

Working Group 2: EU Markets

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, 7 June 2023 (14:30 – 18:00 CET)

BusinessEurope, Av. de Cortenbergh 168, 1000 Brussels

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

14:30 Welcome from the Chair, Pierre Commère

14:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (29.03.23)

14:40 Action points

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

14:45 Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- Presentation on upcoming database on preferential trade agreements by Márcio Castro de Souza, FAO
- Exchange of views

15:15 Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments

- Update on latest trade developments by Paweł Szatkowski, DG MARE, including:
 - EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
 - EU- Australia Free Trade Agreement
 - EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement
 - EEA Trade Agreement
 - Economic Partnership Agreements with ACP countries
 - USA's Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

16:00 Sustainable Fisheries and Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)

- Update on latest developments by Catherine Chapoux, DG MARE, with a focus on supply to local and EU markets
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

16:15 Break

16:30 Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

- Update on state-of-play of legislative proposal by István Nemeth, DG GROW
- Exchange of views



17:00 Banning Forced Labour

- Presentation of external study on forced labour in the fisheries and aquaculture market by Sébastien Metz and Nicolas Fournier, Sakana Consultants
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

17:50 AOB

17:55 Summary of action items

18:00 End of meeting

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Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information	FAO	WG2 established the Initial Focus Group on Trade to collect data on imports in the frame of various trade policy instruments. Advice on improvement of data was adopted in March 2022. DG MARE sent a letter informing about the preparation of comprehensive feedback. At the 26 January 2023 meeting, it was agreed, as an action point, that FAO would be invited to present about their work on the impact of trade instruments on the fisheries and aquaculture market.	Presentation by FAO representative on upcoming database on preferential trade agreements.	- Advice
Information + Decision	Trade	It is established practice for COM to update on the latest trade policy developments affecting the market. The Chair identified negotiations with Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, EEA, ACP, plus the USA's Marine Mammal Protection Act, as relevant.	Presentation and exchange with COM representatives. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none).	- Information page
Information + Decision	SFPAs	On behalf of the EU, COM negotiates and concludes SFPAs with non-EU countries allowing EU vessels to fish for surplus stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone of third countries. COM is undertaking negotiations and evaluations of several SFPAs (e.g., Angola, Cabo Verde, Kiribati, Ivory Coast).	Presentation and exchange with COM representative on ongoing negotiations and evaluations, focusing on the supply. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitoring developments, none).	- Information page - MAC Advice
Information	Due Diligence	DG JUST launched an initiative to improve the EU regulatory framework on company law and corporate governance. It aims to enable companies to focus on long-term sustainable value creation rather than short-term benefits. It also aims to better align the interest of companies, their shareholders, managers, stakeholders	Update by COM representative on state-of-play of legislative proposal.	- Information page - Minutes

		and society. It would help companies to better manage sustainability-related matters in their own operations and value chains as regards social and human rights, climate change, environment, etc. On 28 March 2022, COM adopted a proposal for a directive. At the 23 May 2022 WG3 meeting, there was a presentation of the proposal. As an action point, members agreed to monitor legislative developments.		
Information + Decision	Forced Labour	In 2021, President von der Leyen announced that further EU legislative action was needed to tackle the use of forced labour in the value chains of companies operating in the single market. The legislative initiative aims to ban the placing on the EU market of products made wholly or in part by forced labour. The ban would cover both domestic and imported products. It would be combined with risk-based enforcement framework. On 19 September 2022, COM adopted the legislative proposal. At the September 2022 meeting, the legislative proposal was presented by a COM representative. At the 26 January 2023 meeting, members agreed on Terms of Reference for an external study on forced labour in the fisheries and aquaculture market. Sakana Consultants were hired.	External consultant to present study on forced labour. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, gathering of further evidence).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information Page - Terms of Reference - Report (via email / Members Area)