



WORKING GROUP 3 – EU CONTROL AND SANITARY ISSUES, CONSUMER RULES

Benoît Thomassen

Chair

NH Brussels EU Berlaymont

Friday, 27 January 2023

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 09:00 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen
- 09:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (20.09.22)
- 09:10 Actions points
- 09:15 Animal Welfare
- 09:45 Food Security
- 10:30 Sustainable Food System Framework
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Food Contact Materials
- 11:45 Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable and Competitive EU Aquaculture
- 12:20 AOB
- 12:25 Summary of actions points

12:30 End of the meeting

ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2022)

Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction:

- Topic to be addressed, from a trade perspective, by Working Group 2, in the context of the new Focus Group on Trade, while keeping track of developments in LDAC
- Topic moved to Working Group 2

Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules:

- Focus Group on PEFCR for Marine Fish to be temporary suspended until new developments, such as the second public consultation on the draft PEFCR
- Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, invitation to be sent to DG ENV for an exchange of views
- MARE A4 suggested not to include the exchange, since the PEFCR was put on hold

ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2022)

Sustainable Food System Framework:

- Secretariat to informally consult the intervening members about the redrafting of point 1) of section 4 of the draft advice
- Remaining sections of the draft text to be considered under a written procedure under Working Group 3
 - Advice adopted: 13 December 2022

Empowering the Consumer for the Green Transition:

- Secretariat to informally consult the intervening members about the redrafting of footnote 14 of the draft advice
- Following the redrafting of footnote 14, draft advice to be put forward to the Executive Committee for potential approval via urgent written procedure
 - Advice adopted: 7 October 2022

ANIMAL WELFARE

➤ Presentation on revision of EU legislation

- **Denis Simonin (SANTE G3)**
- Roadmap: 6 July – 24 August 2021
- Public Consultation: 15 October 2021 – 21 January 2022
- Planned adoption: Q3 2023
- MAC Advice: 30 March 2022
 - Coherence with other initiatives affecting labelling & consumer information
 - Support EU fish farmers move towards high animal welfare standards
 - Undertake studies to understand fish welfare + impact of existing labelling schemes
 - Imports: avoid complex control arrangements & administrative burden + ensure respect of WTO rules
 - Labelling: Common minimum requirements for all animal claims made on the EU market

➤ Exchange of views & way forward

- Drafting of advice? Monitoring of developments? None?

FOOD SECURITY

➤ Presentation about launch of study on “mapping the risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain”

▪ Daniele Bertolozzi (Ecorys)

- MAC Advice: 28 May 2021 (Contingency Plan for Ensuring Food Supply & Security)
 - Creation of permanent forum + guidelines / recommendations for EU coordination
 - Maintain all parts of the chain operational
 - Raw material: risks of climate change (oxygen levels in seas, warming of oceans)
 - Anthropogenic hazards: overfishing, pollution
 - Geopolitical: protectionism, trade sanctions
 - Very low self-sufficiency rate for fisheries and aquaculture products
 - Role of dominant actors (e.g.; China): hubs for container traffic, processing countries with significant capacity and exponentially growing domestic demand

➤ Exchange of views

- Risks and vulnerabilities in the EU fisheries and aquaculture supply chain?

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

➤ Exchange of views among members about latest developments

- Roadmap: 28 September 2021 – 26 October 2021
- Public Consultation: 28 April 2022 – 21 July 2022
- Planned adoption: Q3 2023 (Impact Assessment is ongoing)
- MAC Advice: 15 February 2022 (Inception Impact Assessment) & 13 December 2022 (Public Consultation)
- Common definitions
- General objectives to be pursued vis-à-vis sustainability of the food system in all future Union and national law
- General principles targeting policymakers
- Governance provisions to frame and encourage multilevel engagement
- “Favourable food environment” provisions
- Monitoring and enforcement provisions

➤ Way forward

- Drafting of advice? Monitor developments? None?

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

➤ Policy options for push measures

Option 0	Option 1	Requirements within FSFS				
		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4		Option 5
Do nothing	Voluntary	Review and alignment of sectoral legislation through requirements, in line with FSFS objectives/principles	Increasing compliance with sustainability standards by explicitly establishing the primary responsibility of business operators (strengthened due diligence) for sustainability purposes	Elimination from the Union market of the least sustainable food systems operations/products by setting minimum sustainability requirements based on the 'do no harm principle'		A combination of options 2, 3 (primary responsibility) and 4 (sustainability requirement) The options are not mutually exclusive
				4A – Only products produced in the EU	4B – Products produced and placed in the EU (imports are covered in the scope)	

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

➤ Pull measures: sustainability labelling

Option 0	Option 1	Regulatory options				
		Option 2	Option 3		Option 4	
			New EU framework for sustainability labelling			
Do nothing	Voluntary	Sustainability labelling provisions developed in sector specific legislation	General framework for sustainability related information to consumers for all foods + voluntary harmonised EU sustainability label		General framework for sustainability related information to consumers for all foods + mandatory harmonised EU sustainability label	
			3a: only for food products of higher sustainability performance.	3b: all food products	4a: for all EU food products	4b: for all EU and imported food products

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

➤ Pull measures: sustainable public procurement

Option 0	Option 1	Regulatory options	
		Option 2	Option 3
Do nothing	Voluntary	General provisions and requirements aiming to raise awareness and improve skills and knowledge of SPP, capacity building and support authorities in using public procurement strategically	Mandatory general and specific requirements

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

➤ Presentation of public consultation

- **Bastiaan Schupp (SANTE E2)**
- Food contact materials: food packaging, kitchen and tableware, food processing equipment
- Roadmap: 18 December 2020 – 29 January 2021
- Public Consultation: 5 October 2022 – 11 January 2023
 - Scope: Items to be considered as FCM + issues to be addressed
 - Safety and risk management
 - Sustainability and future developments
 - Information along the chain
- Planned adoption: Q2 2023
- MAC Advice: 17 February 2021 (Roadmap)

➤ Way forward

- Drafting of advice? Monitor developments? None?

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE EU AQUACULTURE

➤ Exchange of views about EU-wide campaign

- Lana Bezinović Šostar (MARE A2)
- COM commitment to develop tools for a coordinate EU-wide campaign on EU aquaculture to be used at national and regional level, with the support of the Member States and the Aquaculture Advisory Council

➤ Way forward

- Drafting of advice? Coordination with AAC? Monitor developments? None?

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

➤ **AOB**

➤ **Summary of action points**

➤ **End of meeting**