BRUSSELS UPDATE 13/03/2015

- **Food fraud – Fish species substitutions**

The EC is expected to adopt a draft recommendation on a third coordinated control plan against food fraud in the coming weeks. This draft Commission Recommendation would request Member States to carry out a coordinated control plan with regards to fish species substitutions.

The Commission is aware of several reports concerning fish mislabelling and species substitution issues, referring in particular to white fish. Especially in the case of prepared or processed fishery products, documentary checks and physical checks, such as visual identification of morphological characteristics and taste or texture assessment are sometimes either not feasible or conclusive to identify the fish species.

Timeframe:

1. Sampling from 1 June 2015 until 15 July 2015;
2. The report on the results of the official controls carried out should be transmitted to the Commission within 31 October 2015.

- **Seafish at EJF event in Brussels on IUU fishing**

EJF held an event on 4th March in Brussels which was focused on the EU’s role in combating pirate fishing and modern slavery in Thai seafood supply chains. With regard Thailand, Mr. Deben, DG MARE Principal Adviser on IUU fishing explained the outstanding issues that this country needs to solve with the utmost urgency:

1. Obsolete legal framework/ Lack of a real Fisheries Act
2. UN conventions pending formal ratification
3. Administration (difficulties in the coordination) does not keep up with the size of the fishing fleet
4. Fleet expansion towards other countries as Indonesia. Thai vessels flying the flag of a third country
5. Lack of control/monitoring
6. Problems related to traceability
7. Human trafficking/socio-labour issues

- **Questionnaire on multiple identification marking**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect more views of Member States and private stakeholders, to collect practices in Member States and to evaluate if there is a need for a change of legislation. The deadline for contributions is on 17th March 2015.

**Agendas:**

- **Provisional Agenda Agriculture and Fisheries Council 16 March**
- **Agenda Environment, Public Health, Food security Committee EP, 18 March**
- **Agenda International Trade Committee EP, 19-19 March**

**Useful links:**

- **Food and Veterinary Office Audit Reports**
- **Workshop - Unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain (UTP)**, 23 March 2015
- **E-Congress Food Fraud: Food Safety, Authenticity and Global Supply Chain Integrity**
- **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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