

Brussels Weekly update – 12/05/2017

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:**

EP questions on Brexit: European Parliament Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and a MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month:

- [Historical fisheries agreements and Brexit](#) - Ole Christensen (S&D)
- [Debate with Mr Tusk](#): On 17 May Members of the European Parliament will debate the guidelines for the negotiations with the UK on the terms of its withdrawal, adopted by the April EU Summit, with European Council President Donald Tusk and the Commission.
- [Brexit: MEPs want EU and UK to take care of citizens' rights first](#): A joint hearing organised by the committees of Civil Liberties, Employment and Petition on the situation and rights of EU citizens in the UK. In this respect, Parliament's Brexit coordinator, Guy Verhofstadt informed that an EP resolution on this issue will be adopted by the EP probably at the end of the summer break.

- **European Commission:**

- [Speech by Michel Barnier at the Joint Houses of the Oireachtas \(Houses of Parliament of Ireland\), Dublin](#)
- [Reflection paper on harnessing globalisation](#): On 10 May the EC launched a new paper which is part of a series of reflection papers on key topics that will define the coming years.

MEMBER STATES

- [Norwegian fishing leaders in Brexit talks](#). Fish Update

On 10 May Norwegian Ministers from Industry (Monica Maeland), Fisheries (Per Sandberg) and the EEA and EU (Frank Bakke-Jensen) have met the Norwegian fishing leaders to discuss how Norway should approach Brexit and its impact on the seafood and energy industries.

- [Danish Agriculture and Food Council's proposal for future cooperation between the EU and the UK.](#)

The Danish Agricultural and Food Council (DAFC) have developed a proposal for a future cooperation agreement between the UK and the EU-27 which contains the following key elements:

- UK membership of the EU Customs Union without the possibility of making their own Free Trade Agreements
- UK part of the EU Single Market for goods and capital and UK compliance with EU requirements for standards, etc.
- Quotas for work permits and access to welfare benefits.
- Financial services must be legally and physically anchored in the EU-27
- Compliance with EU rules on state aid and competition policy
- Dispute Settlement Body to oversee concluded agreements

- Continued unrestricted and mutual access to fishing waters
- Transitional arrangement to maintain the current trade flow
- Obligation to respect the Paris Agreement and the future Effort Sharing Regulation

MORE INFORMATION

- [The Brexit catch for North Sea cod](#). Source FT
- [Brexit: Is the UK set for WTO limbo?](#). Source New Law Journal.

In this interview, Gregory Shaffer, an expert on international trade law, explains the UK's tariff and other WTO commitments.

- [Implementing Brexit: Immigration](#). Source Institute for Government.
- Video: [Pascal Lamy: Brexit, trade and the WTO](#). Source Institute for Government.

Pascal Lamy, former Director General of the WTO and former European Commissioner for Trade has shared his thoughts on Brexit, trade and WTO, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

- [Ask the Experts: Legal and Constitutional Implications of Brexit](#). 13 June 2017. London.

UCL and the House of Commons Library are holding a joint 'ask the experts' question time event to provide answers to key questions arising from the Brexit process.

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

FISHERIES

- [Over 50 people intoxicated after eating fresh tuna in Spain](#). Source El País.

Spanish authorities have removed tuna lots coming from Almeria (South of Spain) suspected of having caused food poisoning to over 50 people across the country due the presence of very high histamine levels. The tuna lots were sold by the company Garciden, (Almería) to different Spanish regions but also in Germany, Portugal and Italy.

- [Fish Dependence – 2017 update](#). Source European Economics Foundation

The New Economics Foundation has estimated the degree of self-sufficiency in fish consumption achieved by the EU as a whole and for each of its member states; self-sufficiency is defined as the capacity of EU member states to meet demand for fish from their own waters. According to this report, the EU and many MS remain highly dependent on fish resources from third countries. This report stress two main factors: too many EU stocks are still in poor health and the EU demand for fish remains high as EU citizens eat more fish than their waters can produce.

- [AGRIFISH Council](#)

On May 11, the EU Council for Agriculture and Fisheries met to discuss the Proposal on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures. The Council's position aims at modernising the existing rules on how, where and when fishermen may fish. These cover the taking and landing of fisheries resources, the specifications and operation of fishing gear, and measures to mitigate their impact on sensitive species or areas.

Other than that, Ministers were informed about the MedFish4Ever declaration adopted at the ministerial conference on Mediterranean fisheries held in Malta on 29-30 March, and about the upcoming United Nations Ocean Conference, that will take place in New York on 5-9 June.

- [Trade preferences for Sri Lanka](#)

The Council of Ministers of the European Union (Foreign and Trade Ministers) formally approved Sri Lanka's Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus or GSP+. Sri Lanka has ratified and implemented measures contained in a number of international conventions on human and labour rights, environment protection and good governance. On this basis, Sri Lanka has become eligible to receive additional tariff preferences for sustainable development and good governance, in addition to the generalised scheme of tariff preferences benefitting to all developing countries.

EP Questions:

- [2015 Seal Regulation](#). Anders Primdahl Vistisen (ECR)
- [Multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic](#) - Davor Škrlec (Verts/ALE)
- [Fish Aggregation Devices](#) - Giulia Moi (EFDD)
- [Health risk to consumers posed by use of hydrogen peroxide in the processing of cephalopod molluscs: request for investigation by the Commission](#) - Mara Bizzotto (ENF) and Matteo Salvini (ENF)
- [Imports into the EU of fishery and aquaculture products](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)
- [Compliance by national authorities with the Common Fisheries Policy](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)

- **Agendas:**

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section: "Biological safety of the food chain"](#). May 17 2017
- [EP Committee for Fisheries](#). 30th May.
- [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#). 11th May.

Useful links:

- [Minutes of the Joint Meeting between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles for access of fishing vessels flying the flag of the Seychelles to the waters of Mayotte, under the jurisdiction of the European Union \(Brussels, Belgium, 5 May 2017\)](#).
- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/792 of 5 May 2017 establishing a temporary prohibition of fishing for redfish in NAFO 3M area by vessels flying the flag of a Member State of the European Union](#).
- [Minutes of meeting with civil society on the EU-MEXICO trade negotiations](#).
- [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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