• **IUU fishing – Sri Lanka**


Actions in respect of Sri Lanka in the form of measures that should be applied are listed in Article 38 of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008. The prohibition of importation covers all stocks and species, as defined in Article 2(8) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, since the identification as a non-cooperating third country is not due to the lack of appropriate measures adopted in relation to IUU fishing affecting a given stock or species.

This decision will be adopted at the next EU Council for Agriculture and Fisheries on 26th January 2015.

• **Potential sanctions on imports from Vietnam due to the detection of residues of antibiotics**

On 8th January DG SANTE informed us that reinforced checks have been imposed on 16 establishments from Vietnam following the regular finding of veterinary residues in fishery products of those establishments. Vietnam has been requested to provide full details of the measures and corrective actions undertaken in the establishments concerned, and as regards the products intended for export to the Union, for the appropriate analysis to take place as soon as possible.

On 22nd January DG SANTE confirmed that the comments received from the Vietnamese Authorities and are assessed at this moment. No decision has already been taken.

• **EFSA Statement on the benefits of fish/seafood consumption compared to the risks of methylmercury in fish/seafood**

Following a request from the European Commission to carry out a risk benefit analysis as regards the risks and benefits to human health of fish/seafood consumption related to methylmercury, the EFSA Scientific Committee used previous work performed by the EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain and the EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies to create scenarios based on typical fish consumption patterns of population groups at risk of exceeding the tolerable weekly intake for methylmercury.

EFSA concludes in its report that it is not possible to make general recommendations on fish consumption across Europe. Each country needs to consider its own pattern of fish consumption and carefully assess the risk of exceeding the TWI of methylmercury while obtaining the health benefits resulting from consumption of fish/seafood. In addition to assessing exposure via fish intake, the use of biomarkers of methylmercury exposure may help to assess the exposure to methylmercury in different population groups.

• **Exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fishing at the PECH Committee on 22 January 2015**

The European Parliament Committee on Fisheries met for an exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fishing, on the priorities in the field of fisheries, including current issues such as the discard ban and the use of driftnets.

Commissioner Karmenu Vella said that whilst the Parliament was familiar with the Commission’s initial impact assessment on driftnets, not all Member States were prepared to give information on the topic which has led to more time being given. There is now more information available as a result of this
delay and all options are now available for scrutiny. The proposal is now in the hands of the co-
legislators and the Commission is hoping to find a good solution on drift net to mitigate the current
drift net defects.

He also said that it was important to allow for a smooth implementation of the landing obligation which
entered into force on January 1. The next phase regarding middle range fisheries needs dialogue
between legislators and the Commission is acting to facilitating these discussions.

Moreover the Commissioner said that the fight against IUU continues to be a priority for the European
Commission and Member States. He also welcomed an American version of the European IUU
Regulation.

Useful links:

- 2014 Finfish Study issued by European Fish Processors Association (AIPCE-CEP)
- The Food and Veterinary Office programme 2015
- European conference "Regional cooperation on energy and maritime spatial planning in
the North Sea", Edinburg - 29 January 2015
- Resolving key fisheries issues through targeted communication - 30 January 2015.

DG MARE:


EFSA: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/

Other events:
http://europa.eu/newsroom/calendar/?siteLanguage=en

Cristina Fernández
email: Cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk