

Working Group 2: EU Markets

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 2 April 2024 (09:30 – 13:00 CET)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

09:30 Welcome from the Chair, Pierre Commère

09:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (30.01.24)

09:40 Action points

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

09:45 Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments

- Presentation on the call for evidence on better protecting sharks through sustainable fishing and trade by Kinga Malinowska-Facci (MARE B3)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

10:15 Fisheries Control Regulation

- Presentation of new rules of lot composition and traceability of fishery and aquaculture products by Anne Gautrais-Le Goff (MARE D4)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

11:00 Break

11:15 Security and Freedom of Navigation in the Red Sea

- Presentation on recent Houthi attacks on commercial vessels, including monitoring of possible impacts on fishery and aquaculture market, by Commission representative (MARE A4) (TBC)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

11:45 Place of China in the Global Supply Chains of Fishery and Aquaculture Products

- Exchange of views about the Commission's reply to the MAC / LDAC advice "Addressing China's global distant water fleet activities implications for fisheries governance"
- Presentation of investigations on China by Joe Galvin (The Outlaw Ocean Project)
- Exchange of views about the investigations
- Way forward



12:30 Risks and Vulnerabilities in the EU Food Supply Chain

- Presentation of study on risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain by Prof. Simone Severini (University of Tuscia)
- Exchange of views

12:50 AOB

12:55 Summary of action items

13:00 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. On 22 February 2024, in response to the European citizens' initiative "Stop finning – Stop the trade", the European Commission launched a call for evidence on potential measures to better protect sharks. Possible policy measures include unilateral trade measures, bilateral agreements, an EU ban on loose shark fins within the EU market and for international trade, and an international prohibition of trade in loose shark fins.	Presentation of the initiative and exchange with Commission representative. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitor developments, none).	- Call for Evidence
Information + Decision	Fisheries Control	On 9 February 2024, the new Fisheries Control Regulation entered into force. Some provisions are immediately implementable, while other provisions will enter into force after 6 months, two years, four years, or in 2029/2030. New rules on lots will be applicable from January 2026. Digital traceability rules will be applicable for fresh and frozen products after two years. Following a feasibility study, traceability rules will be applicable to prepared and preserved products within five years. Under the Work Programme, the MAC committed to provide advice on the market aspects of the new regulation. From 29 February to 14 March 2024, The Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to gather preliminary input.	Presentation of new rules of lot composition on traceability with Commission representative. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice on the Terms of Reference of the feasibility study and other market aspects of the new regulation, monitor developments, none).	- 2018 MAC Advice - Regulation - EUMOFA Talk - Compilation of Replies to Questionnaire (via email / Members Area)
Information + Decision	Red Sea	Since October 2023, Houthi attacks have targeted vessels in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian, and the Gulf of Oman. The attacks jeopardise the life of	Presentation on the potential impacts and measures to face the crisis by Commission	- EUMOFA Report - Council Press Release

		civilians on merchant and commercial vessels, and breach the freedom of the high seas and the right of transit passage. The Council approved an EU maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea. MARE A4 has been assessing the possible impacts on the fishery and aquaculture sector. EUMOFA is publishing reports on the impacts.	representative. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice, monitoring of developments, none).	
Information + Decision	China	On 13 December 2022, the MAC adopted joint advice with the LDAC about the Chinese distant-water fleet. A letter of reply from the European Commission was received on 16 February 2024. On 17 October 2023, the European Parliament adopted a motion for resolution on “Implications of Chinese fishing operations for EU fisheries and the way forward”. The Outlaw Ocean Project is a non-profit journalism organisation that produces investigative stories about human rights, labour, and environmental concerns. It has published several investigations about China, including illegal fishing and labour and human rights abuses at sea and in processing plants.	Exchange among the members about the Commission’s reply to the joint advice. Presentation by representative of the Outlaw Ocean Project of the investigations on China. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of follow-up advice to the Commission’s reply, drafting of advice about the journalistic investigations, monitoring of developments, none).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAC Advice - Parliament’s resolution - Outlaw Ocean Project
Information	Risks and Vulnerabilities	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	Presentation of the study and exchange with an expert partner of the Commission’s contractor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study - MAC Advice

		adopted advice on the Contingency Plan for Ensuring Food Supply and Food Security.		
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