

Brussels Weekly Update - 29/11/2017

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Changes in the EU reference laboratory for monitoring the viral and bacterial contamination of bivalve molluscs](#). Source Comitology Register.

In the summary report of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed held in Brussels on 18 October 2017 it was reported that due to UK's notification in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the EU, the current EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for monitoring viral and bacteriological contamination of bivalve molluscs which is located in the UK will be discontinued on 31 December 2018. The activities of the UK EURL will be taken over by the EURL for the analysis and testing of zoonoses (salmonella), the EURL for Escherichia coli, including Verotoxigenic E. coli (VTEC) and the EURL for foodborne viruses, as regards the analytical tests for salmonella, E. coli and viruses respectively. The EURL for the monitoring of marine biotoxins will take over the activities related to the classification and monitoring of production areas for bivalve molluscs. Sweden underlined the risk of losing efficiency in that network with the proposal made by the Commission.

- [Combating Transnational Organised Crime in the fishing industry: Global Challenges and International Cooperation](#). Source EBCD.

On 23 November MEPs Ricardo Serrão Santos and Alain Cadec hosted an event in the European Parliament with the aim to follow-up current and new international programmes to combat fisheries crime and also highlight results and lessons learned so far. Concrete fisheries crime cases were also presented as well as the work of the EU in terms of fight against IUU fishing as well as the need to improve inter-agency and international cooperation for better enforcement against crimes linked to IUU fishing. The following presentations can be found by clicking the links below:

[Olga Kuzmianok – UNODC](#)

[Alistair McDonnell – INTERPOL](#)

[YoonJee Kim – FAO](#)

[Stephane Vrignaud – U.S Mission to the EU](#)

[João Escudeiro -Security and Maritime Services, Portugal](#)

- [US: changes affecting US stakeholders that export fishery products directly to the European Union](#). Source NOAA Fisheries

When requesting an EU/EFTA export certificate package, customers will now receive the EU Export Health certificate for the destination country and be allowed to choose EU IUU, Annex IV 14.1, Annex IV 14.2 or any variation of these three Catch certificates. Product will be assigned to the appropriate Catch certificate by the customer completing the online request based on the source of the raw materials. This change was enacted to fully support the need to have both Health Certificates and multiple Catch documents on source materials for specific EU shipment documentation packages.

If a customer is shipping outside of the EU/EFTA, SIP will no longer issue the EU IUU Catch Certificate, Annex IV 14.1 or Annex IV 14.2 for that shipment. In this case, to obtain a catch/harvest certificate, customers will need to choose either the "Certificate of Origin - USA" or "Certificate of Origin - Non USA" depending on whether the raw material is US or Foreign sourced. The international norm for certification policy is to issue certification only to the destination country. Issuing a catch document that attests to EU requirements for a shipment destined to a non-EU country puts the SIP certification process at risk of losing its integrity. Therefore, SIP developed an origin certificate that indicates that SIP has verified the source of the product, whether it is sourced domestically or from a foreign country consignment with documentation referencing legal catch. If the shipment is later determined to be destined for the EU, either as is or part of further processing, SIP will issue the EU IUU Catch Certificate for that shipment as this form is required first to get an Annex IV document signed by the third (non-EU) country of transit/further processing and second to clear the corresponding shipment through EU border inspection posts. If a Certificate of Origin was initially issued, SIP will not charge for the issuance of this EU IUU Catch Certificate.

- [India, EU hold discussions on proposed free trade agreement](#). Source The Economic Times

On November 15 Senior officials of India and European Union (EU) held discussions for a comprehensive mutually beneficial agreement. and expressed willingness to address issues in a time-bound manner. Negotiations on the India-EU free trade agreement started back in 2007 and 16 rounds of talks have been held since then. The last round was held in 2013, after which negotiations were suspended

- [The life history puzzle of body size and temperature](#). Source CORDIS.

EU research has investigated drivers of growth patterns in cold-blooded aquatic animals when subjected to increasing temperatures. The data stands to have major significance for determining the effects of global warming. Researchers involved in this project grew animals in a range of temperature and oxygen levels and found that a classic TSR (temperature size rule) was only observed under conditions where oxygen was limiting. The results have been published in the [Journal of Thermal Biology](#) and explained in an [animation](#).

Agendas:

- [87th plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel](#). 21-22-23/11/2017.
 - [PECH Committee](#).28/11/2017.
 - [Codex Committee on contaminants in food](#). 12/03/2018.
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EP Questions:

- [Possible illegal bluefin tuna imports](#). Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)
 - [Import controls on Vietnamese Panga](#). Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)
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Useful links:

- [The EU Fish Market 2017 edition](#).
 - [EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#)
 - [EU trade policy and Africa's exports](#)
 - [Report from the XXXth round of negotiations of the Trade Part of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur](#).
 - [EP briefing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#)
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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.
- [Promoting an innovative and tasteful domestic mussel product with longer shelf life](#). 11 December. Thessaloniki
- [The end of the European Organic Label?](#). 21 November, Brussels.