

Brussels Weekly update – 28/04/2017

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:**
 - [Liadh Ní Riada appointed as Brexit rapporteur for fisheries in the European Parliament](#) – Source Marine Times Newspaper.
 - [Briefing: Outlook for Brexit negotiations.](#)
 - [The impact and consequences of Brexit on acquired rights of EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU-27.](#)
 - **EP study:** [The Impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland, Wales and Gibraltar.](#)
- **European Commission:**
 - [Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations for an agreement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union.](#)
 - [Annex to the Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations for an agreement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union.](#)
 - [Speech by Michel Barnier at the press conference on the adoption of the Commission's recommendation on draft negotiating directives](#)
- **European Council**

[Outcome of the Council Meeting General Affairs – Article 50](#)

The Council, in a EU27 format, prepared the Special European Council (Article 50) to be held on 29 April. It finalised the preparatory work on the draft guidelines for the Brexit negotiations and agreed to forward the document to the heads of state or government for final adoption. Once adopted by the European Council, these guidelines will define the framework for negotiations with the UK and set out the positions and principles that guide the EU during the talks.

MEMBER STATES

- [Norway can be put on hold in the Brexit process.](#) Source Norway Times

This Thursday, Prime Minister Erna Solberg has met both the EU President Donald Tusk and EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels with the aim of being involved in the Brexit discussions at EU level. According to this newspaper the 27 remaining MS have not yet discussed the issue of the EEA directly. Nor has the question been raised in official Brexit documents on the British side.

MORE INFORMATION

- [House of Commons Library - Briefing Paper: EU Agencies and post Brexit options](#)

This paper looks at the roles and functions of EU agencies, the issues surrounding the two UK-based agencies, and whether there are options for continued UK participation after Brexit.

- [House of Commons Library - Brexit and Gibraltar](#)

This paper explains Gibraltar's constitutional status and considers some of the possible impacts of Brexit.

- [Reflections on Brexit and its Implications for Ireland](#) – Source CEPS

This paper presents the testimony delivered by John Bruton, former Prime Minister of Ireland, on 27 April 2017, before the Seanad Special Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU.

- UK Chamber of Commerce in Belgium organises: [Brexit: what would it mean for my business?](#) Monday, 23 May 2016.

FISHERIES

- [EC report: status of implementation of the Control Regulation in the Member States](#)

This document responds to the legal obligation set in Article 118 of the Control Regulation which calls on the Commission to report to the European Parliament and the Council on the status of implementation of the Control Regulation in the Member States every five years, and to evaluate its impacts on the CFP five years after its entry into force

- [Better data on fisheries: Council adopts improved EU rules](#)

On 25 April 2017 the Council adopted a regulation aimed at improving the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector.

The new rules simplify and strengthen the current system for the collection of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data. They will allow in particular for the gathering of extensive and reliable information on issues such as the state of fish stocks, fisheries management measures, and mitigation measures, and will make data available at regional and European level, thereby providing a solid basis for scientific advice and policy making. The regulation will enter into force on the twentieth day following the publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

- [EUR 230 million worth of fake food and beverages seized in global OPSON operation targeting food fraud](#)

Operation OPSON VI, the joint Europol-INTERPOL operation targeting counterfeit and substandard food and drink, as well as the organised crime networks behind this illicit trade, has resulted in the seizure of 9 800 tonnes, over 26.4 million litres, and 13 million units/items worth an estimated EUR 230 million of potentially harmful food and beverages ranging from every day products.

Cases examples:

Portugal – More than 300 000 tin cans of fish seized in a factory

The Portuguese Food Safety and Economic Authority (ASAE) raided a factory in the area of Porto which resulted in the finding of processed fish manufactured without respect of safety rules. This outcome was achieved after several weeks of investigation and surveillance work. The plant was targeted as its licence to process food had been already withdrawn. ASAE uncovered illicit activities consisting in repacking almost expired sardines in tomato sauce, regardless of traceability and hygienic rules. Products were intended for exportation and intra EU deliveries. The business has been

closed immediately after the action day. All material found in the premises was seized, namely 311 000 cans, 16 jars of tomato sauce, 9 900 packing boxes, 24 730 labels and 700 Kilos of salt.

Spain – molluscs and clams

After three months of investigation, the Environmental Crimes Unit of Guardia Civil (SEPRONA) arrested four individuals working in a company selling clams unfit for human consumption. The cleaning of the clams was not compliant with safety rules, as the clams were not treated for purification. The company used false labels of an existing authorized treatment centre to deceive consumers. Moreover, the company lied about the species of clams, pretending they originated from Portugal. During the search of the company, 530 kg of unfit clams were seized.

- **Seminar “From the High North – sustaining and enhancing the EU market”** – Mission of The Faroes To the EU & North Norway European Office

On 26 April the Mission of the Faroes to the EU and the North Norway European Office held a Seminar focused on the market conditions for seafood consumption in Europe, and the prospects for diversification and growth of seafood imports from the Northeast Atlantic and Barents Sea regions. How do today’s market trends and consumer preferences in the EU fit with the quantity and quality of seafood products from the High North – where large changes in the fisheries resource base are taking place, and where the focus is on developing the blue bio-economy. Adding value to resources closer to their source can better ensure the sustainability of the fisheries and the quality and stability of supply to the European market.

EP Questions:

- [Safeguarding drift net fishing in Italy](#) - Raffaele Fitto (ECR) and Remo Sernagiotto (ECR)
- [The spread of invasive fish species in the Baltic Sea](#) - Rolandas Paksas (EFDD)
- [Labelling of nanoparticles](#) - Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL)
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Useful links:

- [EUMOFA Monthly Highlights n°3/2017](#)
- [EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2017/727 of 23 March 2017 on the recognition of Montenegro pursuant to Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the systems for training and certification of seafarers \(notified under document C\(2017\) 1815\).](#)
- [Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco.](#)
- [Non-tariff measures insights from a business survey in the European Union](#)
- [EUMOFA: European Market Observatory for fishery and aquaculture products](#)
- [EC - Report of Tariff Quotas](#)
- [Report of the 18th EU-Japan FTA/EPA negotiating round](#)

Events:

- [EU action to combat marine litter](#). 5 May. Brussels
- [High-level event on "Skills needs in an evolving maritime green economy"](#). 1 June. Brussels
- [International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety \(ICMSS\)](#). 14-18 May 2017.

cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk