

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Initial Focus Group on Trade

Brussels, 20 January 2021

Rationale

The EU seafood market is heavily dependent on imported supplies to meet consumer demand. The MAC has continuously monitored developments on offensive and defensive opportunities in relation to the various ongoing EU negotiations with third countries on possible new trade deals. There are also other policy instruments that affect the market, such as the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (Standard GSP, Everything But Arms, GSP+) and the ATQs Regulation.

Under the [Work Programme for Year 5](#), the MAC has committed to providing contributions to public consultations as these are launched by the European Commission, plus advices on an ad hoc basis when relevant developments in EU trade negotiations become publicly known. The MAC further committed to an advice on the impact of the EU's trade policy instruments.

At the 22 September WG2 meeting, DG MARE provided a [state-of-play](#) of the most relevant ongoing trade negotiations for the EU seafood market and welcomed input from the MAC. Furthermore, DG TRADE has recently launched a [Trade Policy Review](#) and published the [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#). At the 27 November WG2 meeting, it was agreed that the range of issues involved was beyond the scope of a single focus group and that it would be necessary to proceed in stages, beginning with a review of available information on existing trade policy instruments and their impacts on the market. It was accordingly decided to establish an initial focus group to complete this task.

Purpose

- Collect data on imports of the EU market of fisheries and aquaculture products in the frame of various trade policy instruments
- Contribute with factual information to the development of an advice on trade policy instruments by Working Group 2

Proposed outcomes

- Catalogue of the relevant trade policy instruments with their importance on the EU market supply of fishery and aquaculture products, including, for each instrument:
 - Species/products covered
 - Degree of preference and relevant conditions for market access
 - Import volume of the relevant commercial species/products
 - Country of origin
 - Overall relevance for the EU market
 - Trade flows of raw material and processed products

Composition of the Focus Group

As per the [Guidelines](#), between 5 and 10 persons, on the basis of knowledge of the issue under discussion, while striving for a fair representation of the different stakeholders.

Working languages

- English

Timeline

- First FG meeting in January or February 2021
- Dates of additional meetings to be determined by FG members
- Presentation and final report on the abovementioned catalogue at the May 2021 Working Group 2 meeting

Location

- Meetings via virtual conferencing
- Possibility of in-person meetings at a later stage, if national safety rules allow
- Distribution of information and documents electronically

Resources, inputs and external sources

- Regulatory framework of trade policy instruments
- Data from the European Commission, including background documents, joint communications from the trade committees, and implementation reports
- EUMOFA's trade database
- EUMOFA's EU Fish Market report
- EUROSTAT (e.g. Comext, Prodcom)
- Input from members

Focus Group structure

- Chairperson: TBD by FG members
- Secretariat: Pedro Reis Santos (MAC)

Focus Group membership

SECTOR	ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Primary Producers – Catching Sector	- Guillaume Carruel	- EAPO
Processors, traders, suppliers and retailers	- Visfederatie - AIPCE-CEP - Danish Seafood Association	- Mike Turenhout - Katarina Sipic - Poul Melgaard Jensen
Other Interest Groups	- MSC - WWF - Oceana	- Linnéa Engström - Katrin Poulsen - Vanya Vulperhorst