

Brussels Weekly Update - 01/02/2018

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Generalised tariff preferences](#). Source European Commission.

Paraguay: this country has been classified by the World Bank as upper-middle income country in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Paraguay no longer qualifies for GSP beneficiary country status in accordance with Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 and should be removed from the list of GSP beneficiary countries in Annex II to that Regulation. From 1 January 2019, Paraguay also ceases to be a GSP+ beneficiary country under Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012.

Côte d'Ivoire, Swaziland and Ghana should also be removed from Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 with application from 1 January 2019.

Equatorial Guinea no longer qualifies for EBA beneficiary status under Article 17(1) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012. In accordance with Article 17(2) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012, the removal of Equatorial Guinea from the list of EBA beneficiary countries should apply following a transitional period of 3 years from the date on which this Regulation enters into force, namely from 1 January 2021. Furthermore, Equatorial Guinea has been classified by the World Bank as high income country in 2015 and as upper-middle income country in 2016 and 2017. Therefore, Equatorial Guinea no longer qualifies for GSP beneficiary country status in accordance with Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 and should also be removed from the list of GSP beneficiary countries in Annex II to that Regulation with application from 1 January 2021.

- [FVO audit: Morocco](#). Source FVO

The scope of the audit concerned only animals and products eligible for export to the European Union – poultry and aquaculture finfish. The audit took place in Morocco from 11 to 21 September 2017. This was the first Commission audit in Morocco dealing with this topic.

The report concluded that the current control system for residues in food of animal origin in Morocco largely underpins guarantees that exported products do not contain residues in excess of EU limits. Nevertheless, the audit has identified deficiencies in the planning and implementation of the residue monitoring plan, most notably the use of some analytical methods which are not validated, a scope of testing which does not reflect the use of certain substances in the poultry and aquaculture sectors and sample handling practices which weaken the legal and analytical validity of the samples and results generated. Notwithstanding these deficiencies, the implementation of a prescription system for veterinary medicinal products and the effective operation of official controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicines mitigates the risk of residue violations in products eligible for export to the EU.

- [Evaluation of the marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products](#). Source European.

The EU current marketing standards cover fresh and chilled products, preserved tuna and bonito and preserved sardines and sardine-like products. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the extent to which the existing marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products is fit for purpose, and whether it allows achieving the objectives of the Common Market Regulation. An open consultation for stakeholders involved in the food supply chain, MS and Market Advisory Council will likely be launched in the 2nd quarter of 2018 and will run for a minimum period of 12 weeks.

- [List of potential marine contaminants](#). Source JRC

The EU Joint Research Centre has compiled in a single reference list more than 2700 substances (or groups of substances) coming from main lists of chemicals compiled by relevant global conventions, European legislation, and dedicated research work. This compilation assists in using a harmonized nomenclature for the unambiguous identification of the substances of concern, facilitating also consistency in MSFD Descriptor 8 data reporting. This general overview will help understand the different options and support further developments for the monitoring and assessment of chemical pollution in marine waters.

Agendas:

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain.](#) 01/02/2018
 - [Codex Committee on contaminants in food.](#) 12/03/2018.
-

Useful links:

- [EC report on the implementation of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.](#)
 - [EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement](#)
 - [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2018/153 of 23 October 2017 amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
 - [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.](#)
-

Events:

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