



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.A.4/LJ

Subject: MAC advice on Aquaculture Advisory Council's Recommendation on Labelling of Caviar

Ref.: Your letter of 14th April 2021

Dear Mr. Pastoor,

I would like to thank the Market Advisory Council for the advice received on 14th April 2021 on the labelling of caviar.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate that the extension of consumer information provisions under the CMO Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 cannot be subject to amendments for a single product or for a group of products different than the ones listed in Annex 1. As a consequence, the division of the CN category 1604, which falls under paragraph h) of Annex 1 of the CMO Regulation, into CN subcategories 1604 31 "Caviar and caviar substitutes" and other subcategories would imply a revision of the CMO Regulation which is not foreseen at this stage. Besides, there would be a need to justify why "Caviar and Caviar substitutes" would require different labelling requirements than other prepared/preserved products under the same categories 1604 and 1605.

As correctly recalled in the MAC advice, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 has started to apply from April 2020. We believe that this regulation will contribute positively to provide transparency when the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient, fish eggs in the case of caviar, is different to that of the final caviar product.

Regarding the establishment of a common marketing standard for caviar, I would like to draw your attention on the fact that such standards require defining uniform trade characteristics, as listed in Article 33 of the CMO Regulation, which would apply to all caviar products sold on the EU market. The FAO Codex Alimentarius standard for sturgeon caviar (CXS 291-2010) already defines such criteria. Although Codex Alimentarius standards are advisory by nature, an EU standard would need to be complementary, coherent and add value to this international standard. The need for such a standard has not been raised during the recent evaluation of the marketing standards

Mr. Guus Pastoor,
Chairman
Market Advisory Council
rue de la Science, 10
B-1000 Brussels

framework published in 2019¹ nor during the feedback on the inception impact assessment or the open public consultation on the revision of the marketing standards framework conducted between November 2020 and February 2021.

We acknowledge that the sector might consider this solution in the future and we invite you to elaborate in more details why an EU marketing standard on caviar would be needed considering the information above. Finally, we strongly recommend that the MAC and the AAC continue to collaborate on this matter.

Should you have any further question on this reply, I invite you to contact Ms. Pascale Colson (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Contacts:

F. Nikolian, L. Jolly, C. Vande Weyer, G. Heinen, K. Majewska, S. Perez Maiz

¹ SWD(2019) 453 final