

Brussels Weekly Update - 06/12/2017

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- **Vietnam and India fishery products under the spotlight of the European Commission.**
Source DG SANTE

Sources from DG SANTE have confirmed to Seafish that the recent audit mission of the FVO (Food Veterinary Office) carried out in India last November has not been as satisfactory as it has been suggested by Indian media. The same sources said EU stakeholders must continue to put pressure on Indian authorities to eradicate the use of prohibited substances in fishery products. In 2017 another FVO mission was sent to Vietnam to analyse the official control system in place for the production of fishery products intended to be imported to the EU. DG SANTE is very concerned about the situation in this country and there is a risk of a possible ban of seafood imports coming from Vietnam.

- [ASEM SPS Seminar on Food Safety new policies, new challenges and new cooperation and technical aspects, 5-6 December 2017.](#)

The Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a unique, informal platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on the big challenges of a fast-changing world. The focus of the conference held in Brussels on 5-6 December was food safety, in particular food standards and official controls, e-commerce practices, food related frauds and animal health international standards. It also included a session on combatting antimicrobial resistance.

The presentations made during this conference are available [HERE](#).

- [Public consultation: guidance on the assessment of the efficacy of feed additives.](#) Source EFSA.

EFSA has launched a public consultation on its draft guidance on the assessment of the efficacy of feed additives.

The guidance document is intended to assist the applicant in the preparation and presentation of an application for the authorisation of a feed additive. It specifies what kind of information and data applicants need to include in their dossiers to allow EFSA to assess the efficacy of feed additives. EFSA invites interested parties to submit written comments by 28 January 2018.

- [Weaknesses and loopholes in customs controls.](#) Source European Court of Auditors.

Goods entering EU Member States from outside the European Union are subject to customs controls before they are released for free circulation within the EU. However, according to the ECA, importers can deliberately reduce or evade customs duty liability by, for example, undervaluing their goods, declaring a false country of origin or shifting to a product classification with a lower duty rate. The auditors examined whether the European Commission and the Member States had designed robust controls on imports. They visited the customs authorities of five Member States: Spain, Italy, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

They found serious weaknesses indicating that there are shortcomings in the legal framework, as well as ineffective implementation of customs controls on imports. This adversely affects the financial interests of the EU.

Agendas

- [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#), 11-12/12/2017
- [Codex Committee on contaminants in food](#). 12/03/2018.

Useful links

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2229 of 4 December 2017 amending Annex I to Directive](#)

[2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum levels for lead, mercury, melamine and deoquinat.](#)

- EP Briefing [Management of the EU external fishing fleet](#)
- [EC Report on critical tariff quota imports](#)
- [OECD Review of Fisheries: Policies and Summary Statistics 2017](#)
- [EP briefing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#)

Events

- [FAO Council 158th Session World Food Safety Day](#). 7th December. Rome.
- [Promoting an innovative and tasteful domestic mussel product with longer shelf life](#). 11 December. Thessaloniki
- [The end of the European Organic Label?](#). 21 November, Brussels.