



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

Benoît Thomassen

Chair

Zoom

Thursday, 30 March 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 (27.01.23)
- 09:10 Actions points
- 09:15 Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector
- 09:45 Hygiene and Sanitary Issues
- 10:15 Plant-based Imitations of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products
- 11:00 **Break**
- 11:15 Cultured Seafood ("Lab-Grown" / "Cell-Based")
- 11:45 Sustainable Food System Framework
- 12:25 Vice-Chair
- 12:35 AOB
- 12:40 Summary of actions points
- 12:45 End of the meeting

# ACTION POINTS (27 JANUARY 2023)

## Animal Welfare:

- Continue monitoring developments on the revision of the EU legislation
  - Ongoing

## Food Security:

- Members to be encouraged to contact the consultant directly for bilateral interviews in the context of the study on risks and vulnerabilities of the EU food supply chain
  - Members were encouraged at the meeting

## Food Contact Materials:

- Continue monitoring developments on the revision of the EU legislation
  - Ongoing

# ACTION POINTS (27 JANUARY 2023)

## **Sustainable Food System Framework:**

- Ahead of the next meeting, Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to the members on the preferred policy options
- Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, exchange of views among the members concerning the replies to the questionnaire to be scheduled
  - Secretariat's questionnaire: 28 February – 13 March 2023
  - Agenda item scheduled

## **AOB:**

- Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, items on arsenic, heavy metals, and plant-based imitations to be scheduled
- Secretariat to liaise with LDAC Secretariat on seabed mining
  - Agenda items on arsenic and plant-based imitations scheduled
  - Topic under the competence of LDAC – Ongoing Focus Group in LDAC – Suggestion of a paragraph on health impacts / exposure to heavy metals

# TOWARDS A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE EU ALGAE SECTOR

## ➤ Presentation of communication

- **Maris Stulgis & Lorenzo Paliotta (MARE A2)**
- Adoption: 15 November 2022
- Communication identified 23 actions aimed at:
  - (1) improving the governance framework and legislation
  - (2) improving the business environment
  - (3) closing knowledge, research, technological and innovation gaps
  - (4) increasing social awareness and market acceptance of algae and algae-based products in the EU

## ➤ Exchange of views

## ➤ Way forward

# HYGIENE AND SANITARY MATTERS

➤ Exchange of views about upcoming legislation on the maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in certain foodstuffs

▪ Veerle Vanheusden (SANTE E2)

➤ Way forward

# PLANT-BASED IMITATIONS OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

- **Presentation of case study about labelling problems in the market**
  - Luis García (Conxemar)
- **Consideration of draft advice proposed by Conxemar**
  - Draft advice circulated: 20 March 2023
- **Way forward**

BREAK

➤ **BACK AT 11:20**



# CULTURED SEAFOOD

## ➤ Presentation about ongoing developments

- Elena Walden (Good Food Institute)

## ▪ Horizon Project Call

- Deadline: 12 April 2023
- Full understanding and up-to-date knowledge provided to food system actors on environmental, economic and social aspects of cultured meat and cultured seafood, including ethics
- Additional knowledge provided on potential challenges and opportunities offered by cultured meat and cultured seafood to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, air, water and soil pollution, resource depletion and impact on ecosystems, generation of wastes, and on human health

## ➤ Exchange of views

## ➤ Way forward

# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

## ➤ Presentation of the results of the Secretariat's questionnaire

### 1) Policy options for push measures - Requirements within SFSF:

- Option 0 – Do nothing
- Option 1 – Voluntary
  - EuroCommerce
- Option 2 – Revise and alignment of sectoral legislation
  - EuroCommerce
- Option 3 – Increasing compliance (strengthened due diligence)
  - MSC
- Option 4 – Elimination of least sustainable operations/products by setting minimum sustainability requirements based on “do no harm principle” (4A – only EU / – 4B EU + imports)
  - Option 4A – Only products produced in the EU
  - Option 4B – Products produced and placed in the EU
    - FEDEPESCA, EAPO
- Option 5 – Combination of options 2, 3 and 4
  - Combination of 3 & 4B – Oceana, Good Fish, EJF, Européche
  - Combination of 2, 3, & 4B – ClientEarth

# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

## 2) Policy options for push measures - Sustainability labelling:

- Option 0 – Do nothing
- Option 1 – Voluntary
- Option 2 – Sustainability labelling provisions developed in sector specific legislation
- Option 3 – New EU framework for sustainability labelling (general framework + voluntary label)
  - Option 3A – Only for products of higher sustainability performance
  - Option 3B – All food products
  - MSC, FEAP, EuroCommerce, ANFACO-CECOPESCA
- Option 5 – New EU framework for sustainability labelling (general framework + mandatory label)
  - Option 4A – For all EU food products
  - Option 4B – For all EU and imported food products
    - Oceana, Good Fish, Européche (ranking system), FEDEPESCA, EAPO

# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

## 3) Policy options for push measures - Sustainable public procurement:

- Option 0 – Do nothing
- Option 1 – Voluntary
- Option 2 – General provisions and requirements aiming to raise awareness and improve skills and knowledge of sustainable public procurement, capacity building and support authorities in using public procurement strategically
  - MSC, FEAP, EAPO
- Option 3 – Mandatory general and specific requirements
  - WWF

# VICE-CHAIR

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

### ▪ Article 4 of Regulation 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 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.”

### ▪ Expression of interest: Paulien Prent (AIPCE-CEP)

# AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

- **AOB**
- **Summary of action points**
- **End of meeting**