

Brussels Weekly update – 05/05/2017

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.](#)
- 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.](#)

The College of Commissioners has sent a recommendation to the Council to open the Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom. It includes draft negotiating directives. This legal mandate follows the adoption by the European Council of political guidelines. This recommendation will be sent to the Council, where it is set to be adopted by the General Affairs Council on 22 May.

- [Speech by Michel Barnier at the press conference on the adoption of the Commission's recommendation on draft negotiating directives](#)

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:

- [Remarks by President Donald Tusk after his meeting with Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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.

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

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

- [Legislating for Brexit: the Great Repeal Bill](#). Source House of Commons Library

This briefing addresses each of three main elements of the Great Repeal Bill: The repeal of the ECA (Section 2); The transposition of EU law (Section 3); The proposed use of delegated powers (Section 5). The briefing also covers how the Bill might address the status of EU-derived law post-Brexit, and in particular the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (Section 7).

In addition it considers the complex interaction with devolution and the status of EU-derived law post Brexit, in particular the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

- [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

- [Misdescription incidents in seafood sector](#). Source FoodIntegrity Project

On 10-11 May the 4th FoodIntegrity Conference will be held in Parme, Italy. FoodIntegrity Conference is the annual meeting of the FoodIntegrity EU funded whose aim is fighting food frauds and assuring the authenticity, safety and quality of European food. It involves producers, industries, retailers, public administration, control bodies, NGOs, analytical labs and researchers. The theme this year is Turning Science into Solutions and everyday practices.

The results of a pan-European survey on fish mislabelling will be presented on the occasion of this event. This survey is aimed to understand the misdescription incidents in seafood sector and it is focused on HORECA sector (restaurants, hotels, catering, self-services, bar, pub, take away, etc...)

- [European Commission adopts action plans to improve Belgian and German fisheries control systems](#). Source European Commission

The European Commission has adopted two action plans setting out how Belgium and Germany can overcome identified shortcomings in their fisheries control systems, following audit programmes on data management and control system held respectively in 2014-2015, and in 2015-2016. The measures and timeline of implementation were agreed together with the authorities of each Member State, in line with the procedure set out in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 on fisheries control.

- [Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritius](#). Source DG MARE

A new Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius has been signed in Port-Louis on 26 April. It sets the conditions to allow EU tuna fishing vessels to fish in Mauritius waters for a period of 4 years, in a transparent and regulated environment. This protocol will come into force in the coming months, after the completion of adoption procedures on both sides.

EP Questions:

- [High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 \(UN Ocean Conference\)](#). Linnéa Engström. Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance.

Agendas:

- [EP Committee for Fisheries](#). 30th May.
- [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#). 11th May.

Useful links:

- [Minutes of meeting with civil society on the EU-MEXICO trade negotiations](#).
- [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\)](#).
- [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:

- [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.

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