

MINUTES

Working Group 1: EU Production

Wednesday 18th of January 2017
09:30h – 11:00h

Business Europe – Europe Room, Av. de Cortenbergh 168
1000 Brussels, Belgium

- **Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no further comments.

- **Introduction round by member organisations (ANNEX II)**
- **Appointment of the rapporteur**

As there were no volunteers, the Chair, Mr Sean O’Donoghue, proposed the Secretariat to perform the role of rapporteur for Working Group 1.

- **Presentation from the Chair of the work programme**

The Chair made a presentation of the work programme for WG1, focusing on the priorities for 2017 from the perspective of the markets (ANNEX I). These are the following:

1. Common Markets Organisation and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020)

This priority is fundamental for the working group and involves the review of the PMPs (production and marketing plans), which would show some divergence across the EU regarding these plans. The WG will look at the implementation of the regulation in order to make recommendations, and to articles 66, 67 and 68 of the EMFF in order to try to establish a level playing field among the different interpretations MS make of this article.

LIFE asked where in the work programme the market possibilities for undersize fish or landed discards will be reflected.

The Chair replied that it will be addressed under the point on the impacts of the landing obligation.

The Commission gave an overview of the priorities for this WG1 which focused on the competitiveness of the EU sector. The Commission intends to work with Member States to check the compliance of professionals in 2017 and to see whether the POs are fit for purpose, especially given that when the CMO was adopted all POs were automatically recognized under the new system.

As for funds for the promotion of activities under the EMFF, the Commission informed attendees about an info-day being organised by DG AGRI on the 31st of January. A key condition for applying for these funds is that you have to be a PO/IBO. An Expert Group on trade and markets will take place on the 22 of February, attended by stakeholders and Member States, where DG AGRI will present the fund.

The Commission also informed on the interim assessment of PMPs that was finalised end 2016.. Due to the late adoption of the EMFF and the consequently delays, the sector has encountered some difficulties in implementing this measure which is mandatory from 2014, while receiving no financial support during 2 years. These problems, together with certain questions from POs and managing authorities on how to interpret the legal framework, have motivated the Commission to launch this interim assessment.

The overall picture from the assessment is that not all POs are treated in the same way given that some MS are more careful in reviewing / approving the PMPs. There is room for the Commission to make recommendations on making sure all POs are treated equally, promoting best practices, networking and exchange of experiences.

The Chair stated that the WG1 will provide recommendations on all the issues brought up by the Commission from the perspective of the production and marketing plans. The Commission informed the audience that the report was finalised and about to be made publicly available.

2. Evaluation of first sale trends

The Chair stressed the importance for the MAC to improve the utility of the EUMOFA as the tool to assess the drivers behind the first sales trends.

Several members of the WG agreed that EUMOFA is a subject that crosses the boundaries of a single WG. EUMOFA has the potential to become a valuable tool, and must continue to improve. The Chair of WG2, Mr Andrew Kuyk, suggested having a task force regarding this issue.

LIFE wondered whether the evaluation of drivers of first sale trends would not include a review of the MS regulation on where first sales can take place, since constraints are different at each MS.

3. Impact of recovery plans on markets

The Chair suggested to assess the state of play of the recovery plans in order to look at the implications these could have on the market.

The Fish Producer Organisation asked whether this assessment would be done under a historical perspective.

The Commission mentioned the fisheries management plans, stating that, when a proposal from the Commission is tabled, specific impact assessments are carried out in order to assess the impacts of these management plans. The Commission could inform the MAC on the management plans that are on the table, but the real market implications can only be seen once the plan is running.

The Chair welcomed the idea of not only looking at recovery plans but also management plans.

Mr Guus Pastoors stated that the effects of the recovery plans can only be seen after some time and wondered whether this issue should be prioritised or rather moved down in the list of priorities.

Members agreed to leave the impact of recovery plans on markets as a priority for 2018.

4. No-commercialization of undersized fish/juveniles in the context of new technical measures regulation and discard ban implementation.

This priority would imply to analyse what changes have occurred in terms of juveniles. Regarding pelagic fisheries, there has been little change. As for the demersal, the data is very limited.

