

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

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

13:30-16:30 CET

Zoom online meeting

Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen

Adoption of draft agenda and minutes of last meeting (01.07.20): adopted

Consumer information

- **Consideration of draft advice**

The Chair emphasised that it would be the last Working Group 3 meeting on the consumer information draft advice. There would not be a full review of the document, since that took place during the previous meeting. Therefore, the meeting would focus on rephrasing and some new text. Once the advice is agreed by Working Group 3, it will be put forward to the Executive Committee for approval through written procedure. The Chair expressed hope that the advice would be sent to the Commission before August.

The Secretary General explained that the Secretariat added a new paragraph to the introduction, in order to reflect comments made at the last meeting by several members that the introduction should be linked with current policy developments. The Working Group agreed with the paragraph.

The Chair outlined that, in relation to recommendation d), ANFACO-CECOPECA submitted a dissenting view, in line with their comments at the previous meeting. Therefore, this would be included as a footnote.

Sean O'Donoghue (KFO) stated they do not fully understand the footnote, since it was not fully clear what ANFACO-CECOPECA opposed. They suggested that ANFACO-CECOPECA could clarify the footnote.

The Chair proposed to accept a footnote by ANFACO-CECOPECA, but to ask them to clarify it. The Working Group agreed.

The Secretary General, in relation to recommendation i), explained that it was included to reflect Good Fish Foundation's intervention at the last meeting concerning distance selling.



Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) wanted to know if it referred to any specific legislation, since it should already be the case under the FIC Regulation. The information on food should be the same regardless of the selected sale channel.

The Secretary General explained that it was requested by the Good Fish Foundation, who was not present at that time in the meeting to clarify.

The Chair mentioned that it was not that clear in the legislation. From his practical experience, in distance selling, there is a lot of information missing. This is just a general recommendation, which does not request any specific change to the legislation.

The Chair, in relation to the general comment on increased coordination, explained that it was a redrafting by AIPCE-CEP to make the sentence clearer. The Working Group agreed with both additions.

The Secretary General explained that the structure of the advice was changed, as requested by the members at the last meeting. So, the main text includes the introduction and the recommendations, while the remaining text was moved to the Annex.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the paragraph submitted by ANFACO-CECOPESCA on “ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food”

The Secretary General explained that the corresponding section of the advice had the opinion of the other membership clusters, particularly the catching sector. ANFACO-CECOPESCA requested to add a counter-balance with the view of the processing sector.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) expressed disagreement with the inclusion of this paragraph with the view of the processing sector without the inclusion of the majority view.

Silvia Gil (FEDEPESCA) highlighted that the report quoted by ANFACO-CECOPESCA was already five years old and mentioned many other issues. Plus, that this report does not have a focus on seafood products.

Rosalie Tukker (Europêche) wanted to know if, being a minority opinion, it should not instead be recorded as a footnote.

The Secretary General explained that it was a minority view identified as being from the European processing sector. It was placed at the end of the chapter to counter-balance the view of the members explained in the precedent paragraphs. If the minority view is by one member, it should go as a footnote, if it is more than one member, then it can be presented in the main text. Therefore, if other processing sector members support ANFACO-CECOPESCA’s comment, it can remain in the main text.



María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) emphasised the importance of including the view of the majority in the text.

Katarina Sipic (AIPCE-CEP) explained that they needed to confirm internally regarding the support from other processing sector members for ANFACO-CECOPEPESCA's comment. In principle, since it is a quote from a verifiable source, they should be able to support it.

The Chair asked AIPCE-CEP to confirm it by the end of the week.

Silvia Gil (FEDEPESCA) clarified that there had been a misunderstanding due to change of position in the text of the mention of Recital 32 of the FIC Regulation.

Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) emphasised that the paragraph was merely taking into account all the pieces of legislation and the problems. It merely points a different view concerning a topic that is under public discussion.

The Chair agreed with the previous speaker. The Chair proposed to wait for the end of the week to determine if more processing sector members supported the paragraph. If it is only supported by ANFACO-CECOPEPESCA, then it would be moved to a footnote.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) argued that, in the previous section, the clusters of members that support the preceding paragraphs should be identified.

The Chair suggested to specify that the view of the European processing sector was “in relation to the mention of Article 32 of the FIC Regulation”. The Chair considered that overall the different positions were quite clear.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the minority view by FEAP on “date of catch/harvest”

The Chair explained that, since it was only the view of one member, it was recorded as a footnote. It was approved.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the chapter on “repacking”

The Chair proposed the acceptance of the “since it does not comply with the Danish list of commercial designations” reference. Additionally, a paragraph was added by ANFACO-CECOPEPESCA on behalf of the European processing sector, so the Chair asked AIPCE-CEP if it was accepted by the other processing members.

