

Brussels Weekly Update – 07/07/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament:

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and a MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below there are two EP questions related to the Brexit to be responded by the EC.

- [Brexit and recognition of university degrees](#) - Marc Joulaud (PPE)
- [Negotiations with the UK on fisheries policy](#) - Jens Rohde (ALDE)
- [The UK's contribution to the EU budget in the 2007-2013 budgetary cycle](#) - Tibor Szanyi (S&D)

European Commission:

- [Speech by Michel Barnier at the European Economic and Social Committee.](#)

European Council:

- [Provisional agendas for General Affairs Council \(Article 50\) meetings, during the second semester of 2017 \(the Estonian Presidency\).](#)
- [Decision on the procedure for relocation of EU agencies currently located in the UK](#), 22/06/2017.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Brexit: trade aspects](#). House of Commons Library.

This paper looks at possible options for the UK's trading relationships with the EU after Brexit. The paper has been updated to include a new chapter on trade with non-EU countries.

- [Brexit: a reading list of post-EU Referendum publications by the UK Parliament and the Devolved Assemblies.](#)

This reading list brings together briefings on Brexit by the Parliamentary libraries and the Devolved Assembly research services with reports by Parliamentary and Devolved Assembly committees following the result of the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016.

- [UK begins to row back from fisheries convention](#). Source FT

FT informed about the UK withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention, which was signed in 1964 before the UK joined the EU. According to FT this action will make easier to manage access to the much larger

exclusive economic zone covered by CFP. The London convention allows vessels from France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands to fish within six and 12 nautical miles of the UK's coastline, part of the UK's territorial waters.

- [Ireland calls UK withdrawal from fisheries agreement 'unhelpful and unwelcome'](#). Source Thejournal.ie

Irish Minister for Agriculture Food and Marine Michael Creed said that the UK move was premature: Today's announcement by the UK government is unwelcome and unhelpful...It is a part of Brexit and will be considered by the EU 27 members and the Barnier team when the negotiations commence.

- [Withdrawal from shared waters agreement leaves questions for future of UK fisheries](#). Source ClientEarth.
- [The harder the Brexit the hotter it gets? Exploring impacts for climate policy](#). Source Institute of International and European Affairs.

This policy brief explores the implications of Brexit for climate policy, within the UK, at EU level and internationally. For scenarios are considered: Remain, Soft Brexit, Hard Brexit and Ultra-Hard Brexit. This IIEA policy brief explores the implications of Brexit for climate policy, within the UK, at EU level and internationally. For scenarios are considered: Remain, Soft Brexit, Hard Brexit and Ultra-Hard Brexit.

Next meetings:

- House of Lords - [Brexit: Overseas Territories](#) – Oral evidence session. 10 July
- House of Lords – [David Davis Session](#) - Oral Evidence Session. 11 July
- EC Chief Negotiator Mr. Barnier meets Carwyn Jones, First Minister of Wales. 13 July
- EC Chief Negotiator Mr. Barnier meets Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition. 13 July.

FISHERIES

- [State of Play of the Common Fisheries Policy and Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2018](#). Source DG MARE

DG MARE has published a Communication on the Fishing Opportunities for 2018. It reports on progress in achieving sustainable fisheries, and especially in ensuring that the exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield, which will also contribute to achieving good environmental status in European seas by 2020. It looks at changes in the state of stocks, the state of the EU fleet, the phasing-in of the landing obligation and progress with decentralisation². It also sets out the principles underpinning the Commission proposals for fishing opportunities for 2018. Member States, Advisory Councils (ACs), other stakeholders and the public are invited to provide suggestions on these policy directions.

More information:

DG MARE has also launched a public consultation available [HERE](#) which will be opened from 6 July 2017 till 15 September 2017.

Next steps:

- May/June/October: Stock advice from ICES
 - 26 September: Seminar on the state of the stocks with stakeholders. Adoption of TAC proposals for the Baltic Sea
 - October: Council on TACs for the Baltic Sea
 - November: Adoption of TAC proposals for the Atlantic/North Sea/Black Sea
 - December: Council on TACs for the Atlantic/North Sea/Black Sea.
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- [Summary report of the Expert Group meeting on veterinary import controls 24 April 2017](#). Source EC.

