

## EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

- [Guy Verhofstadt dismisses UK's Post-Brexit Customs Plan](#).

The European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, Guy Verhofstadt, described aspects of the plan as "fantasy," having previously stated: "if you want the advantages of a single market and customs union, you have to take the obligations." Those obligations include trading with countries outside the EU in the same way as other member states do – something the UK is proposing to avoid.

- **European Commission:**

- [Response to UK Position Papers on Customs and Ireland](#).

A spokesperson for the Commission said they would study the UK position paper on customs carefully and they take note of the UK's request for a transition period. On Ireland, the Commission says the maintenance of the Common Travel Area and protection of the Good Friday agreement must be discussed before looking at technical solutions.

## MORE INFORMATION

- [UK's Proposal for a Future Customs Relationship with the EU](#) Source .gov.uk

The document highlights two approaches to a future customs relationship and sets out new details on an interim period with the EU. The proposed model, which would mean close association with the EU Customs union for a time-limited period, seeks to ensure that UK businesses only have to adjust once to a new customs relationship.

- [UK's Position Paper: Northern Ireland and Ireland](#) Source .gov.uk

The paper states that the UK government will protect the Common Travel Area and associated rights for UK and Irish citizens, and centralises upholding the 'Good Friday' Agreement in exit negotiations. The paper proposes avoiding a hard border on the movement of goods, having no physical infrastructure at the border. This suggests that the current extent and complexity of third country sanitary and phytosanitary checks for agri-food products would not be appropriate under this proposal. The paper further plans to preserve the wide range of institutional cooperation between Northern Ireland, Ireland and Great Britain.

Alongside this document, the UK government published [two additional data papers](#) with figures on trade and the movement of people.

- [Ireland's Response to the UK's Position Paper on Northern Ireland and Ireland](#) Source Belfast Telegraph

The DUP has welcomed the government's post-Brexit position paper outlining its Irish border plans as a "constructive step." With regards to the border issues; Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Steve Coveney comments that [from an agri-food point of view; diseases and animals don't respect borders](#).

---

## FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Danish Police to Investigate Misuse of EU Fishing Rules](#). Source EU Observer

Danish police have been asked to investigate the public administration of EU fishing rules after national auditors found examples of fishermen who, in reports to the ministry, pretended to own vessels and quotas. This practice may have led to Danish fishing quotas being in reality concentrated

on just a few owners. Fisheries minister Esben Lunde Larsen and two leading ministerial officials were removed from office last week.

- [Tariff Quotas of the Union for Certain Fish and Fishery Products Originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) Source EU Official Journal.

The tariff quota volumes for trout, carp and anchovies in Bosnia and Herzegovina are to be increased by 440, 10 and 20 tonnes accordingly.

**EP Questions:**

- [EU-Mercosur trade agreement and food standards](#). Franck Proust (PPE)

**MORE INFORMATION:**

- [Give your feedback: Technical amendment to the Common Fisheries Regulation](#)

The European Commission are seeking feedback on a proposed amendment to the CFP regulations to temporarily extend the Commission's empowerment to adopt discard plans through delegated acts until the multiannual plans also covering the implementation of the landing obligation, at sea basin level and species, are in place.

- [New Zealand Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine Fishery Certified as Sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council](#).

**Events:**

- [Scientific Seminar on the status of European fish stocks](#). 27 September. Brussels.
- [Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity](#). October 5-6. Dublin.
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.

[cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk](mailto:cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk)