



Intra-EU Movement of Brown Crab

Background Information for DG SANTE¹

On 8 October 2021, joint MAC-NSAC-NWWAC advice on production and marketing of brown crab in the EU² was adopted. The advice covered several topics, namely EU production, recent scientific monitoring, exports to the People's Republic of China, and Brexit.

East Asia, particularly China, is an increasingly important market for the export of brown crab, which contributes to the viability of the EU sector, while providing higher prices. Nevertheless, different administrative practices in Member States and inconsistencies in the implementation of export requirements by foreign authorities can also negatively impact the EU sector. The Netherlands, in particular, is a popular hub to export

In terms of intra-EU movement, sanitary criteria are expected to be equivalent in the EU. If a product is transported from one Member State to another before exporting to outside of the EU, the second Member State should recognise the health certificate emitted by the first Member State and “restamp”. Nevertheless, this does not always happen in practice. As an example, the Netherlands, an important hub to export brown crab to China, does not recognise the health certificates emitted by Irish authorities. Taking into account the differing EU and Chinese legal frameworks on the testing of cadmium in brown crab meat, the recognition of health certificates is particularly important. The lack of recognition of health certificates translates into significant financial costs for EU exporters, particularly for live brown crab.

¹ At the 28 March 2022 meeting, Working Group 2 agreed, as an action point, that the Secretariat would request an exchange with DG SANTE concerning recognition of health certificates. Prior to that, Pim Visser (VisNed) would prepare a document outlining problems concerning the recognition of health certificates. Therefore, the present document does not constitute advice adopted by the MAC, but merely a background information document.

² <https://marketac.eu/production-marketing-of-brown-crab/>