

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

Draft Agenda

Thursday, 30 March 2023 (09:00 – 12:45 CET)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

09:00 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen

09:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (27.01.23)

09:10 Action points

- State-of-play of the action points of the last meeting - information

09:15 Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector

- Presentation of communication by Commission representative (MARE A2)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

09:45 Hygiene and Sanitary Issues

- Exchange of views about upcoming legislation on the maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in certain foodstuffs with Veerle Vanheusden, SANTE E2
- Way forward

10:15 Plant-Based Imitations of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

- Presentation of case study about labelling problems in the market by Luis García, Conxemar
- Consideration of draft advice proposed by Conxemar
- Way forward

11:00 Break

11:15 Cultured Seafood (“Lab-Grown” / “Cell-Based”)

- Presentation about ongoing developments by Elena Walden, Good Food Institute
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

11:45 Sustainable Food System Framework

- Presentation of the results of the Secretariat's questionnaire
- Exchange of views about policy options for push measures, sustainability labelling, and sustainable public procurement



- Way forward

12:25 Vice-Chair

- Exchange of views to determine potential suggestion of Working Group 3 Vice-Chair

12:35 AOB

12:40 Summary of action items

12:45 End of meeting

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Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information + Decision	EU Algae Sector	On 15 November 2022, the European Commission published a communication “towards a strong and sustainable and sustainable EU Algae sector”, which includes actions to (1) improve the governance framework and legislation, (2) improving the business environment, (3) closing knowledge, research, technological and innovation gaps, and (4) increasing social awareness and market acceptance of algae and algae-based products in the EU.	Exchange of views with COM representative about market implications. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitoring developments, none).	- Communication
Information + Decision	Hygiene and Sanitary Issues	Under Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1006, the maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in some foodstuffs were regulated. In 2021, EFSA published a scientific opinion on dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic, which called for a reduction in the exposure. DG SANTE initiated the work to revise the regulation. At the 27 January 2023 meeting, it was agreed, as an action point, that, under the draft agenda of the next meeting, an item on arsenic would be scheduled.	Exchange of views with COM representative about upcoming legislation on maximum levels of arsenic, particularly shellfish. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitoring developments, none).	- Regulation - EFSA Opinion
Information + Consideration	Plant-Based Imitations	On 22 July 2021, the MAC adopted advice on the labelling of plant-based imitations of fisheries and aquaculture products. In the view of the European Commission, the existing regulatory framework regulates sufficiently the labelling and presentation of plant-based imitations and thus, further work or a study on the matter were not considered. At the 27 January 2023 meeting, following a request from Conxemar, it was agreed, as an action item, that, under the draft agenda of the next meeting, an item on plant-based imitations would be scheduled.	Presentation of a case study about labelling problems by a Conxemar representative. Consideration of a proposal by Conxemar of draft advice.	- MAC Advice (2021) - Draft Advice (via email / Members Area)

Information + Decision	Cultured Seafood	In previous occasions, some members raised the issue of cultured seafood. On 22 December 2022, EFSA launched a call for a project on cultured meat and cultured seafood. Several reports and studies have been published about the topic.	Provision of information on ongoing developments. Decision on way forward (e.g., scheduling of presentation, drafting of advice, none).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HORIZON project call - Scientific article - WorldFish Report - Good Food Institute
Exchange	Sustainable Food Systems Framework	In the context of F2F Strategy, COM announced the adoption of a horizontal framework law to accelerate and facilitate the transition to a sustainable food system. On 15 February 2022, the MAC adopted advice inspired by the Commission's Inception Impact Assessment. On 13 December 2022, the MAC adopted advice inspired by the Commission's public consultation. At the 17 November 2022, Inter-Advisory Councils meeting, a Commission representative delivered a presentation about potential policy options. The Commission services are currently undertaking an Impact Assessment, while the adoption of the legislative proposal is expected in Q3 of 2023. At the 27 January 2023 meeting, it was agreed, as an action point, that the Secretariat would circulate a questionnaire to the members on the preferred policy options. A questionnaire was circulated from 28 February to 13 March 2022.	Exchange of views among members about policy options for push measures, sustainability labelling, and sustainable public procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information Page - MAC Advice - MAC Advice - Inter-AC Presentation - Compilation of replies
Decision	Vice-Chair	In accordance with Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242, "The Advisory Council shall designate, by consensus, a chairperson and at least one vice-chairperson. The chairperson may originate from outside the membership of the Advisory Council. In case the chairperson is designated amongst representatives of member organisations, at least one of the vice-chairpersons shall be designated amongst members of the category of sector organisations and other	Exchange of views and potential suggestion to the Executive Committee of a WG3 Vice-Chair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegated Regulation

		<p>interest groups referred to in Article 2 to which the chairperson does not belong. This principle shall also apply, where possible, to working groups' chairpersons". At the 27 January 2023 General Assembly meeting, it was suggested that each Working Group should discuss the appointment of Vice-Chairs.</p>		
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