

Brussels Weekly Update – 22/09/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament:

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and an MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below, the Commission have responded to one EP question related to Brexit.

- [The European Economic Area \(EEA\) Agreement](#) - Clare Moody (S&D)

European Commission:

- [Speech by Michel Barnier in front of the Committees of Foreign Affairs and the Committees of European Affairs of the Italian Parliament](#) – Source European Commission

European Council:

- [General Affairs Council \(Art. 50\), 25/09/2017](#) – Source European Council.

The Council, in an EU 27 format, will discuss the state of play of Brexit negotiations with the fourth round of talks with the UK being launched the same week. Michel Barnier, the EU Chief Negotiator, will brief the ministers on the progress in negotiations so far.

The framework for negotiations and the overall EU positions and principles for the talks are set out in the European Council guidelines of 29 April 2017. The guidelines also set out a phased approach for the negotiations. The current first phase of the talks aims to provide the necessary clarity and legal certainty.

EU COUNTRIES

- [Fisheries the “adjustment variable” of Brexit?](#) - Source Le Figaro (in French).

Fisheries should not be considered as the “adjustment variable” of Brexit said the French Minister for Fisheries, Mr Stéphane Travert. When noticing the fears from the French fishery sector due to Brexit Mr Travert commented that this is an overall negotiation and all sectors are equally considered.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Brexit: a reading list of post-EU Referendum publications by Parliament and the Devolved Assemblies](#). House of Commons Library.

This reading list brings together briefings on Brexit by the Parliamentary libraries and the Devolved Assembly research services with reports by Parliamentary and Devolved Assembly committees following

the result of the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016.

- [Top Brexit official Oliver Robbins moves to No 10](#) – Source BBC

UK government top Brexit official, Oliver Robbins, has left the Department for Exiting the European Union and is joining the Cabinet Office to work more directly for the prime minister. Philip Rycroft, currently second permanent secretary at the Brexit department, has been made permanent secretary

- [Brexit Transitional Period: The solution is Article 50](#) – Source CEPS.

This article try to give some clarity to the following questions: whether the interim phase should cover the period during which the UK is still a member state negotiating withdrawal or whether this phase only begins when the UK has already left the EU. But also what the transitional phase should cover and for how long?.

- [UK would raise annual bilateral pacts to allocate fishing quotas, which would affect the Falklands.](#) Source FIS.

According to this article the strategy of the British Government in the Brexit has two main pillars in the fishing activity: if the United Kingdom will give access to some fleets of other states to its waters (the British and the Falklands) and the negotiations will be country by country, bypassing the Community Government.

This is the intention expressed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, in a parliamentary committee. "As soon as we stop being part of the European Union we will be like Norway or the Faroe Islands," Gove said.

Events:

- [Brexit: Legal Consequences for the EU](#). Source Academy of European Law. 28 September.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [EU-Canada trade agreement enters into force](#). Source European Commission.

On Thursday, 21 September, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada has entered into force provisionally. However it should be noted that CETA will only enter into force fully and definitively when all EU Member States have ratified the Agreement. The Commission will work with EU Member States and Canada to ensure its smooth and effective implementation.

- [The quest for sustainable seafood – An international research consortium calls for fisheries and aquaculture management to tap into the power of genomics](#) – Source EU Science Hub.

With the human population continuing to grow and the developing world gaining in prosperity, the global demand for food will rise. New food resources must therefore be explored, along with strategies that enable the sustainable exploitation of such resources.

Under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an international consortium of scientists and experts involved in policymaking from 11 different countries (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Canada, the USA, South Korea, Finland, Norway, Belgium and Chile) argues that the analytical and informative power emerging from the tremendously swiftly advancing field of genomics is underused.

Priority should be given to immediate efforts to remove those roadblocks and focus on ways to support the integration of genomic-informed methods into management and production practices. The authors also propose solutions to pave the way forward. These include enhanced communication between stakeholders on the benefits of genomic information, which might be achieved through advocating reports by fisheries agency geneticists that would translate results into language that is accessible to non-specialists and also by making genomics data accessible to researchers worldwide.

- [New Group of Experts on EU Trade Agreements to meet in January 2018](#) – Source DG TRADE.

In view of the number of trade negotiations planned and underway and the public interest in certain negotiations in a number of Member States, EC considers that it is necessary to create an expert group which shall provide expert advice that can assist the European Commission in these negotiations and in the implementation of finalised agreements. To this end, an inclusive and balanced stakeholder representation should be sought, bringing together representative organisations with expertise in economic, social, ethical and/or environmental aspects of EU trade policy. The selection of the group's members shall be carried out via a public call for applications, to be published on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups'). In addition, the call for applications may be published through other means, including on dedicated websites.

EP Questions:

- [Tariff-free trade in bluefin tuna under the JEFTA](#) - Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL) and Anne-Marie Mineur (GUE/NGL)
- [Advisory Council recommendations](#) - José Blanco López (S&D)

Agendas:

- [Final Interim Report on the Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences \(GSP\) - for the Civil Society Dialogue meeting](#). 25 September 2017.
- [EP PECH Committee](#). 25 September.
- [Expert group on food hygiene and control of food of animal origin](#). 6 October.

Useful links:

- [Study on the establishment of a framework for processing and analysing of maritime economic data in Europe](#).
- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1575 of 23 June 2017 amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2015/242 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the common fisheries policy](#).

Events:

- [Scientific Seminar on the status of European fish stocks](#). 27 September. Brussels.
- [Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity](#). October 5-6. Dublin.
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.