



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis Preparedness in Food, Animals and Plants
The Director

Brussels
SANTE.A.5/JP/mh(2026)6009689

Subject: Recommendation of MAC concerning Bivalve Molluscs under the EU–UK SPS Agreement

Dear Mr Reis Santos,

Thank you for the recommendations you provided us with.

On 19 May 2025, the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Commission reached a common understanding ⁽¹⁾ and agreed to work towards establishing a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area by way of an EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. The Commission considers that an SPS agreement, once implemented, would bring significant benefits to both the EU and UK economies, as well as to consumers.

The SPS Agreement should cover sanitary, phytosanitary, food safety and general consumer protection rules applicable to the production, distribution and consumption of agrifood products, the regulation of live animals, including shellfish, pesticides, the rules on organics as well as marketing standards applicable to certain sectors or products.

The agreement would require that the UK dynamically aligns to the relevant EU rules and, as a result, movements of animals, **including live bivalve molluscs**, could be undertaken without sanitary checks at the borders and with the same certificates as the ones required for movements between Member States.

Given the current stage of the ongoing negotiations, I am unable to provide further detail, but I would like to stress to that the UK's alignment with EU rules and standards for agri-food products, which rank among the highest in the world, would help ensure consumer safety and protection, while safeguarding public health and animal welfare.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard VAN GOETHEM
Electronically signed

c.c.: C. Boeshertz, J. Poirot (SANTE)
C. Martinez Alberola, B. Adamczyk (SG)
E. M. Carballeira Fernandez, T. Bregeon (MARE)

⁽¹⁾ [A renewed agenda for European Union – United Kingdom cooperation Common Understanding](#)

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