

MINUTES

Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

Wednesday 17 May 2017

14:00h – 17:00h

Martin's Brussels EU
Boulevard Charlemagne 90, B-1000, Brussels

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

The Chair, Ms Agnes Lisik, welcomed attendees (ANNEX I) and the agenda was adopted without any further comment.

- **Adoption of minutes of the last Working Group 3 (18.01.2017)**

The minutes were adopted without any further comment.

- **Presentation by Spain on traceability projects**

Mr Francisco de Borja Carmona Castaño, from the Directorate General of Fisheries Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment of Spain, gave a presentation (ANNEX II) on traceability.

The presentation addressed the regulation on traceability in place, the pillars of traceability, actions taken by the Spanish Administration, the TRAZAPES project and other projects.

Good Fish Foundation asked the speaker whether there is coordination at international level, to which Mr Carmona informed that this coordination is done only at national level.

FEAP asked the whether there are available the same tools of traceability for products coming from third countries.

Mr Carmona replied that the tools developed by stakeholders should be standardised under international regulations, in order to have a common ground in working with third countries.

Visfederatie stated that consumer information and traceability information confuses a lot of companies. He also stated that retailers see problems with wild catches when they are split into different units and customers and asked Mr Carmona whether Spain has found a solution for possible confusions in this phase.

Mr Carmona understood the confusion mentioned by the previous speaker, which happens for example with the catch areas and geographical area.

- **“Fish Dependence Day”: request for clarification (intention and concept) Skype presentation by Aniol Esteban, Programme Director at New Economics Foundation (TBC)**

Mr Esteban presented his organisation and gave an overview via Skype conference of the report publicly available, which aims at estimating whether the EU would be able to meet its own demand for fish by fishing only in its waters.

Visfederatie questioned the whole concept exposed by the speaker, given that the fish market has a European dimension. Understanding the issue from a national perspective does not make sense, particularly given the way the stocks are managed in the EU. The report seems to conclude that if a country is not self-sufficient, the fisheries is not sustainable, when in fact fisheries can be managed sustainably even if taking place in third countries.

Mr Esteban stated that the self-sufficiency concept is relevant in the long term, and even with the CFP in place MS behave differently being some of them inclined to lobby for catches with very different outcomes.

OPPC-3 questioned the relevance of this presentation for the Working Group.

The Chair informed that the vice chair Mr Pierre Commere requested this point to be addressed by WG3 and reminded attendees that they can comment on the agendas before the meeting, once they are distributed.

Mr Alexandre Rodriguez, Executive Secretary of the Long Distance Advisory Council, pointed out that the study does not take into account catches in international waters and fisheries investments in third countries. The report does not send a clear message.

Mr Esteban invited attendees to email their questions directly to him.

CEP agreed with what the previous members and observers commented on the presentation. At individual MS level the report does not make sense, particularly for landlocked countries. The model addressed in the report only tackles production but not consumption and seems to assume that we are over consuming fisheries products. This sort of message can have a bad impact. He considered the message to be misleading.

Mr Esteban replied that fish consumption depends on cultural and historical reasons and the more fish EU consumes, the less fish will be available in some other parts of the world. A global common ground is to manage stocks sustainably but there is no global agreement on fish consumption.

The Chair finished the conference call. Members were invited to forward their questions directly to Mr Esteban.

- **Storage and processing fresh fish**

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- Tubs with water for the storage of fresh fish

Ms Anne-Marie Kats (Visfederatie), on behalf of AIPCE, made a presentation (ANNEX III) on the issue in order to raise awareness: the EU legislation fails to renovate and adapt technologic developments in fresh fish storage. AIPCE's position is reflected in a paper presented to members of the MAC (ANNEX IV)

KFO stated that this update has already been there for 30 years and the WG should make a recommendation saying that this issue needs to be addressed.

Seafish would like to have someone from DG SANTE for the next meeting.

FRUCOM supported this request and informed members that DG SANTE and MS are working together in drafts related to fisheries products in aspects of hygiene. She found useful to have an expert from these committees to report on these issues on a regular basis.

FEDEPESCA stated they would like to come up with a position on this issue, which will be forwarded to the Secretariat.

The Commission agreed with these request and the item to be discussed in the next meeting.

- **EC presentation circular economy**

A representative from the European Commission DG Health and Food Safety Unit E1, Food information and composition, food waste gave a presentation (ANNEX V) on the strategy from the Commission on food waste. The Commission informed that there is a proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive (COM) and an EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.

Seafish asked whether there is any representative fisheries organisation in this platform.

The Commission informed that they will make the list of representatives available. There is also available a digital platform to provide an easy access to information and allow discussions within members. The Commission asked WG3 whether the MAC would be interested in working in such a topic.

EUROCOMMERCE informed that they are aware of this problem and have publications on this available. She also questioned the suitability of this WG to tackle such an issue giving its scope.

- **AOB**

Seafish would like to have the possibility in the next meeting to give a presentation on some initiatives from Seafish. She also stressed the need to invite DG SANTE.

KFO would also like to see DG SANTE to discuss regulation of cadmium in China.

Visfederatie considered possible to change the title of the WG to broaden its scope and include sustainability issues.

The Chair invited members to contribute to the agendas of the WG with whichever item members consider necessary.

- **Brexit: WG3 Perspective**

KFO proposed to address the issue from the perspective of the British members of the MAC.

- **End of the meeting**

ANNEX I ATTENDEES

Organisation	Representative
AIPCE	Marco Baldoli
CEP	Andrew Kuyk
ANCIT	Giorgio Rimoldi
ARVI- OPPC3	Purificación Fernández Álvarez
CONXEMAR	Marta Llopis Katarina Sipic
EMPA	Bruno Guillaumie
EuFishMeal	Jonas Sørensen
Eurocommerce	María Sapiña Adela Torres
EUROPECHE	Daniel Voces
FEAP	Arnault Chaperon
FEDEPESCA	Maria Luisa Alvarez
Federación Provincial cofradías de pescadores de Lugo	Carmen Abad
FRUCOM	Anna Boulova
Good Fish Foundation	Christine Absil
LIFE - Low Impact Fishers Europe	Brian O'Riordan Claudia Orlandini
MSC	Hans Nieuwenhuis
Oceana	Nicolas Fournier Agnes Lisik
OPEGUI	Miren Garmendia
Puerto de Celeiro S.A. -OPP77	Eduardo Míguez López
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation	Paul Macdonald
SEAFISH	Cristina Fernandez
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Pascale Colson Chiara Bacci
European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety	Bartosz Zambrzycki
OBSERVERS	
Isabelle Thomas's Office (MEP on Fisheries Committee)	Alexandre Questel
Spain Permanent Representation	Borja Velasco
Spain- Secretaría General de Pesca	Francisco de Borja Carmona

Spain MAPAMA– 56P	Carmen Rodriguez
Yasmin Schinasi	Secretariat of the AAC
OTHERS	
Secretariat of the MAC	Sandra Sanmartin Jessica Demblon Despina Symons
Speaker from New Economics Foundation	Aniol Esteban