



Working Group 2: EU MARKET

Wednesday 13 February 2019

11:00-14:00

Bilbao Exhibition Center

Bizkaia

Welcome from the Chair

The Chair, Andrew Kuyk, welcomed those present.

Adoption of agenda and minutes last meeting (18.10.18)

Both minutes of last meeting and agenda were adopted.

The Secretariat will clarify the mention of “training” under the item “level playing field” in the minutes.

Level Playing Field (LPF)

Status: discussion on the work done so far and way forward/next Focus Group (FG) meeting

The Chair of the FG, Pierre Commere, gave an update on the work done so far. The FG is still working in mapping both applicable regulations and evidences of non-compliance with a LPF. The next FG meeting will be held on the 5th March 2019 (Brussels).

The Chair of WG2 suggested sketching out 2 or 3 issues that would be relevant to the LPF for the FG to make some general statements on:

- Terms of trade with international trade partners;
- What is the rational for different treatment between fresh/processed and imported/EU products - Evidence base of the existing body of food law and other regulations, as it applies to fishery products;
- Differences in implementation between different categories of products and across Member States.

The Chair of the FG added that the Control Regulation, in parallel with the IUU Regulation, and catch certificates system still needs to be examined by the FG in order to assess the possible differences.

The FG will primarily examine the evidences of non-compliance, which can then be referred to the States or COM to follow up onto. It was also suggested for the MAC to send some recommendations to the COM regarding the Fisheries Chapter in future Trade Agreements with Third Countries.

Additionally, all meeting documents related to Ireland have been deleted from the website by the Secretariat upon request of members.

STECF report EU fish processing sector 2017

- **Presentation by Dr Ms Leyre Goti (Thunen Institute of Sea Fisheries)**

The presentation made by Leyre Goti on the “*The Economic Performance of the EU Fish Processing Sector (STECF Report 17-16)*” can be found [here](#).

- **Exchange of views among members**

Members welcomed the relevant presentation made. A discussion took place among others on the data used for such reports; how reliable is the data and whether it would be helpful to integrate the Finfish Study within the work of STECF.

Leyre Goti indicated that STECF welcomes observers in a specific Group working on the processing sector. Regarding predictive models, STECF has done some attempts but it has proven to be difficult due to data issues. Enhanced cooperation with EUROSTAT will be needed to this regard.

The Chair of WG2 expressed the strong wish for the MAC to engage much more with STECF in order to help improve the quality of the report and the data sources.

Trade Issues

- **Consideration of the mapping of trade agreements**

The EC gave an update on the ongoing negotiations regarding Free Trade Agreements (FTA) between the EU and the following:

- 1) **Tunisia** (modernisation of the 1998 Agreement): the next round of negotiations will take place in spring. The aim is to have a self standing FTA. In the current Agreement, all fisheries products imported from Tunisia were liberalised, except for canned sardines; however EU does not enjoy any preferences when exporting fisheries products to Tunisia. The objective is to grant better market access of EU fish products to Tunisia. DG MARE invited the MAC to come forward regarding the interest of the industry to this regard.
- 2) **Chile** (modernisation of the 2000 Agreement): the next round of negotiations will take place in April 2019. In the current agreement, all fisheries products were already liberalised, except for tuna, salmon and hake.
- 3) **Mercosur** (the last agreement has last been negotiated 20 years ago): the next round of negotiations will take place in March 2019 but will not focus on fisheries issues. There are still many outstanding differences.
- 4) **New Zealand (NZ)**: the 3rd round of negotiations took place in February 2019. EU and NZ want this negotiation to move quickly. NZ has expressed very high ambitions and an interest to promote the state of the art practices in terms of sustainability. Regarding the Rules of Origin negotiations, it was



made clear that there a big difference in its understanding (i.e. ownership). Regarding the Market access Chapter, liberalisation of the products will also be discussed.

- 5) **Australia**: the next round of negotiations will take place on the 25th-29th March 2019. At the next meeting liberalisation of products, the trade and sustainable Chapter, and the Rules of Origin Chapter will be discussed.
- 6) **Indonesia**: the next round of negotiations will take place on the 11th to 15th March 2019. There is an outstanding issue on labour issues (i.e. forced labour). The EU tries to stick to the ILO Convention.

- **Possible collaboration with LDAC**

The Secretary of the LDAC invited members of the MAC to attend LDAC's WG on Fisheries Agreement with Third Countries meetings. The LDAC has drawn a list of topics that they would like to share with the MAC, and suggested cooperation between both ACs on those topics, possibly through a Task Force or a FG under the remit of the MAC. This could lead to the production of a joint paper.

The Chair of WG2 welcomed LDAC's suggestion for cooperation and invited the LDAC to also attend MAC's meeting as observer.

Control Regulation

- **Consideration of the EP PECH Committee Report on Fisheries Control**

The presentation made by Georg Werner (EJF) on the "*Control Regulation – Update on the revision process*" can be found [here](#).

- **Exchange of views among members**

Members welcomed the presentation made. It was noted that the European Parliament might be moving ahead to fast on this dossier as the Council is moving at a very different pace (agreement by fall 2019).

- **Update MAC opinion – response received**

The WG will review where this dossier stands by the end of May 2019 and re-evaluate the opinion at that stage, depending on the votes on the tabled amendment to the draft report.

- **Way forward**

The EC is planning to organise a workshop on Traceability in view of the sensitivity of this subject by the end of 2019-beginning of 2020.

Regarding the workshop, the MAC will reflect on how best to structure the MAC's input into it, as this is a cross cutting issue to all 3 WGs of the MAC. The WG will come back on this subject in May 2019.

AOB

- **EUMOFA: questionnaire WG2**

The Chair of WG2 and the Secretariat will draft the questionnaire WG2, which will probably be similar to the questions in the questionnaire WG1.

End of the meeting

Attendance list

Name	Organisation
Agnes Lisik	Oceana
Alexandre Rodriguez	LDAC
Andrew Kuyk	CEP
Anna Boulova	FRUCOM
Arnault Chaperon	FEAP
Aurora de Blas Carbonero	CONXEMAR
Beatrice Gorez	Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements
Daniel Voces de Onaindi	Europêche
Eduardo Miguez López	Puerto de Celeiros a opp77
Emiel Brouckaert	EAPO
Erik Bjørn Olsen	Living Sea
Evelien Ranshuysen	DG MARE
Georg Werner	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
Giorgio Rimoldi	ANCIT
Guus Pastoor	AIPCE
Jens Høj Mathiesen	Danish Seafood Association
Jessica Demblon	MAC
Johannes Nieuwenhuis	Marine Stewardship Council
José Antonio Suarez-Llanos Rodriguez	Cooperativa de armadores de pesca del Puerto de Vigo (ARVI)
José Basilio Otero Rodriguez	Federacion Provincial de cofradías de pescadores de lugo
José Pellicer	MAPA
Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo	ETF
Katarina Sipic	Conxemar
Kathryn Stack	FEAP
Katrin Poulsen	WWF
Lewis Cowie	Seafish
Leyre Goti	Thuenen Institute
Maria Luisa Alvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA
Massimo Bellavista	Copa-Cogeca
Nicolas Fernandez Muñoz	OPP72
Panos Manias	MAC
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation
Pierre Commere	ADEPALE
Pim Visser	VisNed
Roberto Carlos Alonso	ANFACO-CECOPESCA
Sandra Sanmartín	MAC
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd
Sergio Lopez Garcia	OPP LUGO



Simone Niedermüller	WWF
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana