

## BRUSSELS UPDATE 22/04/2016

- [IUU FISHING: Warnings for Kiribati, Sierra Leone and Trinidad & Tobago, while Sri Lanka is delisted](#)

Finally, the EC is convinced that Sri Lanka has now successfully reformed its fisheries governance system. That means that a Council Decision on Sri Lanka will be approved in the coming months and therefore the red card to this country will be lifted. DG MARE officials have indicated that the normal procedure will take over 2 months; it is up to the Presidency of the Council to decide when this item will be included in the agenda of the COREPER. But also this decision will be subjected under the scrutiny of the National Parliaments.

Concerning Kiribati, the EC expressed its concerns as Kiribati's authorities do not have robust traceability systems in place for fisheries products. Moreover, Kiribati's unwillingness to share important information on third country vessels operating in their waters undermines the Commission's work to improve transparency and sustainability of tuna resources in the Western and Central Pacific.

In Sierra Leone legal texts governing fisheries are outdated and sanctions fail to deter illegal operators operating internationally under the flag of Sierra Leone, without the fisheries authorities' knowledge. In addition, the number of licensed vessels exceeds the available resources and authorities fail to monitor or control their waters.

Trinidad and Tobago also has a large fleet operating internationally where authorities do not control or inspect foreign vessels, nor cooperate with relevant flag States. The poor traceability system also causes the risk of laundering of fisheries products.

With regard Thailand, the EC recognized that the dialogue is proving difficult and there remain serious concerns about the steps taken by Thailand to fight IUU fishing activities. A meeting with the Thai authorities in May will be a new opportunity for them to show their good will and commitment. The reality is that the Thai government has recently removed the Fisheries Department chief over his delay in solving their problems related to IUU fishing.

- [EP: Added water in foods obtained from fishing](#)

The EP Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food safety is considering developing an own-initiative report on added water in fish products. This was discussed at the ENVI's coordinator's meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March. It should be noted that on June 15<sup>th</sup> there was a motion for resolution by the ENVI Committee which called a ban on adding water retention agents to foods obtained from fishing and the derogation provided for in Articles 16(4) and 44(1)(b) of and Annex V to FIC Regulation to be repealed in respect of foods obtained from fishing.

- [SEAFISH attends the EC Advisory Group on the FIC Regulation](#)

On 18th April, DG SANTE organised a meeting with stakeholders to address certain key challenges, regarding the application of the Regulation 1169/2011 and update on the way forward.

First a representative of DG SANTE made a presentation about the new food labelling information system. This food tool will offer a selection of food items and a food classification and description System and it will contain mandatory labelling indications and other related information.

The second item for discussion was a preliminary draft of an EC implementing act on the rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food where different to that given for that food.

The EC explained that there was a need to put in place an implementing act to cover the gap in the FIC regulation on the matter.

- **Outcome of the meeting of the PECH Committee, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April**

Sustainable management of external fishing fleets: A representative of DG MARE and the MEPs discussed on the EC proposal that looks to improve overall fisheries governance and the state of stocks through a better monitoring external fishing fleets. Among the comments addressed by MEPs it should be noted the need of simplifying some elements of the procedures established in this legislation.

How to make fisheries controls in Europe uniform: Isabelle Thomas (S&D, FR) presented its report on how to make fisheries controls in Europe uniform which was welcomed by the EC. In short, she outlighted the divergences among MS and the need of a further harmonization and a more comprehensive information exchange system.

Exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Commissioner's Vella entire speech available [HERE](#))

Multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks: The Committee unanimously adopted its decision to open negotiations based on the mandate adopted by the EP Plenary in June 2013.

Multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean: this report was adopted with 20 votes in favour, 1 abstention and 1 vote against

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Liberia: The draft recommendation was adopted by with 21 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and no vote against.

Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the CFP this report was adopted with 21 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and no vote against.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania: this draft recommendation was adopted with 21 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and no vote against.

**Useful links:**

- [EUMOFA – Guidelines on data and methodology for price structure analysis](#)
- [Questions and Answers on the EU's fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing](#)

**Events:**

- [Tackling food fraud: Industry initiatives and analytical solutions to ensure the authenticity of food and drink](#). May 13<sup>th</sup>. Campden BRI, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6LD, UK
- [Seafood Expo Global](#), April 26th-28<sup>th</sup>, Brussels
- [Conference: Sustainability of Fisheries: "Myths and reality"](#). 27th April. European Parliament
- [Roundtable: Exploring the role of industry in the EU's carding process](#). April 28<sup>th</sup>, Esplanade 1 box 1, Brussels.
- [Post-Nairobi WTO agenda: Meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Ms Cecilia Malmström](#). April 26<sup>th</sup>, Brussels.

DG MARE:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/mare/news.cfm?subweb=342&sub=1&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/mare/news.cfm?subweb=342&sub=1&lang=en)

EFSA: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>

**Other events:**

<http://europa.eu/newsroom/calendar/?siteLanguage=en>

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