

EU INSTITUTIONS- 14/07/2017

European Parliament:

- [EU and UK positions on citizens' rights: First phase of Brexit negotiations.](#)
- [EP Constitutional Affairs Committee held an exchange of views with Guy Verhofstadt the Parliament's coordinator for the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU.](#)

On July 12th Mr Verhofstadt updated MEPs about negotiations on Brexit. Mr Verhofstadt informed that three thematic areas will be discussed: citizens' rights, the financial settlement and separate issues (nuclear materials and safeguarding equipment; goods placed on the market; governance; ongoing Union, judicial and administrative procedures; judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; police and criminal cooperation on judicial matters; and, issues relating to the functioning of the institutions, the agencies and bodies). The Working Groups on these specific areas started their technical discussion this week.

Mr Verhofstadt also suggested an EP assessment on the second stage of negotiations in October: the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

European Commission:

- [Speaking points by Michel Barnier after the College meeting.](#)
- [State of play of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [UK Government publishes Repeal Bill](#) Source UK Parliament.

On July 13th the Repeal Bill was introduced to the House of Commons and given its First Reading. This stage is formal and takes place without any debate, which is expected at any time during autumn, but will need to have been passed by the time the UK leaves the EU currently set for March 2019.

More publications:

[Ongoing Union judicial and administrative proceedings - position paper](#)

[Nuclear materials and safeguards issues - position paper](#)

[Privileges and immunities - position paper](#)

- [Brexit: what impact on those currently exercising free movement rights?](#) House of Commons Library.

This briefing paper addresses the question of the status, post-Brexit, of EU citizens currently resident in the UK and those British citizens living elsewhere in the EU. It is updated to include a summary of the Government's proposals of 26 June 2017.

- [The Brexit bill.](#) House of Commons Library.
- [Brexit: the talks begin.](#) House of Commons Library.
- [Brexit reading list: general coverage.](#) House of Commons Library.
- [The Irish Border as a Customs Frontier after Brexit.](#) Source CEPS.

The author of this article calls for a smooth facilitation of legitimate cross-border trade on Ireland in order that businesses operating across the Irish border have the capacity to manage this transition. The current uncertainty

that affects the business community on both sides of the Irish border raises the risk of deep economic harm in this area, long before any formal change to the status of the Irish border takes place.

- [Beyond Brexit: What does the UK leaving the EU mean for Finland?](#) Source British Council.

On 10 July in partnership with the British Embassy and as part of the SuomiAreena public debate forum, the British Council participated on a panel of experts from the UK and Finland which asks what the future holds for their countries, organisations and the rest of Europe following the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Please click [HERE](#) to watch the debate.

- [Brexit - business needs an orderly transition.](#) Source BUSINESSEUROPE.
- Video: [Post Brexit Britain in a World of Preferential Trade Agreements.](#) Source University of Birmingham.

Next meetings:

- [General debate on 'Exiting the European Union and sanctions'.](#) UK Parliament. 19 July 2017.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- **Seychelles** - [Fishery products derived from tuna species.](#) Source FVO.

The EU Food and Veterinary Office carried out an audit mission in Seychelles from 24 January to 2 February 2017 dedicated to getting a clearer picture of the tuna industry as a whole and determine if the tuna imported into the European Union meets the applicable requirements concerning public health standards (in particular limits for histamine and heavy metals) also in the context of fish policy requirements and customs rules. FVO report concluded that the official control system developed by the competent authority is based on adequate procedures and legislation aiming to provide the guarantees required by the public health attestations of the EU export certificate.

However, it should be noted some deficiencies with regard the correct and uniform implementation of the documented procedures (including follow-up of deficiencies and enforcement), the listing of facilities authorised to export to the EU (including approvals and reliable identification and control of primary production fishing vessels) and most notably the non-detection of the practice of dual use of fish holds by some freezer vessels supplying tuna to the Seychelles' establishments. These deficiencies weaken the ability of the competent authority to provide adequately the guarantees required in the EU export certificate when exporting tuna fishery products to the EU.

