



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

Benoît Thomassen

Chair

Zoom

Thursday, 30 November 2023

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 09:30 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen
- 09:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (20.09.23)
- 09:40 Actions points
- 09:45 Food Waste
- 10:30 Sustainable Food System Framework
- 11:15 **Break**
- 11:30 Labelling requirements under the Common Market Organisation
- 12:00 Consumer Information
- 12:15 Awareness Campaigns
- 12:50 AOB
- 12:55 Summary of actions points
- 13:00 End of the meeting*

ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2023)

“Taste the Ocean” Campaign:

- Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to the members on existing awareness campaigns at the national level as well as to collect suggestions for other potential EU-level campaigns
- Questionnaire circulated: 27 October – 6 November 2023
- Draft advice circulated: 21 November 2023

Cell-Based Protein of Aquatic Animals

- Agreed draft advice to be put forward to the Executive Committee for consideration and potential adoption
- Advice adopted on 20 September 2023

ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2023)

Substantiation and Communication of Explicit Environmental Claims:

- Secretary General to hold an informal meeting with the most interest members to further analyse the draft advice, which will be followed by a written procedure for consideration by the Working Group
- In case of significant comments under the written procedure, draft advice to be considered again in a future meeting of the Working Group
 - Two informal meetings took place with Oceana, EuroCommerce, ClientEarth, MSC, ADEPALE, EAPO, FEDEPESCA, and EMPA
 - WG3 Written Procedure: 14 – 28 November 2023
 - Consideration of minor comments as AOB

Hygiene and Sanitary Issues

- Draft letter, addressed to be Commission services, on the lack of a scientific opinion from EFSA in the context of the legislative amendment affecting the stiffening procedure to be put forward to the Executive Committee via written procedure
 - Letter to DG MARE & DG SANTE adopted on 23 November 2023

FOOD WASTE

➤ Presentation of the proposal for a directive on EU-level targets for the reduction of food waste

- Anne-Laure Gassin (SANTE D1)

- Niall Gerlitz (MARE C3)

- Proposal for a directive (5 July 2023)

- Member States must reduce food waste, by the end of 2030, by 10% in processing and manufacturing, and by 30% (per capita) jointly at retail and consumption (restaurants, food services and households)

- MAC Advice (30 March 2022)

- Target covering the whole food value supply chain, from farm gate to final consumer

- Target expressed as % of food waste reduction

- Target level differentiated by Member State or collective target on EU level – based on MS contributions

- Advanced target: Reduce food waste in the EU by 40-50%

➤ Exchange of views

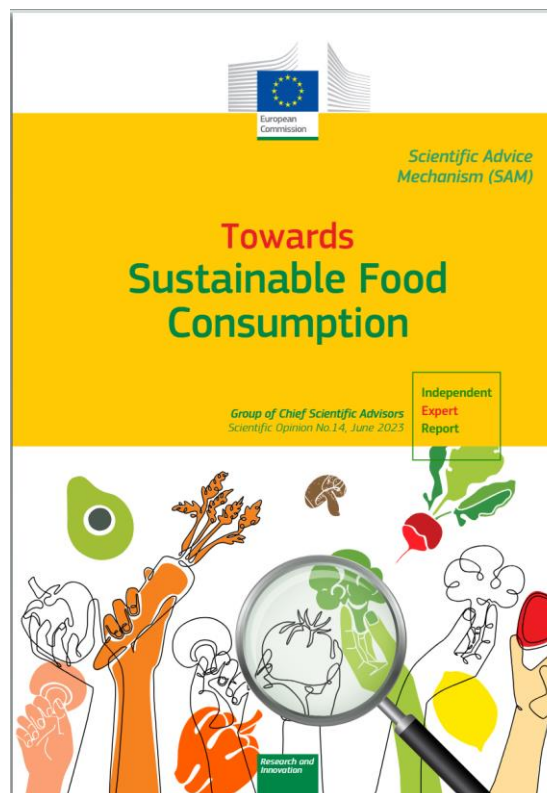
➤ Way forward

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

➤ Presentation of the Chief Scientific Advisory's scientific opinion "Towards Sustainable Food Consumption"

- Prof. Eric Lambin (Group of Chief Scientific Advisors)

➤ Exchange of views



BREAK

➤ **BACK AT 11:30**

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION (CMO): IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

➤ Short presentation of the results of a Member States survey

▪ Gerd Heinen (MARE A4)

▪ Report on Implementation of CMO Regulation (21 February 2023)

- *"Provisions on information to consumers are generally considered fit for purpose, even if certain shortcomings will continue to require some attention, such as differences in coverage and compliance for some outlets. Labelling will remain a point of contention in the supply chain as views and priorities are diverging. Nevertheless, more specific information would be needed to empower the consumer to form a fair idea of products' sustainability".*

➤ Exchange of views

CONSUMER INFORMATION

➤ Presentation of proposal of joint work on the implementation of consumer information rules by Member States

▪ Cécile Fouquet (AAC)

▪ AAC Recommendation on Consumer Information (March 2021)

- *"Finds that inadequate and misleading consumer information on seafood products frequently takes place in the hotel, restaurant, and catering segment (HoReCa)"*
- *"Urges the Commission to reinforce adequate and reliable consumer information, including key animal welfare issues on aquaculture products in the HoReCa sector, in compliance with the FIC regulation"*

▪ DG MARE Reply (15 July 2021)

- *Regarding inadequate and misleading consumer information in the HoReCa segment, we confirm that this segment is not exempted from consumer information requirements as defined in the Common Market Organisation Regulation (Regulation (EU) No1379/2013) and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011. Indeed, the requirements defined in those two regulations apply to the point of sale or delivery to the final consumer, including restaurant and catering segment. It is the responsibility of Member States to ensure that these provisions are correctly applied and enforced.*

➤ Way forward

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

- **Presentation of the results of the Secretariat's questionnaire on potential campaigns for awareness about fishery and aquaculture products in the EU**
 - Questionnaire circulated: 27 October – 6 November 2023
 - Replies: FEDOPA, Conxemar, PSPR
 - Draft advice circulated: 21 November 2023
 - Preliminary feedback: FEDEPESCA, EAPO

- **Consideration of draft advice**

- **Way forward**

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

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