

Brussels Weekly Update – 06/10/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament:

Parliamentary Questions: 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 an MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below, the Commission have responded to one EP question related to Brexit.

- [Future fisheries agreement with the United Kingdom](#) - Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D).
- [Erasmus](#). John Stuart Agnew (EFDD).
- [Debate on Brexit](#).

On October 3th the Plenary of the European Parliament held a discussion on Brexit before the vote of a resolution on the same subject. Although Parliament welcomes the clarifications by Prime Minister May in her recent speech in Florence, MEPs expect the UK government to table, without delay, specific proposals to: safeguard the full set of rights that 4.5 million EU and UK citizens currently enjoy, honour the UK's financial obligations to the EU in full, resolve the Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland border issue, in full compliance with the Good Friday Agreement.

European Commission:

- [Speech by Michel Barnier at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom](#) - Source European Commission.
- [European Commission publishes assessment of offers to host European Banking Authority and European Medicines Agency, currently located in the United Kingdom](#). Source European Commission.

On the basis of the Commission's assessment, the Council will have a political discussion at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in October 2017. In order to allow for a smooth and timely relocation of the two agencies, a final decision will be taken at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in November 2017.

European Council

- [General Affairs Council: Outcome of the meeting](#) - Source European Council.

The Council, in an EU 27 format, took stock of progress in the Brexit negotiations, with the fourth round of talks with the UK being launched the same day. The Commission's chief negotiator Michel Barnier updated the Council on developments, and the EU27 ministers had an opportunity to exchange views on the ongoing talks.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Effect of UK leaving the EU on consumers and consumer protection](#). House of Commons Library.

- [Impact of Brexit on UK consumer regime](#). Source House of Commons Library.

This Commons briefing paper provides an overview of some of the main issues in respect of the impact of Brexit on the UK's consumer regime.

- [US rounds on Britain over food quotas as post-Brexit trade woes deepen](#). Source POLITICO

US government has joined a group of countries objecting to a deal between the UK and EU to divide valuable agricultural import quotas, which may suggest that US and others plan to use Brexit to force the UK to further open its sensitive market for farm products.

Events

[Food Regulations Post Brexit - Have Your Say](#). 19 October. Norwich.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Public consultation on the scientific opinion on dietary reference values for sodium \(intermediate draft\) and related protocol](#). Source EFSA.

EFSA has launched an open consultation on its scientific opinion on dietary reference values for sodium and related protocol (Annex A). The two documents are published together in order to receive input from stakeholders on the parts of the opinion which have been used to inform the draft protocol, and on the methodology foreseen to inform the remaining parts covered by the protocol. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments **by 12 November 2017**.

- [Assessment of the incidents of histamine intoxication in some EU countries](#). Source EFSA.

EC has requested EFSA to assess the incidents of histamine intoxication in some EU countries that were linked to the consumption of tuna and were notified through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). In its report EFSA recommends further investigations in order to evaluate the cumulative effect of concurrent conditions in the production of histamine in fish and fishery products, such as wrong chilling rates, inadequate storage temperatures, poor hygiene conditions, use of additives, long shelf life.

- [Dual Quality Foods - Fish Fingers](#). Source European Commission.

On 26 September EU Commission issued a set of guidelines on the application of EU food and consumer laws to dual quality products. Based on FIC Regulation and Unfair Commercial Practices directive the guidance establishes a step-by-step approach for the national consumer and food authorities to identify whether the producers are in breach of these laws. The Commission is working on a methodology to improve food product comparative tests so that Member States can discuss this issue on a sound and shared scientific basis that is the same for all. The producers and brand associations have committed to developing a code of conduct for this autumn. Workshops with consumer protection and food safety authorities will be held in September and November.

- [European Union leads the way on global actions for better governance of the oceans](#). Source European Commission.

The European Commission has announced over €550 million of EU-funded initiatives to tackle global oceans challenges, at the Our Ocean Conference 2017 in Malta. The resources will be invested to strengthen the fight against marine pollution and enlarge protected areas, reinforce security of the oceans, foster blue economy initiatives and sustainable fisheries and intensify the EU efforts against climate change. Commitments will be tracked and reported at the next Our Ocean Conference in Indonesia in 2018.

Agendas:

- [EP PECH Committee](#). 9-10 October.
- [EU Council on Fisheries and Agriculture](#). 9 October.
- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Plant Health](#) 18-19 October 2017.
[Meeting with Civil society: Civil Society Dialogue: Mercosur Sustainability Impact Assessment – Draft Inception Report](#). 13 October.

Useful links:

- [Proposal for a Council Decision Denouncing the Partnership Agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros, adopted by Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1563/2006 of 5 October 2006.](#)
[OCEANA study: Healthy fisheries are good for industry.](#)
- [Adding certain quantities withheld in the year 2016 to the 2017 fishing quotas.](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1772 of 28 September 2017 opening and providing for the management of Union tariff quotas for certain agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fishery products originating in Canada.](#)

Events:

- [Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity](#). October 5-6. Dublin.
- [Super-trawlers: destructive or sustainable?](#) 9 October. Brussels
- [IFood 17](#). 10 October. Cologne.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.