MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
WG2 AND WG3

Wednesday 24 January 2018
11:30-15:15
Business Europe- Room Europe
Avenue de Cortenbergh 168, 1000 Bruxelles

The meeting was Chaired by Chairs of Working Group 2 and 3, Andrew Kuyk and Agnes Lisik respectively. They informed attendees that due to the horizontal nature of the Control Regulation and the Work Programme, they decided to organise a joint meeting for members of both WGs for practical reasons.

Control Regulation

- *Exchange of views among members*
- *Adoption of draft advice by the MAC*

The Chair of WG2 gave an overview of the work done so far. The Secretariat produced a first draft of the opinion of the MAC on the EU Fisheries Control Regulation 1224/2009 which built on the Workshop organised by the European Commission (COM) in November 2017. This first draft was based on comments from members. Given the diversity of comments received, two further versions were prepared: a version including all comments received and a compromise text drafted by the Chair of WG2. These two versions were the ones presented in the Joint Meeting.

He then stated that the aim of the MAC is to reach a consensus on a possible opinion to be summited to the COM by mid-February. This opinion will focus only on issues related to markets. A Task Force will be established to draft the opinion in an attempt to reach a consensus respecting the tight deadline.

AIPCE informed the COM that the quality of the opinion from the MAC will be in accordance with the small timeframe given. Focusing the opinion on market issues will facilitate the consensus. He wondered whether it would be better to have a new regulation or to enhance the implementation of the existing one. These two options correspond to Option 1 and 2-3 proposed by the COM in their consultation form (see below)

> ***Option 1: No policy change. Continue current policy and focus on implementation and enforcement of existing framework***
>
> ***Option 2: Amendment of the Fisheries Control Regulation***
>
> ***Option 3: Amendment of the Fisheries Control System***

WWF and EAPO expressed their preference for the introductory remarks on the draft of the Secretariat, in line with their own opinion.

Members expressed diversity of opinions regarding the Options given by the COM in the consultation paper.

EAPO agreed with AIPCE on the need to circumscribe the opinion of the MAC to issues under its remit and supported Option 3 (amendment of the Fisheries Control System), which would strengthen EFCA's role.

OCEANA stressed the difficulties of addressing at this stage a possible revision of the IUU.

The COM clarified that with regards to the IUU regulation, the objective would be to include a mandate the use of an electronic catch certificate. DG MARE has started the process of its establishment with DG SANTE but there is no legal basis for this. On the sanctioning system COM clarified that its aim is to put in a single piece of Regulation all EU provisions on sanctions and enforcement.

Members agreed that the opinion of the MAC will not be confined to any of the three options given.

After an exchange of views on the different comments summited by members, a Task Force was constituted. The two Chairs, EAPO, WWF, OCEANA, AIPCE and the Secretariat will meet on the 2 February to draft a final opinion, which will be put forward to members of the WGs and ExCom for their final approval.

Update priorities of WG2 and WG3

- *Briefing on priorities for 2018*
- *Progress so far*
- *Preparation of further work*
- *Assignment of tasks*

The Chair of WG 2 explained that the COM requested certain priorities to be included in the work programme of the MAC, namely:

- Marketing Standards
- Production and Marketing Plans
- Future Funding Priorities for EMFF
- Revision of Control Regulation
- IUU Regulation
- Consumer information
- Dual Quality Food
- Unfair Trading Practices
- Trade Agreements
- Other Ongoing Work

Some of these priorities have not been allocated to any working group.

Regarding *consumer information*, it will be addressed under WG3, and it was decided to have a discussion on the issue in May.

MSC would like to be updated on the study on voluntary information schemes that the COM is carrying out.

WG3 would like a clarification on what the COM expects from the MAC in terms of consumer information and which areas should the MAC cover.

On *dual quality food*, it is not entirely clear what the COM expects from the MAC. The reference to canned

tuna products raised questions from members on its adequacy. National experts in the canned tuna could give the MAC an understanding of what the position is and they will be contacted by the AC.

Regarding to *unfair trading practices*, again is not very clear what the COM expects, though competition in general will be explored.

Lastly, in *other ongoing work*, the Chair of WG2 invited attendees to flag up issues to address.

SEAFISH would like to address food safety issues under WG3 and to invite DG SANTE to participate in the meetings. She reminded attendees that DG SANTE provided the MAC with some relevant issues to target during last meeting of WG3.

FEAP requested to make a presentation in May regarding level playing field for aquaculture products.

Chair of WG3 invited and encouraged members to initiate active advice.

End of the meeting