- [EC Update on GSP+ countries.](#)

On 12 July EC and EEA (European External Action Service) invited civil society organisations to discuss the implementation of the conventions of the GSP+ scheme by GSP+ beneficiaries Armenia, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka:

EU granted Sri Lanka with GSP+ status last May with the aim of providing a better access to the EU market for the country's exporters, leading Sri Lanka to commit further progress in implementing the 27 conventions linked to GSP+ status. EC informed about recent legislative actions in human rights however there still some issues

related to freedom of association and rights to collective bargain. A monitoring mission to Sri Lanka will be carried out in beginning of September to assess progress made so far. EC appreciates the efforts made by this country.

Philippines:

The situation described both by the EC and NGO's is very worrying (torture, force disappearances, private armies and paramilitary groups, drug war, etc.). EU organisations expressed concerns on the Philippine canning industry and the seafood processing industry in general. In particular, they referred to continuous violations of right of workers to form trade unions and to negotiate their conditions of employment. Civil society organisations claimed to revoke GSP+ status to Philippines at the end of 2017. The EC is fully aware about the situation in this country, the trade free agreement negotiations with Philippines are the facto suspended and a Philippine mission to the EU has been scheduled in late September. The EC will draft a report which may lead to further actions (all options will be considered). In the event of withdrawing GSP+ status to Philippines the procedure will take over one/ one year and a half year.

- [European Commission starts a debate on Trade and Sustainable Development in EU Trade Agreements](#). Source DG TRADE.

On July 13th the European Commission published a non-paper on trade and sustainable development (TSD) in EU trade agreements. The paper, sent today from the European Commission services to the European Parliament and the Council, is intended to contribute to a debate in the coming months on:

1. Whether the current Trade and Sustainable Development chapters are meeting expectations and what could be done to improve them.
2. Whether a more assertive partnership on trade and sustainable development in bilateral Free Trade Agreements should be pursued.
3. Whether a sanction based approach would address the shortcomings identified.
4. Whether any other issues related to trade and sustainable development need to be addressed.

The Commission is committed to including a chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) in trade agreements as part of the EU's value-based trade agenda. The discussion with the EU Civil Society has been planned to continue in the autumn. More information and invitations to a Civil Society Dialogue meeting will be sent out in the course of September.

- [EU and Canada agree to set a date for the provisional application of CETA](#). Source European Commission.

EU and Canada agree to set a date for the provisional application of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. On 21 September 2017 will start the provisional application of the CETA. The agreement will now be provisionally applied and will enter definitively into force once the Parliaments in all Member States of the EU ratify the text according to their respective domestic constitutional requirements.

- [Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with Côte d'Ivoire](#). Source DG MARE.

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with Côte d'Ivoire is an important part of the Union's tuna SFPA network in the Atlantic Ocean. It has a significant relevance for the sub-region, due to the importance of the Port of Abidjan for the EU's tuna fleet. EU member states are interested in keeping access to the EEZ of Côte d'Ivoire. Both Parties to the SFPA expressed their interest, at the latest Joint Committee meeting of December 2016, to enter into negotiations on a new protocol at the end of 2017. To allow continuity of fishing activities, the negotiations for renewing the protocol should be concluded by the end of February 2018. Therefore, the Commission plans to propose to the Council, at the beginning of the 4th quarter of 2017, a draft recommendation to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Côte d'Ivoire on a new protocol.

Stakeholders will be consulted to ensure that the future negotiations on a possible renewal of the protocol with Côte d'Ivoire are informed by the views of relevant stakeholders and that the outcome is a fair and balanced deal for both parties.

EP Questions:

- [Online public consultation for the Adriatic](#) - Ruža Tomašić (ECR).
- [Safeguarding against hazardous and fake food from Thailand](#) - Pascal Arimont (PPE).

Agendas:

- [AGRIFISH Council](#). 17-18 July 2017.
- [Trade Policy Committee \(Deputy Members\)](#). 19 July.

Useful links:

- [EP Publication: Blue economy in Africa: initiatives, prospects and issues.](#)
- [The latest edition of the EUMOFA Monthly Highlights No. 6/2017.](#)
- [EU Chile Ex-ante study of a possible modernisation final report.](#)
- [Overview of FTA and other trade negotiations.](#)
- [EU funding opportunities related to innovation in agriculture, food and forestry.](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1130 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 defining characteristics for fishing vessels.](#)

Events:

- [DG TRADE Stakeholder workshop: Evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Korea FTA.](#) 17 July. Brussels.
- [Civil Society Dialogue on EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.](#) 18 July. Brussels.
- [Our Ocean 2017.](#) 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit.](#) October 10-11. Grimsby.

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