BRUSSELS UPDATE 27/02/2015

- **Symposium on the new EU-Philippine partnership to fight against IUU fishing.**

On 26th February the principal advisor on IUU fishing of DG MARE, Cesar Deben presented the global IUU fishing trends and threats, in a fisheries forum at the UP College of Law in Philippines. Among the participants were government officials of Philippines and the Director-General of DG MARE, Ms. Lowri Evans.

- **Seafish will attend a EJF event in Brussels on IUU fishing**

EJF is holding an event on 4th March in Brussels which will focus on the EU’s role in combating pirate fishing and modern slavery in Thai seafood supply chains. Mr Debén, Principal Adviser, EU Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE) and Linnéa Engström Vice-Chair, European Parliament Committee on Fisheries (PECH) will take part in this hearing.

- **Seafish discusses heavy metals (arsenic, lead, mercury) developments with the Commission**

On 16 February, FRUCOM and Seafish had a meeting with the European Commission to discuss recent developments concerning heavy metals, particularly on the following topics:

**Mercury:**
- In March 2015, The European Commission and Member States will hold first discussions on the recently published EFSA publications concerning mercury;
- These discussions will serve as a basis to propose changes to the mercury maximum levels;
- There is no timeline foreseen when the Commission could come up with proposed levels, as it is difficult to predict how discussions with MS will proceed;
- Mercury maximum levels are also being discussed at the CODEX level, where United States and Australia insist on establishing guidance levels rather than maximum levels.

**Arsenic:**
- Later this year, the Commission is expected to come up with a Recommendation to MS to monitor the presence of arsenic in variety food products, including vegetables, shrimps, algae products, etc.; However, the final list of products will still have to be confirmed with MS;
- Publication of this recommendation will also depend whether there is a reliable testing methodology for arsenic.

**Lead:**
- On 11 February, Member States representatives have voted in favour to amend the current lead maximum levels (see related article).

- **International trade committee debate on TTIP recommendations**

The international trade committee, which is taking the lead in drafting Parliament's recommendations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) deal, held its first discussion on Tuesday on the text drafted by its chair, Bernd Lange. During the debate MEPs showed difference of opinions concerning the content of the document.

Moreover the development committee's opinion will be taken into account by the international trade committee which will vote on which points to include in Parliaments recommendations to TTIP negotiators to be adopted May this year.
Useful links:

- **Food and Veterinary Office Audit Reports**
- **EU Fisheries and Aquaculture Markets Highlights - 01/2015**
- **The Global Food Safety Conference 2015: FOOD SAFETY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY** 3-5 March Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **E-Congress Food Fraud: Food Safety, Authenticity and Global Supply Chain Integrity**
- **Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment support of the ongoing negotiations of a free trade agreement between the European Union and Japan**
- **Conference “Assuring the integrity of the food chain: food authenticity research priorities and funding opportunities”**, 26 March, Brussels

DG MARE:


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

Other events:

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

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