VisNed informed that, with the support of the EMFF, the Dutch government is financing projects to address problems that have arisen regarding the implementation of the landing obligation. These projects show that the only viable market for discards is the fish meal one, but the amount of fish discarded is not sufficient to supply this industry.

The Commission stated that meetings with MS were held, where the Commission made indications on how to overcome problems coming from the implementation of the landing obligation. To be able to advise the sector, the Commission needs to have data on the extent of the problem and to know what market outlets have been tested by the sector.

Oceana pointed out that the landing obligation was introduced to improve selectivity. There are possible solutions to overcome the difficulties and certain aspects to be taken into account such as regionalisation or the situation in the Mediterranean, which is not managed by quotas.

LIFE called attention on some of the smallest ports losing ground since no landings take place there anymore.

Mr Andrew Kuyk, Chair of the WG2, stated that the effects of the landing obligation are reputational ones: the discard ban came into force because consumers perceived the discards as negative. If now that the landing obligation is in place there is a perception that the landing obligation is not useful then this faces a reputational issue again. This topic will be a priority for WG2.

Members agreed in looking at the data available and the different variations between MS regarding control of landings.

5. Promotion and competitiveness of products

This priority would tackle the analysis of competitiveness of the EU fleet and consumer habits, and should be looked at from the perspective of funding mechanisms. Consumer habits should be addressed under WG2.

- **Date and place of next meetings**

Two more meetings are planned for 2017 to take place in May and October.

ANNEX I

WG1 Work Programme Key Issues

- **Common Markets Organisation and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020)**
 - ⇒ Commission interim assessment of PMPs
 - ⇒ Commission Implementation regulation 1418/2013
 - ⇒ Funding PMP under article 66 EMFF
 - ⇒ Funding articles 67 and 68

- **Evaluation of first sale trends**
 - ⇒ Evaluation drivers first sale trends
 - ⇒ EUMOFA

- **Impact of recovery plans on markets**
 - ⇒ State of play recovery plans
 - ⇒ Market implications

- **No-commercialization of undersized fish/juveniles in the context of new technical measures regulation and discard ban implementation**
 - ⇒ Analyses of data
 - 2015 & 2016 Pelagic
 - 2016 Demersal
 - Future projections demersal

- **Promotion and competitiveness of products**
 - ⇒ Analyses competitiveness EU fleet
 - ⇒ EU Consumer habits survey
 - ⇒ Regulation 1144/2014

ANNEX II

Attendees

Organisation	Representative
AIPCE-CEP	Marco Baldoli, Andrew Kuyk
ANFACO-CECOPESCA	Jose Carlos Castro
Conxemar	Katarina Sipic, Marta Llopis
Copa-Cogeca	Pietro Gentiloni, Paolo Tiozzo
EAPO	Emile Brouckaert, Pim Visser
EBCD	Rocio Suarez, Despina Symons
ETF	Sammy Deburggraeve
EUfishmeal	Anne Mette Baek Jespersen
Eurocommerce	Adela Torres, Lorena Torrecillas
European Commission	Frangiscos Nikolian, Chiara Bacci, Christophe Vande Weyer, Mirko Marcolin, Carola González Kessler
Europeche	Daniel Voces de Onáindi
FEAP	Arnault Chaperon
FEDEPESCA	Maria Luisa Alvarez XXXX
FPO	Jane Sandell
KFO	Sean O'Donoghue
LIFE	Claudia Orlandini, Brian O'Riordan
Living Sea	Erik Bjorn Olsen
LPDB OP	Yves Frezon
Ministry of Poland Maritime Economy (Observer)	Monika Kołodziejczyk
Ministry of Poland Maritime Economy (Observer)	Piotr Słowik
MSC	Victor Simoncelli
OPEGUI	Miren Garmendia
OPP-07-Lugo	Jose Beltran
Permanent Representation of Bulgaria (Observer)	Konstantin Petrov
PSPR	Jarek Zielinski
Puerto de Celeiro OPP-77	Eduardo Míguez
Secretariat	Sandra Sanmartín
Spain MAPAMA (Observer)	Carmen Rodriguez
Spanish Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Observer)	Aurora de Blas
Visfederatie	Guus Pastoor

VisNed	Pim Visser
WWF	Eszter Hidas