The EC has published the minutes of the Expert group meeting on veterinary import controls on 24 April 2017. Below some items which have been discussed:

Re-enforced controls: EC indicated that around 83% of RECs are launched by Member States against 17% launched by EC. The RECs launched by EC are mainly based on results from market controls for which the RASFF national contact points tend to forget to propose REC measures. From 2016, the rate of RECs launched by MS improved significantly, from 65% to 83%, which is a very promising trend. Furthermore, EC clarified that, according to their legal assessment, they are not allowed to publish the list of the establishments under REC regime. This Commission's policy is similar to the one applied for the information circulated by the RASFF system. Nevertheless, it is up to the Member States to disclose the REC information if they consider that their national rules allow them to do so.

Super-chilling: COM circulated its official reply to the Italian authorities¹ concerning the application of super-chilling process for the transportation by plane of imported Nile perch. COM clarified that, according to Section VIII of Chapter VIII of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, fishery products must be maintained at a temperature approaching that of melting ice during the transport. It means that the products must be kept at 0°C all the time. Considering that super-chilling requires freezing, this process cannot be considered as compliant with EU requirements. Therefore, when histological checks show lesions caused by freezing, it implies that the products were frozen before their transport and they should be rejected at the BIPs.

Status of Western Sahara: At the request of France, EC clarified the status of Western Sahara. The European Court of Justice ruled in December 2016 that the trade agreements between the EU and Morocco are not applicable to Western Sahara. However, the United Nations recognises that Morocco administers 80 % of the territory as a governing authority. According to the Legal Service of the Commission, the import health requirements are not based on political criteria but on technical criteria only. This means that Morocco may continue to act as a competent authority in Western Sahara for the control and the listing of establishments approved to export goods to the EU.

Listing of approved vessels from non-Union countries: Spain asked how to proceed in the case of fishery products originating from non-listed reefer vessels and presented to BIPs. DK reminded that they contacted the flag state of the concerned vessels to encourage them to start the listing procedure, and they cooperate as well with their IUU authorities on the check of catch certificates. EC encouraged MS to follow the same procedure and reminded participants that there is no transitional period for the approval of reefer vessels. According to the EU rules on documentary checks, the presentation of catch certificates is not compulsory, but it may become mandatory at the express request of the BIP.

- [EU fishing vessel operation continuity becomes uncertain in Guinea-Bissau](#). Source CTA

Negotiations for a new fisheries deal between the European Union (EU) and Guinea-Bissau have been put on hold due to unrealistic economic and technical conditions proposed by authorities of the African country, reported *Europêche*. The European fishing vessel owners expect that the discussion of this new agreement, which would allow around 50 EU vessels to continue fishing important species such as tuna, cephalopods, horse mackerel or shrimp in Guinea Bissau waters for the next years in a transparent legal framework, can resume and lead to a realistic agreement beneficial for both parties in the near future.

EP Questions:

- [Swordfish quotas in the Mediterranean](#) - Renata Briano (S&D)
- [Illegal fishing: insufficient checks on EU imports](#) - Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)
- [Developing the production of insect meal for aquaculture](#) - Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)
- [Import controls to combat illegal fishing](#) - Roberta Metsola (PPE)
- [Landing obligation - Common Fisheries Policy](#) - José Blanco López (S&D)

Agendas:

- [AGRIFISH Council](#). 17-18 July 2017.
- [PECH Committee](#). 12 July.

Useful links:

- [The Estonian Presidency Programme for the Agriculture and Fisheries Council \(AGRIFISH\)](#)
- [Fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the North Sea and Baltic Sea](#)
- [Draft Commission Implementing Regulation on imports of feed & food from Japan following the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident.](#)
- [Interim Overview report Audits of Official Controls in EU-Member States](#)

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1130 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 defining characteristics for fishing vessels](#)
- [EP study Fisheries in Madeira.](#)

Events:

- EP PECH: Safety at the sea in the fisheries sector: Presentation of a training tool based on the use of ITC for risk prevention and safety in the trawling fishing. 12 July. Brussels
- [DG TRADE Stakeholder workshop: Evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Korea FTA.](#) 17 July. Brussels.
- [Our Ocean 2017.](#) 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit.](#) October 10-11. Grimsby.