

Brussels Weekly update – 01/09/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

- [European Parliament Brexit Coordinator Guy Verhofstadt \(ALDE, BE\) discussed the Brexit negotiations with Employment Committee members.](#)

On 30 August the EP Brexit Coordinator Mr. Verhofstadt stated that a EP Resolution should be adopted in October in order to assess the progress of the negotiations. He also emphasized the need to protect citizens' rights and stand against a "hard border" between Ireland and the UK, which would be against the "Good Friday Agreement".

- **European Commission:**

- [Joint technical note on EU-UK position on citizens' rights after third round of negotiations.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [Brexit reading list: negotiations and future relations.](#) House of Commons Library.

This briefing paper has compiled, from a wide range of sources, a selection of analysis on Brexit and its effects for the UK.

- [Brexit: Towards an EFTA-like dispute settlement mechanism.](#) House CEPS.

This position paper suggests that there are increasing signs that the UK government is willing to accept a transitional role for the CJEU (European Court of Justice). Moreover, from the point of view of authors of this paper, the UK government considers the EFTA/EEA model as an attractive option because the EFTA Court remains independent from the CJEU.

- [The British Chambers of Commerce and the Association of German Chambers of Commerce have called for the UK and EU negotiators to put a clear focus on our shared economic interests as Brexit talks reconvene in Brussels.](#) Source BCC.

Mr. Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce said among other things that "The UK and the EU must begin work on transitional arrangements, particularly on customs, so that firms of both sides of the Channel have the confidence to make investments decisions.

- [Brexit is coming, and businesses need to be ready. Source Swedish Chamber of Commerce.](#)

Mexico and Britain have begun informal talks on an agreement to maintain UK's preferential trade deal with Mexico after Brexit, British international trade secretary Liam Fox said on Thursday.

Events:

- [Next Steps for UK Food Labelling Policy and Opportunities Post-Brexit](#). Westminster Food and Nutrition Forum. 12th September 2017.
 - [The Common Fisheries Policy Post-Brexit](#). British Institute of International and Comparative Law. London. 12th September 2017.
 - [Brexit: Legal Consequences for the EU](#). Source Academy of European Law. 28 September.
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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Commission proposes Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2018 with increased quotas for herring and salmon](#). Source European Commission.

On 29 August the EC has adopted a proposal for fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2018. More specifically the EC has proposed to increase catches for Central Herring, Sprat and the Main Basin Salmon stocks, and to maintain the number of catches for the important stock of Western Baltic Cod. For the remaining stocks the EC proposes reducing catches. This year's proposal also includes a ban on Baltic Eel fisheries, not traditionally a part of the annual allowable catch proposals but from EC perspective a necessary step due to alarming scientific evidence and historically low levels.

- [FVO audit report on residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products including controls on veterinary medicinal products in Japan](#). Source FVO.

The current control system for residues in food of animal origin in Japan adheres to the RMP approved by the EU and offers largely reliable guarantees that exported products do not contain residues in excess of EU limits. However, the effectiveness of the RMP is negatively affected by certain weaknesses in its implementation and, notably, by the use of some analytical methods which are not validated. Nevertheless, there is a low risk of residue violations because of the largely comprehensive prescription system for veterinary medicinal products and the effective operation of official controls on their distribution and use.

EP Questions:

- [Bluefin tuna quotas](#). Renata Briano (S&D).

Useful links:

- [Hygiene rules for food of animal origin as regards echinoderms](#).
- [Regional Ocean Governance in Europe: The role of Fisheries](#).
- [Roadmap: evaluation of the feed additives legislation](#).
- [EP study: fisheries in Japan](#).

Events:

- [Scientific Seminar on the status of European fish stocks](#). 27 September. Brussels.
- [Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity](#). October 5-6. Dublin.
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.