

Brussels Weekly Update – 13/10/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament:

Event - [No more fisheries management after Brexit?](#) On 12th October the Chair of the PECH Committee Alain Cadec, hosted an event with the participation of the European Fisheries Alliance (a coalition of European fishing fleets directly impacted by Brexit) on the potential impact of Brexit on future fisheries management between the UK and the EU. MEP Linnéa Engström explained the international law provisions for cross-border fisheries management and mentioned examples of EU restrictive measures against a country allowing non sustainable fishing. Camiel Leonard Derichs (Regional Director in EU for the Marine Stewardship Council) alerted that if the UK decides in the post-Brexit scenario to exceed MSY levels it could cause troubles with the certificate. Amy Hill (ClientEarth London) talked about the future UK Fisheries Bill and the role of the devolved administrations and explained the UK NGO's priorities in this process: need for transparency & public consultation on fisheries management. Finally Hans Polet (Belgian Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research) talked about the importance of maintaining standard methods for data collection. Cooperation is essential to provide high quality scientific advice on fisheries stocks. Gerard van Balsfoort, Chairman of the European Fisheries Alliance remarked that *"Responsible management of the resource we share with the United Kingdom is a prerequisite for the continued economic vitality of the fishing industry in both the United Kingdom and the European Union. We call upon all stakeholders to come together to devise a post-Brexit fisheries management system based on the current arrangement that safeguards continued sustainability of stocks and economic prosperity for both UK and EU fishing fleets"*.

European Commission:

- [Press statement by Michel Barnier following the fifth round of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom](#) – Source European Commission.

European Council:

- [Address by President Donald Tusk to the European Committee of the Regions](#) - Source European Council.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Trade and Customs White Papers](#). Source UK Government.

The Trade White Paper published by the Department for International Trade establishes the principles that will guide future UK trade policy as well as laying out the practical steps that will support those aims. Customs Bill White Paper sets out plans to legislate for the standalone customs, VAT and excise regimes the UK will need once it leaves the EU.

- [Brexit: trade aspects](#). Source House of Commons Library.

This paper looks at possible options for the UK's trading relationships with the EU after Brexit. The paper has been updated to include a new chapter on trade with non-EU countries.

- [Brexit and data protection](#). Source House of Commons Library.

This Commons briefing paper looks at data protection and what might happen after Brexit.

- [Exiting the European Union and data protection](#). Source House of Commons Library.
- [Opinion of the European Banking Authority on issues related to the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union](#). Source EBA.
- [Joint EU-UK letter to WTO outlines intentions for tariff-rate quotas](#). Source European Commission.

Events:

[How Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland view Brexit](#). 17 October. Brussels.

[Brexit Webinar: The Tariff & Customs Roadmap](#). 18 October. Online.

[Food Regulations Post Brexit - Have Your Say](#). 19 October. Norwich.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [EP discussion on Dual Quality Foods with the EU Commission](#). Source European Parliament.

On 11 October the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and the Commission discussed how to help national authorities to determine whether food companies are not complying with EU laws by selling products of dual quality under the same brand and packaging in different countries. Commission explained that 10 countries are conducting tests on dual quality foods. As regards EU future actions the Commission said that all options are opened including new EU legislation. MEPs questioned the legal status of EU guidelines and also recommended to draft a non-initiative report to express EP point of view on dual quality foods.

- [Outcome of the EU Council on Agriculture and Fisheries](#). Source EU Council.

The Council reached a political agreement on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2018. After a day-long negotiation, ministers agreed on the maximum quantity of fish that EU fishermen will be allowed to catch next year out of the ten main commercial stocks in the Baltic Sea, a quantity also referred to as the "Total Allowable Catch" (TAC). Ministers also exchanged views on the position to be taken by the EU at the annual consultations between the EU and Norway in the framework of their bilateral fisheries agreement, and at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), scheduled for 14-21 November 2017 in Morocco.

- [The European Union to evaluate Taiwan's efforts to curb illegal fishing](#). Source Focus Taiwan.

According to this newspaper the European Union will soon send a team to Taiwan to evaluate the effectiveness of the country's measures to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). Taiwan was given a "yellow card" by the European Commission in October 2015 and was warned that the country risked being identified as uncooperative in the fight against IUU.

Useful links:

- [EP at a glance - Fish Labelling for Consumers](#)
- [European Observatory for Fishery and Aquaculture Products](#).
- [EP PECH The Trawler October 2017](#).
- [Third Annual Report on the Implementation of the EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement](#).

Events:

[Codex Committee on Food Hygiene](#). 13-17 October 2017.

[Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Plant Health](#)

18-19 October 2017.

[Meeting with Civil society: Civil Society Dialogue: Mercosur Sustainability Impact Assessment – Draft Inception](#)

[Report](#). 13 October.

Advisory Council on Markets Working Groups 1-2-3. 17-18 October. 2017.

[6th EMB Forum Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda. What role for marine science?](#) 6 December 2017