

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

- [Brexit negotiations kick off – European Parliament reactions.](#)

Negotiations on the arrangements for the UK's withdrawal from the EU started on 19 June 2017. The European Commission is negotiating on behalf of the EU, on the basis of the European Council guidelines and the mandate given to it by the Council. The European Parliament, for its part, has laid down key principles and conditions for its approval of a UK withdrawal agreement. Parliament President Antonio Tajani and Brexit coordinator Guy Verhofstadt stressed the need to protect citizens in reaction to the start of negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Any withdrawal agreement concluded would require the approval of the European Parliament to take effect.

More information: [The Brexit negotiations: Issues for the first phase.](#)

- **European Commission:**

European Commission published a series of position papers related to the Brexit negotiations with the UK.

- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Ongoing Union Judicial and Administrative Procedures](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Goods placed on the Market under Union law before the withdrawal date](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Governance](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Issues relating to the Functioning of the Union Institutions, Agencies and Bodies](#)
- [Position paper transmitted to EU27 on Ongoing Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal matters.](#)

- **European Council:**

- [Terms of Reference for the Article 50 TEU negotiations.](#)
- [Decision on the procedure for relocation of EU agencies currently located in the UK, 22/06/2017.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [Brexit: how does the Article 50 process work?](#). House of Commons Library.

This paper describes the Article 50 TEU process and developments from the EU referendum in June 2016 until January 2017.

- [Brexit Fisheries Discussion highlights importance of unity at EU level.](#) Source Irish Farmers Monthly

On 29 June Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed hosted a Brexit Fisheries Discussion in Galway. The objective of this event was to focus on the potential issues arising from Brexit for the seafood sector with the following representatives of the Irish fishing industry: Sean O'Donoghue of the Killybeg Fisherman's Organisation (KFO), Patrick Murphy of the Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO), Hugo Boyle of the Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation (IS&EFPO) and Lorcán Ó Cinnéide of the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA).

- [Future of fisheries post-Brexit](#). Source Institute for European Environmental Policy

This paper outlines priorities for future UK fisheries policy in light of Brexit and the challenges facing fish stocks and the marine environment in Europe and beyond. This organisation stresses the need to formally adopt conventional management concepts and principles in favour of sustainable fisheries and ecosystem-based fisheries management, to enable regional and international cooperation on monitoring and to secure domestic resources for successful enforcement. The paper was submitted as evidence to the House of Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee's inquiry about the future of fisheries following the vote by the UK to leave the European Union.

- [UK Brexit business advisory group](#). Source www.parliament.uk

On the occasion of a series of oral questions, House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark informed about a new group to consult businesses on the process of the UK leaving the EU. According to Mr Clark the aim of this group is to ensure that business is not only heard, but that it is influential throughout the negotiations.

- [EFTA countries discussed about Brexit](#).

On 26 June 2017, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) held its summer Ministerial meeting in Longyearbyen, Norway. EFTA Ministers discussed the possible consequences of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union (EU), and consequently the European Economic Area (EEA), as well as arrangements under the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU. The UK is a major trading partner of all EFTA States, and Ministers emphasised the importance of continuing close economic and trade relations, which have existed to the benefit of all parties for decades.

The UK will remain a party to the EEA Agreement and the EU-Swiss bilateral agreements until it leaves the EU. However, Ministers stressed the need to provide stability and predictability in the transition to any new legal framework for economic relations with the UK. The EFTA States will continue to consult each other in order to achieve this important goal.

FISHERIES

- [Public consultation on the implementation of the Atlantic action plan](#). Source DG MARE

To understand how the implementation of the action plan is contributing to achieving the EU's wider jobs, growth and sustainability objectives, the Commission committed to closely monitor the plan, draw lessons learned and assess progress made by the end of 2017 in a dedicated mid-term review. This review will take the form of a staff working document which will be the basis for discussing the future of the action plan. The deadline to contribute to this consultation is on 29 September.

- [Summary of the Standing Committee on plants, animals, food and feed - \(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain\) 17 May](#)
- **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards the official controls on fishery products caught by Union flagged vessels and introduced into Union territory after being transferred in third countries and establishing a model of the health certificate for those products:** The draft Regulation establishes the hygienic rules for fishery products caught by Union vessels, which are unloaded – with or without storage in cold stores – in non-Union countries before their final movement to the Union. It lays down a simplified model health certificate with the sanitary conditions for these fishery products, which has to be issued by the relevant third country. This draft was favourably adopted by MS.
- **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin:** This regulation lays down hygiene rules for food of animal origin and includes specific requirements for live bivalve molluscs, live

echinoderms, live tunicates and live marine gastropods, that must be harvested in production areas classified according to their level of faecal contamination. It allows however that pectinidae and live marine gastropods which are not filter feeders, be harvested outside classified production areas. The draft tabled to exclude echinoderms, which are not filter feeder animals, from the obligation to be harvested in classified production areas received the full support of the Member States and will be presented for vote at a forthcoming Standing Committee meeting.

- **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption:** This regulation provides that Member States ensure production and placing on the market of live bivalve molluscs and live echinoderms, live tunicates and live marine gastropods undergo official controls. Production areas are classified according to the level of faecal contamination as filter feeders animals can accumulate micro-organisms representing a risk for public health. This draft establishes the official controls to be carried out on those echinoderms harvested outside classified production areas. It received the full support of the Member States and will be presented for vote at the next Standing Committee meeting in July.
- **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) detection method:** The draft Regulation, aimed at adapting the current EU rules on the method to detect paralytic shellfish poison to the international standard, received the full support of the Member States and will be presented for vote at the next Standing Committee meeting in July.
- [Reshaping aquaculture with healthier, cleaner ocean farms](#). Source DG Research and Innovation

An innovative start-up is finalising the development of open-ocean fish farming technology that could reshape the global aquaculture industry, enabling farmers to raise larger quantities of fish in healthier, more natural conditions while minimising environmental impacts. Supported by EU funding, the OCEANFISH project is helping to bring years of aquaculture research by Israeli-based GiliOcean Technologies to fruition, contributing to the commercial readiness of a unique offshore fish farming system that overcomes many of the environmental challenges of traditional techniques.

- **EP Questions:**

- [Measures and instruments for providing aid to the fish processing sector](#) - Ruža Tomašić (ECR)
- [Illegal fishing: insufficient checks on EU imports](#) - Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)
- [Developing the production of insect meal for aquaculture](#) - Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)
- [Import controls to combat illegal fishing](#) - Roberta Metsola (PPE)
- [Landing obligation - Common Fisheries Policy](#) - José Blanco López (S&D)

- **Agendas:**

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain](#). 4 July

Useful links:

- [Evaluation of the EU/Korea FTA](#)
- [EC Report on Trade and Investment Barriers 2016](#)
- [Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2015/242 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy](#).
- [Interim Overview report Audits of Official Controls in EU-Member States](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1130 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 defining characteristics for fishing vessels](#)
- EP [study Fisheries in Madeira](#).
- [Interim evaluation of the open methods of coordination for the sustainable development of EU Aquaculture](#).

Events:

- EP PECH: Safety at the sea in the fisheries sector: Presentation of a training tool based on the use of ITC for risk prevention and safety in the trawling fishing. 12 July. Brussels
- [DG TRADE Stakeholder workshop: Evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Korea FTA](#). 17 July. Brussels.
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.

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