

Brussels Weekly Update - 08/11/2017

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Update on EU Official Controls](#). DG SANTE

On 7th November COM shared its views with EU stakeholders on some aspects of the implementation of the EU Official Controls Regulation. More specifically, the COM asked feedback on the new draft implementing and delegated acts regarding Article 18(7) (specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat and for production and relaying areas of live bivalve molluscs in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625); and Article 18 (8) (laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council). The COM has the intention to finalise the new texts by the end of 2018. On 15 December a WG on Bivalve Molluscs will be held in Brussels to discuss hygiene issues with MS. On import conditions the COM informed that on 22nd November a new meeting with relevant stakeholders will be held to feed the discussion.

- [EU delegation's Nov visit sparks fears of ban among seafood exporters](#). Source SmartInvestor.in

A high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) will visit India between November 21 and 28 to inspect the quality of the aquaculture products here by visiting the harbours and processing factories located in the country. Trade sources said that the EU team, which may comprise two to three members, will visit Odisha first and then proceed to other states.

- [EC is considering to certificate brine frozen tuna](#). Source Atlantico.

ANFACO (an Spanish organisation defending the interests of the sea products canning and processing sector) met DG SANTE representatives on November 7th to discuss brine freezing on used of tuna fishing vessels. This organisation explained the method used by the fleet which consists in using brine and dry cold simultaneously. COM explained that the problem lies with the correctness of a certificate confirming - 18 Celsius degrees temperature to be sure that tuna is stored properly.

- [New proposals submitted for draft agreement on fisheries subsidies](#) . Source WTO.

At the 31 October-3 November meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR), members discussed in detail a previously-circulated text compiling seven earlier proposals, with a number of members suggesting insertions and other amendments to that text. Members also exchanged views on areas of the negotiations to intensify ahead of the 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires in December.

- [Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2018](#). Source DG MARE

On November 7 DG MARE published fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea. Commission proposes quotas for 78 stocks: for 53 stocks the fishing quota is either increased or remains the same and for 25 stocks is reduced. DG MARE proposal will be submitted for discussion and decision by the Member States at the December Fisheries Council (11-12 December in Brussels), to be applied as from 1 January 2018.

Agendas:

- [EP PECH Committee](#). 21/11/2017.

- [Working Party on Internal & External Fisheries Policy](#). 09-10/11/2017.
 - [EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#). 10/11/2017.
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EP Questions:

- [Western waters proposals](#). João Ferreira (GUE/NGL).
 - [Support for freshwater aquaculture](#). Norbert Erdős (PPE).
 - [Solid support for freshwater aquaculture](#). Norbert Erdős (PPE).
 - [Links between organised crime and illegal, unregulated and unreported \(IUU\) fishing](#). Rachida Dati (PPE).
 - [Illegal fishing and the EU-China Blue Partnership](#). Louis Michel (ALDE).
 - [Recreational fishing](#). Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE).
 - [Swordfish quotas in the Mediterranean - further question](#). Renata Briano (S&D).
 - [EU-Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Agreement - update on the negotiations](#). João Ferreira (GUE/NGL).
 - [Fines on fishermen for entering ports unannounced](#). Annie Schreijer-Pierik (PPE)
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Useful Links:

- [Paralytic shellfish poison \(PSP\) detection method](#).
 - [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1980 of 31 October 2017 amending Annex III to Regulation \(EC\) No 2074/2005 as regards paralytic shellfish poison \(PSP\) detection method](#).
 - [EU-Republic of Mauritius fishing opportunities and the Fisheries Partnership Agreement](#).
 - [Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the ESA States \(Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe\)](#).
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Events:

- [2nd ASEM Conference on SPS- Food safety new policies, new challenges, new cooperation and technical aspects](#). 5-6 December. Brussels.
- [The end of the European Organic Label?](#). 21 November, Brussels.