

Brussels Weekly Update – 28/07/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

[Statement by Guy Verhofstadt and the EP Brexit Steering Group.](#)

The Brexit Steering group met Michel Barnier, EU negotiator for Brexit on Tuesday 25 July and issued this common statement after the 2nd round of negotiations between the EU and the UK.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Both sides want to speed up Brexit talks by meeting more frequently.](#) Source POLITICO.

According to POLITICO both the EU and UK government have shown willingness to speed up negotiations on the UK exit from the EU. EC Chief negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier plans to report back to the European Council on the progress of negotiations in October. The Council will then take a decision, at their meeting on October 19-20, on whether “sufficient progress” has been made to allow the talks to focus on the future trade deal

- [Brexit: devolved legislature business.](#) House of Commons Library.

This paper summarises business directly and explicitly concerned with the process of the UK exiting the EU and its consequences.

- [Reality bites: the Brexit negotiations seen from the other side of the Channel.](#) Source European Political Centre.
- [Brits can stay in Commission if no conflict of interest, says Oettinger.](#) Source POLITICO.

Günther Oettinger, the European Commissioner for the budget and human resources has confirmed that UK civil servants working in the European Commission can remain on their jobs after Brexit but could be moved to lesser roles to avoid conflicts of interest.

- [Milestones in the Brexit Negotiations.](#) Source Instinctif Partners.
- [Brexit and the Sunset of European Influence in Asia-Pacific.](#) Source Austrian Economics Centre.

Events:

- [Brexit: Legal Consequences for the EU.](#) Source Academy of European Law. 28 September.
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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat foods and the risk for human health in the EU](#). Source EFSA.

EFSA has launched an open consultation on its draft scientific opinion on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU. In EFSA publication it is explained that during the period 2008–2015, reported annual non-compliance of *L. monocytogenes* in RTE foods at processing sites was highest in RTE fishery products' (3–10%), followed by 'RTE products of meat origin other than fermented sausage' (1–7%).

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by 29 September 2017.

- **Scientific report:** [Dyes used in aquaculture](#). Source EFSA.

The European Commission requested EFSA to evaluate whether a series of dyes are covered by the 'Guidance on methodological principles and scientific methods to be taken into account when establishing Reference Points for Action (RPAs) for non-allowed pharmacologically active substances present in food of animal origin' and to which group they should be attributed according to this guidance. Although these substances are not registered for use in food-producing animals in the European Union, they are used in aquaculture for their antimicrobial properties.

- [New Standard to Combat Food Fraud](#). Source Nofima.

Representatives from twelve European countries met in Italy in May to initiate the work on a new standard to combat food fraud. A draft of the standard will be submitted for review by the end of the year, and the final version will be adopted in February 2018. The new standard being formulated is titled 'Authenticity in feed and food chain – General terms and concepts'. Nofima is leading the work, with Standards Norway serving as secretariat. Nofima is one of the largest institutes for applied research within the fields of fisheries, aquaculture and food research in Europe.

In addition to the new terminology standard, a website is being developed for all research-related information pertaining to food fraud, called 'Food Authenticity Research Network Hub'. The website will contain comprehensive information on the subject and will be accessible to the public from 2018. This work is part of 'Authent-Net', an EU-funded network project.

- [TRACES REPORT 2016](#). Source European Commission.

TRACES is a multilingual online management tool which notifies, certifies and monitors trade in animals, products of animal origin and feed and food of non-animal origin, as well as of plants, seeds and propagating material.

From the EC perspective 2016 was a year of consolidation of the traditional activity of TRACES, of collaboration with other directorates-general, through the launch of new modules for synergy of action and intensive preparation for the achievement in 2017 of two major objectives: the launch on the TNT of modules relating to better traceability of imports and the monitoring of plants, and to the introduction of the electronic signature in veterinary and phytosanitary certificates for the dematerialisation of all associated administrative procedures.

- [Commission publishes an initiative to improve the agri-food supply chain](#). Source European Commission.

The European Commission has published an Inception Impact Assessment (IIA) on an initiative to "Improve the Functioning of the Food Supply Chain". This new EC initiative sets out a series of objectives and policy options, notably in relation to unfair trading practices (UTPs), producer cooperation and market transparency. The IIA will be complemented by a public consultation on which the Commission is currently working with the intention of publishing it in the coming weeks.

EP Questions:

- [Ban on primary bycatches in the shrimp sector](#) - Sander Loones (ECR)
- [Scrapping of fishing vessels](#) - Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)
- [Bluefin tuna recovery plan for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean](#) - Siôn Simon (S&D)

Useful links:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1352 of 18 April 2017 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the EP and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.
- Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127 as regards certain fishing opportunities.
- Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Report: Cooked shrimp in France – EUMOFA.
- Report from the Commission to the Council and the EP fourteenth report overview of third country trade defence actions against the European Union for the year 2016
- Commission Regulation (EU) .../...of XXX amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls on fishery products caught by vessels flying the flag of a Member State and introduced into Union after being transferred in third countries and establishing a model health certificate for those products.

Events:

- [International Congress on Climate Change and Fisheries \(CONXEMAR-FAO\)](#). 2 October. Vigo
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.
- [Tackling food fraud: further developments in analytical techniques to ensure the integrity of food](#). 10 October. Campden BRI, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, UK.

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