [White Paper on future of Europe to be launched next week](#)

Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission has confirmed that the EC will publish a White Paper on future of EU, which represents a way of tracing options to guarantee unity for the remaining 27 MS. Furthermore it has been also confirmed an EU Council declaration which will be presented on the occasion of Treaty of Rome anniversary on what path the EU27 will take after Brexit. According to European Council President Donald Tusk its aims is to "offer an ambitious vision on how to preserve unity and achieve political consolidation.

MEMBER STATES

- [Germany and Italy back Brussels on Brexit](#) – Source Financial Times

According to FT both Germany and Italy support the European Commission's plan to freeze out starting trade talks with Britain until the UK gives assurances on a multibillion-euro Brexit bill and citizens' rights. However Member States differ on UK's exit bill, France is uncompromising on the estimated €60bn bill, while Spain is more cautious with regard EU approach towards Britain's exit.

- [Norway wants to be included in Brexit talks between UK and EU leaders](#) – Source Independent

EEA countries defend their involvement in Brexit talks because a country the size of Britain leaving the European trade area will have a profound effect on their economic agreement with Brussels.

"We would like to have the possibility to be included in EU-UK arrangements concerning the internal market, permanent as well as transitional," the Norwegian EEA and EU minister, Frank Bakke-Jensen, said in a speech to EU ambassadors in Oslo.

MORE INFORMATION

- Study: [Brexit and Europe: a new entente](#) – Source EPC

In this paper, Andrew Duff, Former Member of the European Parliament, examines whether we can begin to look at the Article 50 process in a more positive light – that is, whether Brexit could herald a new period of entente between Britain and Europe. With a more optimistic outcome in mind, Duff lays out the desirable institutional make-up of a post-Brexit EU-UK relationship, including a new judicial tribunal to settle possible disputes. Duff also calls for the creation of a 'transition authority' to monitor and supervise the Brexit process and to manage inevitable legacy difficulties over an indefinite period.

- Speech - Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, David Davis: [Estonia and the UK will remain close partners after Brexit; Building a strong new partnership with Lithuania](#)
 - [Brexit: environment and climate change](#) – Source House of Lords
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FISHERIES

- [IUU fishing: Commission lifts 'yellow cards' for Curaçao and Solomon Islands](#) – Source DG MARE

On 22nd February The European Commission has lifted the 'yellow cards' for Curaçao and Solomon Islands, recognising the significant progress both countries have made in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In this respect Karmenu Vella, said: "This is a good day for Curaçao and Solomon Islands, and good news for sustainable fisheries around the globe. Countries worldwide have a shared duty to fight illegal fishing, protect law-abiding fishermen, and keep our oceans healthy. I encourage others to join the European Union in this fight and contribute to better ocean governance."

- [EC approves new geographical indication from the United Kingdom: West Wales Coracle Caught Salmon](#) – Source EC

The EC has approved a new geographical indication 'West Wales Coracle-Caught Salmon' which is salmon caught using the ancient Welsh traditional method of coracle fishing. Due to its wild nature, this salmon does not contain any artificial additives and/or colourings.

- [Be part of the European Maritime Day 2017](#) – Source DG MARE

This year's European Maritime Day Conference "The Future of our Seas" will be held in Poole, UK (18 and 19 May 2017) Register now to participate, hire a stand in EMD Exhibition or organise your own EMD event elsewhere in the EU (applications open till 10 March).

Please follow this [LINK](#) to see the programme of this event.

- [Official controls on fishery products caught by EU flagged vessels and introduced into Union territory after being transferred in third countries](#)– Source Comitology Register

The minutes of the meeting on 24 January of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section: "Biological safety of the food chain" has been published. One of the topics for discussion was official controls on fishery products caught by Union flagged vessels and introduced into Union territory after being transferred in third countries and establishing a model of the health certificate for those products. The draft was presented for technical vote and will now be sent to SPS. One Member State abstained as they had expected to vote this text together with another proposal allowing reduced checks at Border Inspection Posts for EU products covered by the current proposal, for which the legal basis is missing.

- [Re-enforced controls](#) - Source DG SANTE

The minutes of the meeting on December 2016 of the WG on veterinary import controls legislation "veterinary checks" were made available. During this meeting the EC gave a presentation of the re-enforced check regime (REC) in TRACES and indicated that around 80% of RECs are launched by MS, against 20% launched by COM. The RECs launched by COM are mainly based on results from market controls for which the RASFF national contact points tend to forget to propose REC measures. From the beginning of 2016, the rate of RECs launched by MS improved significantly, which means that the MS are more and more aware of their responsibilities in this matter.

UK asked if the list of establishments under REC could be available in TRACES for the economic operators of the EU. The European Commission answered that this information is not published in TRACES, as it was decided at the time when the Guidance Document was drafted to align with the privacy policy applied in the Commission and in the RASFF system; however, it is up to MS, if they want to publish such information. At UK's request, this topic will be included in the agenda of the next Expert Group.

The next expert group meeting is scheduled for 25 April 2017.

EP Questions:

- [Bluefin tuna fishing quotas](#) - Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)
- [EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement](#) - Linnéa Engström (Verts/ALE), Maria Heubuch (Verts/ALE), Bodil Valero (Verts/ALE), Max Andersson (Verts/ALE), Klaus Buchner (Verts/ALE), Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL), João Ferreira (GUE/NGL), João Pimenta Lopes (GUE/NGL), Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL), Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL), Rina Ronja Kari (GUE/NGL), Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL), Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL), Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL) and Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)
- [Fish stock recovery areas](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)
- [Development of aquaculture](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)
- [Artisanal fishing for Bluefin tuna](#) - Giulia Moi (EFDD)
- [Intensive fishing using the 'pelagic one-boat trawl' system](#) - Nicola Caputo (S&D)
- [Commission actions in defence of small-scale coastal fishing](#) - Ruža Tomašić (ECR)

Agendas:

- [EP Fisheries Committee](#). 27-28 February 2017.
- [EP International Trade Committee](#). 27-28 February 2017.

Useful links:

- EP Briefing: [Overhauling fisheries technical measures](#).
- EP study: [Study on "Free Trade Agreements and Patterns of Risk Regulation in the EU and the US"](#).
- [Management Plan 2017 DG TRADE](#)
- [The Trawler: EP PECH Committee Magazine. January 2017](#)
- [EUMOFA Monthly Highlights n°12/2016](#)

Events:

- [The state and development of the biomass of fish stocks managed by the CFP](#). 27 February
- [Aquaculture Advisory Council \(ACC\) Working groups 2 and 3](#). 13-14 March