

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

Draft Agenda

Thursday, 8 June 2023 (09:00 – 12:30 CET)

BusinessEurope, Av. de Cortenbergh 168, 1000 Brussels

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 (30.03.23)

09:10 Action points

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

09:15 Substantiating Green Claims

- Presentation of proposal for a directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims by Eva Funcken, DG ENV
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

09:40 Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Inorganic Arsenic)

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

10:00 Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Stiffening)

- Presentation on ongoing update to food hygiene rules for products of animal origin, specifically stiffening of smoked fillets, by Tomasz Pyjor, PSPR
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

10:15 Online Sales to Consumers

- Presentation of the initiative “La Pescaderia Artesanal” by María Luisa Alvaréz Blanco, FEDEPESCA
- Exchange of views

10:45 Break



11:00 EU Algae Initiative

- Presentation of the results of the Secretariat's questionnaire
- Consideration of draft advice
- Way forward

11:45 Cell-Based Protein of Aquatic Animals

- Presentation of the results of the Secretariat's questionnaire
- Consideration of draft advice
- Way forward

12:20 AOB

12:25 Summary of action items

12:30 End of meeting

DRAFT



Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information + Decision	Substantiating Green Claims	Following a Roadmap and a public consultation, on 22 March 2023, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal for a directive on “substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims”. The aim of the legislative proposal is to propose common criteria against greenwashing and misleading environmental claims. Before companies communicate on the covered types of claims, these will need to be independently verified and proven with scientific evidence. On 10 December 2020, the MAC adopted advice inspired by the public consultation. On 24 May 2022, the MAC adopted advice on Product Environmental Category Rules (PEFCR) for Marine Fish for Human Consumption.	Presentation of the legislative proposal by COM representative. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitoring developments, none).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAC Advice (2020) - MAC Advice (2022) - COM Press Release - Legislative Proposal
Information + Decision	Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Inorganic Arsenic)	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, 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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation - EFSA Opinion
Information + Decision	Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Stiffening)	Regulation 853/2004 lay down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. On 27 April 2023, COM published a draft delegated act amending these rules, which includes amendments on the stiffening of fishery products.	Presentation of concerns related to the proposed amendment by PSPR. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Delegated Act

			monitoring developments, none).	
Information	Online Sales to Consumers	With the support NextGenerationEU funds and of the Spanish authorities, FEDEPESCA launched an online marketplace, “La Pescadería Artesanal”, exclusively for specialised fishmongers.	Presentation of the initiative by FEDEPESCA. Exchange of views among members.	- Information Page
Consideration	EU Algae Initiative	On 15 November 2022, the European Commission published a communication “towards a strong and sustainable and sustainable EU Algarve sector”. At the 30 March 2023 meeting, COM representatives delivered a presentation on the initiative. It was agreed, as an action item, that the Secretariat would circulate a questionnaire to the members on measures to increase social awareness and market acceptance of algae and algae-based products, which could potentially serve as a basis for a draft advice.	Presentation of the results of the Secretariat’s questionnaire. Consideration of draft advice.	- Communication Presentation - Draft Advice (via email / Members Area)
Consideration	Cell-Based Protein	On 22 December 2022, Horizon Europe launched a call for a project on cultured meat and cultured seafood. At the 30 March 2023 meeting, an introductory presentation about cell-based protein was delivered. It was agreed, as an action item, that a questionnaire would be circulated to the members to gather their views, which could potentially serve as a basis for a draft advice.	Presentation of the results of the Secretariat’s questionnaire. Consideration of draft advice.	- HORIZON project call Presentation - Draft Advice (via email / Members Area)