

BRUSSELS UPDATE 20/05/2016 - 27/05/2016

This is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of Seafish.

- **IUU fishing - Thailand**

Sources from DG MARE have confirmed that the dialogue with Thailand is still going on to tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU fishing). A delegation from the Commission is scheduled to visit Thailand to discuss IUU fishing issues late next month and will meet Thai authorities in early July.

More information available on this [LINK](#)

- **FVO audit report: Denmark**

The EU Food and Veterinary Office carried out an audit from 23 June to 2 July 2015 and was undertaken as part of DG Health and Food Safety audit programme.

Concerning official control of production and placing on the market the report concludes that for certain requirements (e.g. use of food additives), officials over-rely on statements and declarations provided by FBOs without actually verifying actual compliance. Thus, in those cases official controls do not provide guarantees that fishery products and FBO comply with relevant Union requirements. Moreover, whole and gutted fish is not stored in cooled water in establishment on land carrying out activities other than transport or sorting, as required Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

Official controls of fishery products are carried out in Denmark according to EU requirements. Although the weaknesses detected regarding official checks on the operators' control of parasites indicates that fishery products reach the market with insufficient treatment to kill viable parasites.

On RASFF notifications, the over-reliance on statements and declarations provided by FBOs described in conclusion 27 has also had an adverse impact in the follow-up of RASFF notifications.

The full FVO report is available on this [LINK](#).

- **EFSA: re-evaluation of food additives usage level and/or concentration data in food and beverages intended for human consumption**

Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 foresees that food additives are re-evaluated whenever necessary in light of changing conditions of use and new scientific information.

Food manufacturers, national food authorities, research institutions, academia, FBOs, and other stakeholders are invited to submit analytical data on concentration levels in food and beverages intended for human consumption for the food additives listed in this [EFSA document](#). The deadline for the submission of data is 31 January 2017.

- **Food Information to Consumers: Finland new requirement to notify the date of catch or harvest of fresh fish**

Finland has informed the EC of a new provision which states the following: "Fresh fish" means whole or filleted fish. The date of catch or harvest would always have to be stated in writing at the retail outlet at the time of sale.

The date of catch or harvest would have to be stated both for fresh fish which is sold unpackaged and for prepacked fresh fish. The information can be stated on the food packaging label or in writing on an easily noticeable and clear leaflet or board near the food, or in some other, similarly clear manner.

The requirement to state the date of catch or harvest of fresh fish would apply uniformly to fish caught and produced in Finland and to fish imported to Finland from another EU/EA Member State or from outside the EU.

- **European Parliament questions to be responded by the EC.**
 - [State of fisheries in Europe](#) - Francesc Gambús (PPE)
 - [Monitoring and combating IUU fishing in third countries](#) - Sander Loones (ECR)
 - [Import checks on fisheries products](#) - Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)

Useful links:

- [4th meeting: Contractualisation and Contractual Relations between farmers and other actors in the food supply chain](#). 24 May 2016
- [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council defining characteristics for fishing vessels \(recast\)](#).
- [Draft Council Conclusions on addressing trafficking in human beings \(THB\) for labour exploitation](#).
- [Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the EU within the CARIFORUM-EU Trade and Development Committee of the EPA between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, with regard to the establishment of a Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries \(see the Annex\)](#)

Agendas:

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Controls and Import Conditions](#) 1st-2nd June 2016

Events:

- [MSP Stakeholder Series 6th Conference: Maritime Spatial Planning Worldwide \(MSP\)](#), June 23-24, University of the Azores, Ponta Delgada, Azores.
- [Promoting a Sustainable Food Chain](#). 31st May, Brussels.
- [Workshop on strategic cooperation on Blue Growth in the North Sea](#). 20-21 June. The Hague
- [International Maritime Human Rights conference](#). 14 September. London

DG MARE:

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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