

## Brussels Weekly Update - 10/01/2018

### FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Western Sahara dispute should invalidate EU-Morocco fish deal, EU court adviser says.](#) Source Reuters.

On Wednesday the European Union Court of Justice's Advocate General Melchior Wathelet gave his opinion in response to British-based campaigners who said Britain was wrong to uphold the EU-Morocco fisheries deal. "The fisheries exploitation by the EU of the waters adjacent to Western Sahara established and implemented by the contested acts does not respect the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination," Wathelet said. "The fisheries agreement does not contain the legal safeguards necessary for the fisheries exploitation to be for the benefit of the people of Western Sahara," he said.

Beside this, The European Commission (EC) adopted on Monday a recommendation to obtain authorization from the Council to negotiate a new fisheries protocol between the European Union (EU) and Morocco. The current protocol of the fisheries agreement, established for a period of four years, will expire on July 14, 2018.

- [Brazil suspends fish exports to EU.](#) Source Market Intelligence Brazil.

The foreign sale of fish to the European market is suspended from Wednesday, 3, by determination of the Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Mapa) as a result of European audit carried out in September in Brazil. The Government's strategy to anticipate a possible embargo was to prevent damage to the market. The suspension reaches fish and species of the cultivation of aquaculture. According to the Brazilian Association of industries of fish (Abipescas), the export of fish to the EU moves \$62 million per year.

- [Public consultation - voluntary indication of origin or place of provenance of foods.](#) Source European Commission.

The EU Commission has published a public consultation relating on the provision of food information to consumers, as regards the rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food where different to that given for that food. The Commission wants to know the views of EU stakeholders on this topic. This consultation is opened from 4 January 2018 till 1 February 2018.

- [Europe and Mercosur scheduled to resume trade negotiations this month.](#) Source MP.

The European Commission and Mercosur are planning to resume negotiations to reach a new Association Agreement in January. The EU Commissioner on Trade, Cecilia Malmström, stated that, after the last negotiating round, which took place in early December, and after the attempt to reach an agreement in the framework of the last round of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held from 11 to 14 December, the agreement was very close and would be reached in a matter of weeks.

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#### Agendas:

- Market Advisory Council (Working Groups 1,2,3). 23-24 January 2018.
- [Codex Committee on contaminants in food.](#) 12/03/2018.

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#### Useful links:

- EC roadmap: [Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment model in the food chain.](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2018/17 of 5 January 2018 amending Implementing Decision 2014/156/EU establishing a specific control and inspection programme for fisheries exploiting stocks of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, swordfish in the Mediterranean and for fisheries exploiting stocks of sardine and anchovy in the Northern Adriatic Sea \(notified under document C\(2017\) 8687\)](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017](#)

[on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1006/2008.](#)

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**Events:**

- [8th Annual European Food Sure Summit](#) 16 - 18 April 2018. Amsterdam