Katarina Sipic (AIPCE-CEP) agreed with the paragraph.



The Secretary General asked the members regarding their preference between “situation of misleading information to consumers in the EU market” and “uneven playing field in the EU market” in relation to the sprats example.

Katrin Poulsen (WWF) agreed with maintaining “situation of misleading information to consumers in the EU market”.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) also agreed.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the redrafting proposed by Europêche on the paragraph concerning EUROSTAT statistics.

The Chair proposed the adoption of the redrafting. It was adopted.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the footnote proposed by ANFACO-CECOPECA on the reference to “flag state and catch area”

The Chair proposed the adoption of the footnote. It was adopted.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the paragraph proposed by the European processing sector concerning the “mixing of the concepts of hygiene as well as different origins”

Katarina Sipic (AIPCE-CEP) requested that the proposed text be moved to the main text, instead of a footnote, since it was a position supported by more than one member.

Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) expressed support for the paragraph. The text was amended to include their view.

Silvia Gil (FEDEPESCA) highlighted that their association also represents the retail sector, but does not share the position of EuroCommerce.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the positions on “majority/minority” regarding the “lack of mandatory origin or provenance for all fishery products” and “lack of mandatory provisions on scientific names”

Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) proposed a rephrasing of the paragraphs to clarify their position. The Working Group agreed with the changes.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the comments by AIPCE-CEP in relation to “the price offered by EU operators”



The Secretary General proposed using the comments from AIPCE-CEP to formulate a new paragraph in the text as a counterpoint to the view of the European fishing fleet.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) disagreed with the reference to fuel efficiency in AIPCE-CEP's comment.

Katarina Sipic (AIPCE-CEP) requested extra time to reformulate this new paragraph with their view.

The Chair proposed for AIPCE-CEP to send the rephrased paragraph by the end of the week.

Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) disagreed with the reference to a "loss in the production chain", since it mixed traceability with consumer information.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) proposed to rephrase as "lost for the consumer".

The Chair proposed the adoption of the paragraph as amended. The Working Group agreed.

The Working Group proceeded to analyse the "majority/minority" position on "cost-effective solutions to ensure full traceability"

Miriam Schneider (EuroCommerce) proposed to draft it as "the majority of the MAC's membership".

The Chair proposed the acceptance of the entire draft text by the Working Group, as amended, in order for the text to be put forward to the Executive Committee for approval through written procedure. Plus, that AIPCE-CEP and ANFACO-CECOPESCA would send the abovementioned rephrased paragraphs by the end of the week. The Working Group agreed.

AOB

None.



List of attendees

Representative	Organisation
Aitana Lopéz (observer)	Spain
Andrew Kuyk	AIPCE-CEP
Anna Boulova	FRUCOM
Arnault Chaperon	FEAP
Benoît Thomassen	FEAP
Catherine Pons	FEAP
Cécile Fouquet (observer)	Aquaculture Advisory Council's Secretariat
Christine Absil	Good Fish Foundation
Daniel Voces de Onáindi	Europêche
Daniel Weber	European Fishmeal
Els Bedert	EuroCommerce
Emiel Brouckaert	EAPO
Gaël Lavielle	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Georg Werner	Environmental Justice Foundation
Guillaume Carruel	EAPO
Haydeé Fernández Granja	CONXEMAR
Jens Mathiesen	Danish Seafood Association
José Basilio Otero Rodríguez	Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores (FNCP)
José Carlos Escalera Aguiar	Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Cadiz (FECOPESCA)
Juan Manuel Elices (observer)	Spain
Katarina Sipic	AIPCE-CEP
Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen	WWF
María Luisa Álvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA
Massimo Bellavista	COPA COGECA



Representative	Organisation
Matthias Keller	Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.
Miriam Schneider	EuroCommerce
Nicolás Fernandez Muñoz	OPP72
Paulien Prent	Visfederatie
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council
Pim Visser	VisNed
Poul Melgaard Jensen	Danish Seafood Association
Quentin Marchais	ClientEarth
Roberto Carlos Alonso Baptista de Sousa	ANFACO-CECOPESCA
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche
Santiago Folgar Gutiérrez	AVOCANO
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd (KFO)
Sergio López Garcia	OPP LUGO
Silvia Gil	FEDEPESCA
Stavroula Kremmydiotou	Market Advisory Council
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana

