Market Advisory Council

Working Group 2: EU Markets

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 24 November 2026 (13:00 – 18:00 CET)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

13:00 Welcome from the Chair, Stefan Meyer

13:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (16.09.26)

13:10 Action points

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

13:15 EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action

- Exchange of views on the communication published by the European Commission
- Way forward

13:45 Traceability

- Presentation of the study commissioned by the European Commission on feasible traceability systems and procedures for prepared and preserved fishery and aquaculture products by Macarena Davies (Tetra Tech) & Tracy Murai (Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management) (to be confirmed)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

14:30 Break[1]

16:30 Forced Labour Regulation

- Exchange of views on the application of the Forced Labour Regulation to the fisheries and aquaculture value chain with Ana Peña (DG GROW) & Vilija Cimbalaite (DG TRADE)
- Way forward

17:00 CATCH

- Presentation of a whitepaper published by the EU Cluster of Food Traceability and Trust by Vlasis Tsezos (Agritrack)

[1] From 14:30 to 16:30, DG GROW and TRADE will be holding a webinar on sector-specific guidance on identifying and addressing forced labour risks in fisheries supply chains. You can register here.



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- Presentation of a whitepaper published by various Alaskan associations by Julie Decker (Pacific Seafood Processors Association)
- Presentation on the practical experiences of Canadian operators by Carey Bonnell (Fisheries Council of Canada)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

17:50 **AOB**

17:55 **Summary of action items**

18:00 ***End of meeting***

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Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information + Decision	EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action	As part of the "2040 Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture", the European Commission published the "EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action". The strategy sets out the EU's aims for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, multilateral ocean governance, promotion of a level playing field, the fight against IUU fishing, improvements to traceability and control, comparable sustainability standards for imported products, capacity building in third countries, fair working conditions, and food security.	Exchange of views on the communication published by the European Commission. Decision on way forward (e.g., monitoring of specific actions).	- Communication (Annex I) - Staff Working Document - Advice
Information + Decision	Traceability	On 9 January 2024, the revised Fisheries Control Regulation entered into force. Paragraph 9 of Article 58 determines that the European Commission shall conduct a study on feasible traceability systems and procedures for fishery and aquaculture products falling under headings 1604 and 1605 of Chapter 16 of the Combined Nomenclature. In 2025, the Commission selected a consortium to conduct the study. The study is expected to be officially published by the end of 2026.	Presentation of the study by the consultants. Decision on way forward (e.g., monitoring of developments, drafting of advice).	- Presentation - Advice
Information + Decision	Forced Labour Regulation	The Forced Labour Regulation entered into force on 13 December 2024 and will be fully applicable from 14 December 2027 onward. The instrument will prohibit the placing on the EU market of products made wholly or partially with the intervention of forced labour, and of exporting them. On 24 November 2026, DG GROW	Exchange of views on the application of the Forced Labour Regulation to the fisheries and aquaculture value chain with DG GROW and DG TRADE representatives. Decision on	- Regulation - Study - Advice - Letter

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		and DG TRADE will hold a webinar on the applicability of the mentioned regulation to the fisheries sector.	way forward (e.g., monitoring of developments, drafting advice).	
Information + Decision	CATCH	On 10 January 2026, under the revised IUU framework, the use of CATCH for the digitalisation of catch certification procedures became mandatory. In June 2026, the EU Cluster of Food Traceability and Trust about the practical implementation of CATCH. Several operators in third countries have indicated challenges with the implementation of the new system. On 17 September 2026, the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, and the At-sea Processors Association published a whitepaper on the matter.	Presentations on the practical experiences of EU and third country operators with CATCH. Decision on way forward (e.g., monitoring of developments, drafting of advice).	- Advice - Whitepaper - Whitepaper

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