

Brussels Weekly update – 06/04/2017

Over the next few months, we'll be reporting back how Brexit is playing out across the water. Deeper insights will be shared on our website and through our Seafish Round-Up' industry newsletter - contact Nick.Connelly@seafish.co.uk to subscribe.

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

On April 5, Leaders of the European Parliament political groups debated their priorities in the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The crucial role of MEPs during the negotiations was underlined by EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, who also took part in the debate.

Moreover, a majority of MEPs (516 votes in favour, 133 against, with 50 abstentions) adopted a resolution officially laying down the European Parliament's key principles and conditions for its approval of the UK's withdrawal agreement. Any such agreement at the end of UK-EU negotiations will need to win the approval of the European Parliament.

- [Speech by President Juncker at the EP Plenary session on the negotiations with the UK following its notification to withdraw from the European Union](#)
- [Statement by Michel Barnier at the plenary session of the European Parliament](#)
- [Red lines on Brexit negotiations](#)

More information:

- [Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group, outlines the EPP Group's red lines on the Brexit negotiations.](#)

- **European Commission**

- [European Commission launches Brexit website](#) – Source POLITICO

EC has created a specific [website](#) on Brexit. The aim of this website is to gather all relevant information emanating from the EC on Brexit. This new site provides an email address for inquiries about its work.

- [Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union – Q&A.](#)

- **European Council**

- [EU council chief Donald Tusk to meet Theresa May for Brexit talks](#) – Source The Guardian

European Council President Donald Tusk has met on Thursday Theresa May for talks about the U.K.'s EU exit, a day after the European Parliament laid out tough guidelines for the divorce negotiations.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Legislating for Brexit: EU directives.](#) Source Commons Library

According to the EU's Eur-lex database, there are at present around 19,000 EU legislative acts in force. These are mainly directives; regulations, decisions and external agreements, but they include other instruments, such as resolutions, reports, and rules of procedure, guidelines, declarations, inter-institutional and internal agreements, programmes, opinions, communications, conclusions and statutes. Of these, in December 2016 there were nearly 900 Directives in force, almost all of which apply to the UK.

- [Scotland's Relationship with the EU after Brexit: Lessons from the Faroes.](#) Source University of Dundee

The author of this article suggests that there are no international or EU law obstacles for Scotland to follow a similar path as Faroe Islands, and unilaterally negotiate a special relationship with the EU after Brexit.

- [Brexit: trade governance and legal implications for third countries.](#) Source World Bank

This note discusses the main legal aspects of the trade and investment relationship between the EU and UK with third countries with the view to identifying the potential courses of action for the parties to safeguard their trade and investment interests when Brexit takes place. Some questions that this note addresses include:

- How will the multilateral framework be affected?
 - Do trade agreements concluded by third countries with the EU maintain their validity?
 - Will they still apply to their trade with Britain, despite Brexit? How about investment treaties?
 - Will trade and investment agreements continue to apply as they are, or will they be amended to reflect the new individual relationship with the UK? What aspects of the agreements are more likely?
- UK Chamber of Commerce in Belgium organises: [Brexit: what would it mean for my business?](#) Monday, 23 May 2016.
-

FISHERIES

- [Public consultation: draft guidance on assessing safety of feed additives for target species](#) – Source EFSA.

EFSA's Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP) has launched an open consultation on draft guidance on the assessment of the safety of feed additives for the target species. This document proposes guidance to applicants for the preparation and the presentation of an application for authorisation of a feed additive.

The number of tolerance studies needed to demonstrate the safety for the target species will depend on the target species for which application is made. If such application is restricted to all fish then tolerance studies should be submitted in a salmonid (salmon or trout) and another species (e.g., carp, sea bream or sea bass). If the application includes crustaceans, then an additional study in shrimp would be required.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by 31 May 2017.

- [EU and Australia one step closer to launching trade negotiations](#) – Source DG TRADE

The Commission is currently conducting its assessment of the potential impact that such a trade deal could have for the EU. The study takes into account the agreed scope, new opportunities the

agreement could create for EU businesses. As a next step, the Commission will ask Member States for the authorisation to launch formal negotiations and for the specific negotiating directives.

More information: Australia - [Fishery status reports 2016](#)

- [ACP countries to negotiate as a unified entity with EU](#) – Source ACP

Seventy-nine countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific will speak with one voice as they prepare to negotiate a major partnership framework with the European Union. The new accord will follow on the current ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (also known as the Cotonou Agreement), which covers trade, development cooperation and political dialogue between the two parties until 2020.

- [India in talks with European Union to ease marine import norms](#) – Source The Financial Express

According to this newspaper Indian authorities have recently met EC representatives in order to ease EU requirements on Indian seafood exports.

- [Vietnam: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stops licensing seafood shipments to EU](#) - Source Vietnamartnews

Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will no longer grant licences for seafood shipments from exporters blocked by the European Union (EU) for using banned substances in their products. According to a Ministry decision which took effect earlier this week, the disqualified exporters could regain their licences if they submit to inspections on the banned shipments.

Suspension of the authorisation of ethoxyquin as a feed additive for all animal species

The European Commission intends to suspend the authorisation of ethoxyquin as a feed additive for all animal species and categories. Ethoxyquin is used as an antioxidant in fishmeal and fish oils used to formulate animal feed. Traces of the additive and its metabolites can be transferred to food via the feed. According to the proposal, in its opinion of October 2015, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was unable to conclude on the safety of ethoxyquin for animals, consumers or the environment. EFSA were particularly concerned about two compounds associated with ethoxyquin. One, ethoxyquin quinone imine, is a metabolite of ethoxyquin and its possible genotoxicity could not be ruled out. The second, *p*-phenetidine, is an impurity from the manufacturing process and is recognised as a possible mutagen.

The Commission acknowledges that ethoxyquin is an efficient antioxidant and serves to preserve polyunsaturated fatty acids in the fishmeal, and these, when transferred to animal products, are known to provide health benefits to livestock and to the consumers of animal products. The Commission also acknowledges that there are no known alternative antioxidants that provide the same level of protection to the polyunsaturated fatty acids. For this reason, the suspension of the authorisation of ethoxyquin will not come into effect immediately once the legislation is published. Instead there will be a transitional period during which existing stocks of ethoxyquin can continue to be used, and a longer transitional period during which feed materials containing ethoxyquin can continue to be used.

For more information contact ivan.bartolo@seafish.co.uk

EP Questions:

- [Fishing opportunities under the EU fisheries agreement with the Cook Islands](#) - João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
- [Fish stock recovery areas](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)
- [Financing of Regional Advisory Councils \(Common Fisheries Policy\)](#) - Alain Cadec (PPE)

Useful links:

- [Overview of FTA and other trade negotiations](#) (update April 2017)
- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/644 of 5 April 2017 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the control of levels of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in certain foodstuffs and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 589/2014](#)
- [Temporary prohibition of fishing for red seabream, blue marlin and white marlin](#)
- [Council Regulation amending Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2192 on the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.](#)
- [EUMOFA: European Market Observatory for fishery and aquaculture products](#)

Events:

- [EP Hearing on the Implementation of the landing obligation and allocation of quotas.](#) 24 April. Brussels
- [6th European Tuna Conference.](#) 24 April. Brussels
- [Getting consumers on board - Integrating consumer expectations in the supply chain.](#) Seafood Expo Global, Brussels. 25 April 2017.
- [International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety \(ICMSS\).](#) 14-18 May 2017.

cristina.fernandez@seafish.co.uk