

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

### Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 24 March 2026 (09:30 – 13:00 CEST)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

**09:30 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen**

**09:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (04.02.26)**

**09:40 Action points**

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

**09:45 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- Update on the import of shrimps and prawns from India by Rui Ludovino (SANTE D3)
- Exchange of views

**10:15 Environmental Sustainability**

- Presentation on the climate footprint of marine ingredients by Anne Mette Bæk and James Hinchcliffe (EFFOP – Marine Ingredients)
- Exchange of views

**10:45 EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement**

- Consideration of draft advice on fishery and aquaculture products under the EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement
- Way forward

**11:00 Break**

**11:15 Competitiveness**

- Consideration of the draft advice on competitiveness, simplification, and reduction of administrative burden
- Consideration of the draft advice on competitiveness and the upcoming studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation
- Way forward

**12:00 Nutrition**

- Consideration of the draft advice on the biochemical interaction between selenium and mercury in fishery and aquaculture products



- Way forward

**12:30 Contaminants**

- Consideration of draft advice on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Way forward

**12:50 AOB**

**12:55 Summary of action items**

**13:00 End of meeting**

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## Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	In the recent years, the inspection rate for antibiotic residue in India shrimp has increased. The EU also took measures to officially delist Indian operators. Regulation 2024/25 on antimicrobial use in aquaculture requires third-country export certification and assurance on antibiotic controls. India is not part of the list of approved countries, risking import bans from 3 September 2026. At the 18 September 2025 meeting of Working Group 2, a DG SANTE representative informed that many exchanges between the Commission and the Indian authorities were taking place, including requests for further information.	Update on the import of shrimps and prawns from India by DG SANTE representative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Audit report</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Regulation</a></li> </ul>
Information	Environmental Sustainability	The marine ingredients industry recently undertook a Life Cycle Analysis. In the recent years, several scientific studies were published on the sustainability of marine ingredients, particularly the climate footprint of aquaculture feed.	Presentation on the climate footprint of marine ingredients by EFFOP representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Study</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Study</a></li> </ul>
Consideration	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	On 13 November 2025, the Council formally authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the UK on an agreement for a common sanitary and phytosanitary area. The aim of the SPS agreement is to reduce the burden of trading agricultural products between the EU and the UK by aligning sanitary and phytosanitary rules. At the 4 February 2026 meeting, the Working Group reached agreement on advice on the alignment of rules for bivalve molluscs. It was agreed, as an action item, to prepare advice on other fishery and aquaculture products. The Secretariat circulated a questionnaire from 18 to 27 February 2026.	Consideration of draft advice on fishery and aquaculture products under the EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Advice</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Council Press Release</a></li> <li>- Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)</li> </ul>

Consideration	Competitiveness	In October 2025, the Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to collect views on the ongoing simplification efforts of the European Commission. A proposal of draft advice was considered at the 1 December 2025 meeting. The Working Group agreed, as a way forward, to proceed with the establishment of a Focus Group to further develop the document. The Focus Group divided the mentioned document into two.	Consideration of draft advice on general aspects of competitiveness and simplification. Consideration of draft advice on the upcoming studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation.	- <a href="#">Terms of Reference</a> - Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)
Consideration	Nutrition	At the 4 February 2026 meeting, ORPAGU presented the Interfish decalogue on fish consumption, health, and sustainability. The exchange focused particularly on the effects of mercury, including the relationship with selenium. There are expectations that DG SANTE will soon review the maximum levels of mercury in the large predatory species. It was agreed, as an action point, to proceed with the development of advice.	Consideration of draft advice on the biochemical interaction between selenium and mercury in fishery and aquaculture products	- <a href="#">Report</a> - Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)
Consideration	Contaminants	At the 4 February 2026 meeting, EEB presented a report on PFAs contamination in Europe's water and fish. It was agreed, as an action point, to proceed with the development of advice. Last year, the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the update the priority substances in surface and ground waters.	Consideration of draft advice on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).	- <a href="#">Report</a> - <a href="#">Legislative Observatory</a> - Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)