

Working Group 2: EU Markets

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 30 January 2024 (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 (29.11.23)

14:40 Action points

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

14:45 Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments

- Update on latest trade developments by Commission representatives (MARE B3), including:
 - ASEAN (Thailand)
 - European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland)
 - General Scheme of Preferences
 - Mercosur
 - Morocco
 - 2023 Implementation and Enforcement Report
- Exchange of views
- Consideration of draft advice on the negotiation of the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement
- Way forward

15:45 Risks and Vulnerabilities in the EU Food Supply Chain

- Presentation of study on risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain by the Commission's contractor
- Exchange of views

16:30 Break

16:45 IUU Regulation (Catch Documentation Scheme)

- Exchange of views on modifications in the context of the agreement on the legislative revision of the fisheries control system with Commission representatives (MARE B4)
- Way forward

17:15 European Year of Skills

- Presentation of the EU Talent Pool and other new measures on skills and talent to help address labour shortages by Commission representative (TBC)



- Exchange of views

17:50 AOB

17:55 Summary of action items

18:00 End of meeting

DRAFT



Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information + Consideration	Trade	<p>Under the Work Programme, trade developments are a priority. It is established practice for Commission representatives to deliver updates on the latest trade policy developments affecting the market. ASEAN (Thailand), European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland), the General Scheme of Preferences, Mercosur, Morocco, and the 2023 Implementation and Enforcement Report, have been identified as particularly relevant. At the 29 November 2023 meeting, it was agreed, as an action point, that the Secretariat would circulate a questionnaire to the members on the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. The questionnaire was circulated from 19 December 2023 to 10 January 2024.</p>	<p>Presentation and exchange with COM representatives. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none). Consideration of draft advice on the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU-Thailand Trade - EEA Press Release - General Scheme of Preferences Report - EU-Mercosur Trade - Draft Advice (Via Email / Members Area)
Information	Risks and Vulnerabilities	<p>On 21 November 2023, the European Commission published a study that investigates the risks and vulnerabilities affecting food supply and food security in the EU, including differences across Member States, sectors, and stages of the EU food supply chain. At the 27 January 2023 Working Group 3 meeting, the external consultants hired by the European Commission delivered a presentation on the launch of the study and members were encouraged to contact the consultant directly for bilateral interviews. In 2021, the MAC adopted advice on the Contingency Plan for Ensuring Food Supply and Food Security.</p>	<p>Presentation of the study and exchange with the Commission's contractor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study - MAC Advice

Information + Decision	IUU Regulation	<p>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. In the context of the revision, modifications were made to the catch documentation scheme under the IUU Regulation. In the past, the MAC held several exchanges about the revision and adopted advice on the topic. At the 29 November 2023 meeting, Commission representatives presented the new modifications. It was agreed, as an action point, that discussions would continue at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Exchange with COM representative on the changes affecting catch documentation schemes. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Train - MAC Advice - MAC Advice - MAC Advice - Council Press Release - EP Press Release - Presentation - Regulation
Information	European Year of Skills	<p>The Commission adopted a proposal to make 2023 the “European Year of Skills”. On 30 March 2023, the MAC adopted advice about the initiative. On 15 November 2023, the Commission announced new measures on skills and talent to help address critical labour shortages, including an EU Talent Pool to facilitate the recruitment of jobseekers from non-EU countries in EU-wide shortage occupations.</p>	<p>Presentation and exchange with COM representatives on the new measures on skills and talent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAC Advice - Press Release