

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

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, 16 September 2026 (14:00 – 17:30 CEST)

Martin's Brussels EU (Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels)

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

14:00 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen

14:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (12.06.26)

14:10 Action points

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

14:15 Food Safety

- Presentation of 2025 overview report "EU Member State Survey on Histamine Controls in Fish" by Gonzalo Granado Lois (SANTE F1)
- Exchange of views

14:45 European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

- Presentation of the study "Consumption of Fishery and Aquaculture Products in the EU" by Safa Souidi (EUMOFA)
- Exchange of views

15:30 Hygiene Rules

- Presentation on the transport of fresh fishery products in small containers filled with iced water by Adrien Simonnet (UMF)
- Exchange of views with Paolo Caricato (SANTE G5)
- Way forward

16:00 Break

16:15 Consumer Behaviour

- Presentation of GlobeScan's survey on "seafood consumer insights 2026" by Richard Stobart (MSC)
- Exchange of views

16:45 Consumer Information

- Presentation on the requirements applicable to fishery and aquaculture products across different consumption channels by María Luisa Álvarez (FEDEPESCA)



- Exchange of views

17:20 AOB

17:25 Summary of action items

17:30 End of meeting

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Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information	Food Safety	On 30 June 2026, the European Commission published a report on official controls of histamine in fishery products, providing an overview of current monitoring practices across EU Member States. Histamine toxicity, also known as scombroid poisoning, is a foodborne illness associated with inadequate maintenance of the cold chain during the storage and handling of fish for human consumption.	Presentation of the 2025 overview report by DG SANTE representative	- Report
Information	EUMOFA	On 14 July 2026, the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products published a comprehensive assessment of the evolution of fishery and aquaculture product consumption in the EU, examining changes in consumption patterns, consumer behaviour and preferences, and the main economic and structural factors shaping demand.	Presentation of the study by an EUMOFA expert.	- Study - Advice
Information + Decision	Hygiene Rules	Following an amendment in 2022, Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 allows the transport of whole and gutted fresh fishery products in cooled water on board vessels and then transported in three-layered polyethylene containers filled with water and ice after arriving at a land establishment. Some Member States appear to tolerate the transport of fresh fish in small containers filled with iced water, even though it is not legally foreseen.	Presentation by UMF representative on the potential relevance of a scientific assessment of the practice. Decision on way forward (e.g., draft advice).	
Information	Consumer Behaviour	Every two years, MSC and GlobeScan undertake a survey on the behaviour of consumers of fishery and aquaculture products, including trends, environmental concerns, health, costs, and relevance of certification schemes.	Presentation of the survey by an MSC representative.	

Information	Consumer Information	Article 35 of the Common Market Organisation Regulation foresees the mandatory provision of specific pieces of information for fishery and aquaculture products covered by Chapter 03 of the Combined Nomenclature. Products covered by Chapter 16 of the Combined Nomenclature are not covered by the mentioned requirements.	Presentation on applicable legislative requirements by FEDEPESCA representative.	- Advice
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