

Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, 4 February 2026 (14:30 – 18:00 CEST)

European Food Centre (Wandelaarkaai 7 / 61, 8400 Oostende)

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

14:30 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen

14:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (01.12.25)

14:40 Action points

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

14:45 Consumer Information

- Presentation of the Oceana report “the hidden cost of unlabelled seafood: the risk of consuming unethical and unsustainable seafood in Europe” by Marine Cusa (Oceana)
- Exchange of views

15:15 Contaminants

- Presentation of the EEB report “‘Forever Chemicals’ poisoning Europe’s waters and fish: The tip of the PFAS iceberg” by Athénaïs Georges, Sara Johansson (EEB)
- Exchange of views

15:45 Break

16:00 Nutrition

- Presentation of the Interfish decalogue “fish consumption, health and sustainability” by Juana Parada (OR.PA.GU.)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

16:45 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- Presentation of proposal of draft advice on farmed bivalve molluscs and the EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement by Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)
- Consideration of the proposed draft advice
- Way forward



17:30 Focus Group on Competitiveness, Simplification and Reduction of Administrative Burden

- Update on the establishment and work of the Focus Group by Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)

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	Consumer information	Oceana led an investigation to examine how the lack of labelling requirements for squid products sold in the EU could conceal potential links to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, human rights abuse, and unsustainable fishing practices. The report combines DNA analysis with EU trade data on inadequately labelled products in Italy and Belgium. According to the report, there is significant opacity in the market.	Presentation of the report by Oceana representative.	- Report
Information	Contaminants	On 9 September 2025, EEB published a report on PFAs contamination in Europe's water and fish. Their report covers analyses monitoring data from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Sweden. Later that month, the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the update the priority substances in surface and ground waters.	Presentation of the report by EEB representative.	- Report - Legislative Observatory
Information + Decision	Nutrition	On 29 October 2025, following a symposium, Interfish published a decalogue on fish consumption, health and sustainability. The document, via scientific evidence, aims to provide ten reasons for the regular consumption of fishery products. On previous occasions, the MAC adopted advice on the health benefits of fishery and aquaculture products. More recently, the issue of mercury was raised.	Presentation of document by OR.PA.GU. Decision on way forward (e.g., drafting of advice on mercury).	- Report
Consideration	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	On 13 November 2025, the Council formally authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the UK on an agreement for a common sanitary and phytosanitary area. The aim of the SPS agreement is to reduce the burden of trading agricultural products between the EU and the UK by	Presentation of proposal of draft advice on farmed bivalved molluscs by EMPA representative.	- MAC Advice - Council Press Release - Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)

		aligning sanitary and phytosanitary rules. Associations representing the shellfish sector in the EU and in the UK have been working together to suggest better alignment of the rules on shellfish.	Consideration of the proposed draft advice.	
Information	Focus Group on Competitiveness	In October 2025, the Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to collect views on the ongoing simplification efforts of the European Commission. A proposal of draft advice was considered at the 1 December 2025 meeting. The Working Group agreed, as a way forward, to proceed with the establishment of a Focus Group to further develop the document.	Update on the establishment and work of the Focus Group.	- Terms of Reference