

Working Group 2: EU Markets

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 (14:30 – 18:00 CET)

Copa Cogeca (Meeting Room A), Rue de Trèves 61, 1040 Brussels

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

14:30 Welcome from the Chair, Pierre Commère

14:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (07.06.23)

14:40 Action points

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

14:45 Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments

- Presentation of the ongoing negotiations on market access for fisheries and aquaculture products to the EU by Vidar Ulriksen, State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

15:15 Fisheries Control Regulation

- Presentation on the political agreement reached on the legislative revision by Juan Manuel Elices López and by Cristina Laborda, General Secretariat of Fisheries of Spain
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

16:00 Break

16:15 EU Market Supply

- Presentation of “The State of Grocery Retail 2023” report by Els Bedert, EuroCommerce
- Exchange of views

16:45 Banning Forced Labour

- Consideration of draft advice on forced labour in the fisheries and aquaculture market
- Exchange of views
- Way forward



17:15 Role and Impact of China on World Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Presentation of European Parliament’s draft own initiative report “Implications of Chinese fishing operations for EU fisheries and the way forward” by MEP Pierre Karleskind, European Parliament
- Exchange of views

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	Trade	Under the Work Programme, trade developments are a priority. In previous meetings, DG MARE representatives provided updates on the ongoing negotiations on market access for fisheries and aquaculture products to the EU. According to the information provided, Norway and Iceland seek a complete liberalisation of market access for fishery and aquaculture products, while the EU does not have a trade-related interest in the liberalisation. Further negotiations were scheduled for August/early September.	Presentation and exchange with representative of Norway for a better understanding of the ongoing negotiations. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none).	- Information Page
Information + Decision	Fisheries Control	In May 2023, provisional political agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the revision of the fisheries control system proposed by the European Commission. The new rules aim for improved monitoring and traceability of catches. In the past, the MAC held several exchanges about the revision and adopted advice on the topic.	Presentation and exchange with Spanish representatives on the main market elements (e.g., definition of lot, traceability, consumer information, IUU, CATCH System, weighing). Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none).	- Legislative Train - MAC Advice - MAC Advice - MAC Advice - Council Press Release - EP Press Release
Information	EU Market Supply	“The State of Grocery Retail” report is an annual publication by EuroCommerce that aims to provide a comprehensive view of the market and future trends. For the preparation of the report, more than 12.000 consumers across eleven European countries and almost 50 grocery executives from more than 20 countries across Europe were interviewed.	Presentation and exchange with EuroCommerce representative about the market and the trends in grocery retail.	- Report

Consideration	Forced Labour	<p>In 2021, President von der Leyen announced that further EU legislative action was needed to tackle the use of forced labour in the value chains of companies operating in the single market. The legislative initiative aims to ban the placing on the EU market of products made wholly or in part by forced labour. The ban would cover both domestic and imported products. It would be combined with risk-based enforcement framework. On 19 September 2022, COM adopted the legislative proposal. At the 26 January 2023 meeting, members agreed on Terms of Reference for an external study on forced labour in the fisheries and aquaculture market. Based on the recommendations of the external study, draft advice was prepared.</p>	Consideration of draft advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information Page - Terms of Reference - Study - Draft Advice (via email / Members Area)
Information	China	<p>The European Parliament's PECH Committee is preparing an own-initiative report on "The implications of Chinese fishing operations on EU fisheries and the way forward". MEP Pierre Karleskind was appointed Rapporteur. Prior to that, the European Parliament commissioned a study reviewing China's mariculture and marine fisheries with emphasis on the operations of its Distant Water Fleets, which has been presented to the Executive Committee. On 13 December 2022, the MAC and the LDAC adopted joint advice on the activities of China's global distant water fleet. A reply from DG MARE is pending.</p>	Presentation and exchange of views about the European Parliament's own-initiative report with the Rapporteur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Observatory - EP Study - ExCom Presentation - MAC Advice