

## Brussels Weekly Update – 08/09/2017

### EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

- [Brexit: joint statement by EP President and Brexit coordinator.](#)

EP Conference of Presidents debated the current state of play of Brexit talks and possible delay of phase two of the negotiations. The EP President Antonio Tajani said: "Given the current state of play of negotiations and the current position of the UK, it would seem very difficult that sufficient progress can be achieved by October on separation issues in order to enter phase 2 of the negotiations. In this case I would think it wise for the European Council to postpone this point to its December meeting."

- **European Commission:**

- [Statement by Michel Barnier on the publication of the Guiding Principles for the Dialogue on Ireland and Northern Ireland.](#)

On September 7th the European Commission has published the following public positions:

- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Public Procurement.](#)
- [Guiding principles transmitted to EU27 for the Dialogue on Ireland/Northern Ireland.](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Customs related matters needed for an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the Union.](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on the Use of Data and Protection of Information Obtained or Processed before the Withdrawal Date.](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Intellectual property rights \(including geographical indications\).](#)

### MORE INFORMATION

- [Position Papers and Future Partnership Papers on the UK's Future Relationship with the EU.](#) House of Commons Library.

This short briefing provides an overview of the position papers and future partnership papers that the Government has published to date, as well as the EU's response.

- [Brexit and the Treatment of EU Citizens by the UK Home Office.](#) House CEPS.

This article states that the status of EU citizens is among the most sensitive issues in the negotiations and a priority to be resolved before the trade discussions begin. According to the author it is essential for all parties to take great care to ensure that all the actors on their side of the table are singing from the same song sheet.

- [David Davis' opening statement at the second reading of the Repeal Bill.](#)

Source UK Government.

- [CBI response to the EC on Ireland and Northern Ireland & response to prospective plans for the UK's future migration system](#). Source CBI.

"A unique solution will take time to agree and implement. It is vital that the UK, Republic of Ireland, and EU agree a transitional trading period that protects cross border trade and supports local businesses making long-term investment decisions" David Gavaghan, Chair, CBI Northern Ireland said.

"Businesses will look for the Government's final position paper to support an open but managed approach to immigration. That means taking the initiative to guarantee those already here that they can stay, a transition period with limited changes so firms can plan ahead, and a final system for the EU that is simpler and more open than the complex work permit system run for non-EEA countries." Neil Carberry, CBI Managing Director for People and Infrastructure, said.

#### Events:

- [Next Steps for UK Food Labelling Policy and Opportunities Post-Brexit](#). Westminster Food and Nutrition Forum. 12<sup>th</sup> 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

- **FVO Audit report - [Indonesia: Fishery products derived from tuna species](#)**. Source European Commission.

FVO carried out an audit mission in Indonesia from 28 February to 9 March 2017 to evaluate whether the official controls put in place by the competent authority can guarantee that the conditions of production of fishery products derived from tuna species in Indonesia destined for export to the EU are in line with the requirements laid down in the EU legislation. The report concluded that the official control system developed by the competent authority in Indonesia is based on adequate procedures and legislation aiming to provide the guarantees required by the public health attestations of the EU export health certificate. However the legislation presents important gaps, notably related to the absence of a HACCP plan for freezer vessels and the exemption of fishing vessels below 20 GT from sanitary controls (CPIB). Those elements of the control system covering primary production and some establishments which are not EU listed (freezer vessels and fish suppliers) have not been adequately implemented by the Indonesian competent authorities. These deficiencies do not allow the Indonesian competent authority to provide adequately the guarantees required by the European Union export health certificate when exporting tuna products to the European Union.

- [Evaluation of the EU legal framework on food irradiation](#). Source European Commission.

Directives 1999/2/EC and 1999/3/EC set out the legal framework to improve the free movement of irradiated foodstuffs within the single market. The purpose of the EC evaluation is to assess, in the light of the experience gained and technical progress made during their implementation, whether they are still fit for purpose.

Irradiation is used for sanitary and phytosanitary purposes. It is a safe and effective way to kill bacteria that cause food poisoning and it helps eliminating organisms harmful to plant or plant products.

As part of this EC evaluation a public consultation will take place in the fourth quarter of 2017 and a targeted consultation of relevant stakeholders through either targeted surveys and/or bilateral and group meetings.

- [Meeting of the next Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section: "Controls and import conditions" on 18-19 September 2017](#). Source European Commission.

On 18-19 September at the PAFF on controls and imports conditions it will be discussed among other items a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/866/EC, on emergency measures suspending imports from Peru of certain bivalve molluscs intended for human consumption, as regards its period of application. The draft Commission Implementing Decision extends the period of application of Commission Decision 2008/866/EC until 30 November 2018. The protective measures need to be extended until the effectiveness of the corrective measures taken by the Peruvian competent authorities has been demonstrated. In order to verify if the last guarantees provided by the Peruvian authority are effective and sufficient to lift the emergency measures, an audit from the Commission Services is scheduled for September 2017. The limit of application of Decision 2008/866/EC should therefore be extended until 30 November 2018. The period of application of Decision 2008/866/EC could be revised depending on the results of the audit of the Commission Services.

- [Belgium seeks EU court opinion on EU-Canada free trade deal](#). Source CNBC.

Belgian government has asked the European Court of Justice for its view on the CETA free-trade agreement, part of a compromise reached with the Wallonia region, which had threatened to block the deal last year. More specifically the Belgian government has asked for a clarification as regards the compatibility of the investment provisions with EU law, including the supremacy of the ECJ and the right of access to courts and to an independent judiciary.

## EP Questions:

- [Swordfish quotas in the Mediterranean](#) - Renata Briano (S&D)
- [Labelling of aquaculture products](#) - Angelo Ciocca (ENF)
- [Transparency in the allocation of quotas](#) - Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)
- [Checklists for fisheries inspections](#) - Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)
- [Presence of histamine in tuna](#) - Nicola Caputo (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.