

Brussels Weekly update - 14/03/2018

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

• Official controls update

The Commission published the minutes of a meeting held on 21 February with national authorities to discuss on issues relating to the preparation, implementation and reporting on Multi Annual National Control Plans for official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

Annual Report

The European Commission will publish an updated version of its guidelines to assist MS and to clarify/include the following:

- Official controls are reported by activity, instead of by main activity or by the one of highest risk;
- Official controls to be reported – Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 lists methods and techniques of official controls (e.g. inspection, visit, interview, sampling, analysis). All these can be reported.
- When counting official controls, MS will only count those for which CAs have drawn up a written record. An official control can cover different areas or different rules in the same area and therefore, as long as a written record is drawn up, the official controls should be counted and reported in those different areas or in the different rules in the same area.
- When the "number of establishments" or "number of operators" is requested in the tables, the default position will be to count all establishments/operators that were active at any given moment during the reporting year.
- Reporting and counting non-compliances will follow the same approach as for official controls, i.e. as long as the CA informs the operator in writing of any case of non-compliance it is counted as one non-compliance;
- The relevant legislation for the official controls that have to be carried out (linked to list of legislation to be shared in CIRCABC); in the "Non-compliances" table under the "Actions/Measures taken" column, report under "administrative" actions those that were initiated and under "judicial" the ones where a judicial proceeding was started.

The guidelines will not be binding. They will be published on DG SANTE's website ("[Guidance Platform](#)") once approved by MS and the Commission. The date for submitting the Annual Report is on 31 August. Reporting dates for other requirements are still being defined.

2- Imports:

The Commission intention is to have "TRACES New Technology" gathering all data on official controls carried out at border control posts in the future and is aiming at a date of application in late 2019. The Commission considers that clarification on how to deal with official controls on commodities that do not have to be submitted to controls at border control posts is needed (e.g. by incorporating such controls in the different sections because they are carried out once the commodities are already "on the market"). The outcome of the discussions of the Commission working group on "entry into the Union" might provide further clarity in this.

3 -Food Safety:

MS informed the Commission that more precise details on scope coverage are needed, namely if marketing standards for food products (DG MARE and DG AGRI legislation) are only to be taken into account in fraud cases.

For the official controls requiring continuous or regular presence of staff or representatives of CAs, members requested more clarification on: the terms "continuous" and "regular"; the type of controls to be reported; and under which criteria.

DG SANTE works with EUROPOL on fraud cases, although transmission of information is intermittent. There is room for enhanced cooperation, which requires changes on legal basis.

- [EU completes fourth round of trade negotiations with Indonesia](#). Source European Commission.

EU negotiators were in Surakarta from 19 to 23 February 2018 for the 4th round of trade and investment negotiations with Indonesia.

Over the course of the round the negotiating teams covered the full range of issues in the free trade agreement, including trade in goods, technical barriers to trade, services, investments, the investment court system, rules of origin, trade and sustainable development, intellectual property rights and government procurement.

During this round, the teams made progress on the chapters on food and plant health, technical barriers to trade, investment and services. Talks were held in a constructive spirit.

- [The EU Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality](#). Source European Commission.

On 13 March 2018, the European Commission is launching a Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality, operated by the JRC.

The [Knowledge Centre](#), a network made up of experts in and outside the Commission, will support EU policymakers and national authorities by providing access to, and sharing up-to-date scientific knowledge on food fraud and food quality issues.

- [Seafood Expo Global 2018](#).

The European Commission has planned the following activities during the Seafood Expo Global in Brussels from 24 to 26 April 2018.

Event: "Food from the Oceans, a look into our future". 24/04/2018

European Commissioner Karmenu Vella, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and other high-level speakers will discuss the future of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, at both EU and global scale. The special report "Food from the Oceans" will be presented and all seafood companies will be called to join the global movement of the "Our Ocean" conference, hosted last year by the European Union.

The confirmed panelists are:

- Commissioner **Karmenu Vella**, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Dr **Manuel Barange**, FAO Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division
- Prof. **Rolf-Dieter Heuer**, Chair of the Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group.

Debate: "The EU and the social dimension of fisheries". 25/04/2018.

Key speakers from the fishing industry (employers, trade unions), the civil society and international organisations will exchange on the social dimension of fisheries, including international conventions, working conditions, security, training and fight against slavery.

The confirmed panelists are:

- Mr **Julio Moron Ayala**, Director of the Organisation of Associated Producers of Large Tuna Freezers (OPAGAC) and representative of Européche
- Dr **Manuel Barange**, FAO Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division

Sessions with European Commission experts

From 24 to 26 April, visit the European Commission stand to meet our team of experts from several Directorates-General and agencies and take part in short daily information sessions on the following issues (detailed calendar available soon):

- Research and innovation
- Sanitary conditions and procedures to import into the EU
- Latest developments in EU trade policies regarding fisheries
- European Market Observatory
- EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products
- Control
- Aquaculture
- Mediterranean Strategy
- Fisheries Local Action Groups

Agendas:

- [Agenda for the meeting of 22 March 2018 of the PAFF Committee, section General Food Law](#). 22/03/2018.
- [EP Fisheries Committee](#). 21-22/03/2018.

Useful links:

- [Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cabo Verde](#).
- [EUMOFA Monthly Highlights No. 2/2018](#).
- [Aquaculture - Overview for the EU: in-depth analysis study](#).

Events:

- [SEAFOOD EXPO GLOBAL](#). 21-24 Brussels.
- [8th Annual European Food Sure Summit](#). 16 - 18 April 2018. Amsterdam