



LMC Brussels Update – May 2016

Animal breeding - The EU Council adopted a [new Regulation](#) on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of breeding animals and their genetic material. The past EU legislation in the area was organised according to species, while the new regulation provides a single and streamlined body of provisions for bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species. The revised rules regulate e.g. the recognition of breeding organisations and private undertakings, the approval of their programmes, the entering of animals in specific breeding books and registers, performance testing and genetic evaluation, and the content of zootechnical certificates. Provisions on the performance of official controls in the animal breeding sector are also included. The regulation will enter into force by mid-2016 and apply as from the second half of 2018.

Veterinary medicines residues - EFSA published a [report](#) summarising the monitoring data collected in 2014 on the presence of residues of veterinary medicinal products and certain substances in live animals and animal products in the EU. A total of 736,907 samples were reported to the EU Commission by the 28 EU Member States in 2014 – a drop from the 1 million plus samples in last year's report on 2013 data. The percentage of non-compliant targeted samples (0.37%) was slightly higher compared to the previous 7 years (0.25%–0.34%). There was slightly higher non-compliance for resorcylic acid lactones and contaminants such as metals and mycotoxins.

BSE status in France - A [decision](#) amends the BSE status of France in EU legal texts. Following the notification by France confirming a case of classical BSE in a 5-year-old bovine animal, the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases suspended the negligible BSE risk status of France, and reinstated France's previous status as a country with a controlled BSE risk, with effect from 25 March 2016. According to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, one of the conditions for granting and maintaining the negligible BSE risk status of a country is that, every classical BSE indigenous cases in the country was born more than 11 years ago. The case of classical BSE detected in March in France was in a bovine animal born in April 2011. France will only be eligible to re-apply for negligible risk status in 2022.

Food waste - A [study](#) completed as part of the FUSION project (Food Use for Social Innovation by Optimising Waste Prevention Strategies), funded by the European Commission, estimates food waste in the EU-28 at 88 million tonnes in 2012, including both edible food and inedible parts, with associated costs of 143 billion euros. This equates to 173 kilograms of food waste per person, and around 20 % of the total food produced in the EU in 2011. The sectors contributing most are households and processing, together accounting for 72% of EU food waste. Of the remaining 28%, 11 million tonnes (12%) come from food service, 9 million tonnes (10%) come from primary production and 5 million tonnes (5%) from wholesale and retail. A key recommendation from the study is to increase the number of EU Member States that measure food waste robustly, in particular for the processing sector and the primary production sector.

Future of the CAP - A [report](#) from the EU Parliament on the future European model of agriculture recommends that instead of mainly supporting large, high-tech farm enterprises, agricultural policy should re ground agricultural growth and rural development on the vast majority of small and medium family farms. Such a change implies that Pillar 1 of the CAP (direct payments) be redesigned according to the rationale of Pillar 2 (rural development). The report also focuses on Producer Organisations and their capacity in rebalancing the bargaining power of farmers along the food supply chain. Authors consider key goals in the possible revision of the CMO regulation such as the effective strengthening of farmers bargaining power by e.g. requiring a minimum size for POs or promoting the diversification of the POs' market channels and allowing multi-sector POs.

Greening - A [report](#) from IEEP proposes four alternative approaches for greening, in the context of the debate on CAP simplification: A) abolish green direct payments and revert to using cross compliance as the mechanism for delivering basic environmental management; B) retain the greening measures in Pillar 1 (direct payments), but amend the rules to strengthen the environmental value added by changing the administration, verification and control regime or by raising the level of environmental ambition; C) shift the greening measures from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 (rural development); D) redesign the CAP as a single integrated set of measures in a tiered hierarchy without the distinctions made under the current two-pillar structure. Authors conclude that the last option in particular would provide considerable opportunities to look at agricultural land in a more integrated way than has been the case to date.

Land use - A [report](#) by the European Environmental Agency looks at how the EU's four biggest policies — the Cohesion Policy, Transport Policy, Energy Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy — affect land use across Europe. The report identifies the increased covering up of soil by concrete or pavement (soil sealing), the fragmentation of the landscape due to transport networks, and land degradation due to intensive agriculture and biofuel production, as key challenges. Authors conclude that CAP direct payments have been a driver for the intensification of agriculture and land-related impacts such as soil degradation. But the CAP's cross-compliance requirements, as well as its new 'greening' component, have addressed degradation and land management, while spending for rural development can also have positive results.

Environmental law - The European Commission launched an [Environmental Implementation Review](#) which aims to address gaps in implementation of environmental policies in EU Member States. As a first step, country-specific reports will be drafted every two years as Commission Staff Working Documents, focusing on essential topics in the area of environmental legislation. These reports will highlight the main challenges and successes of each Member State in the implementation of the EU environmental acquis and policies and suggest possible ways forward. Specific issue papers will then be prepared by the Commission to further explore with the Environment Council topics relevant to several Member States.

Climate - In the context of the Paris Agreement's commitment to limit warming in 2100 to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security [identified a preliminary global target](#) for reducing emissions from agriculture of 1 gigatonne of carbon dioxide equivalents (GtCO₂e/yr) by 2030. According to the report, current technologies will only achieve 21-40% of the mitigation target. Scientists therefore call for urgent development and implementation of transformative options, such as investment in methane inhibitors and low-methane breeds in the livestock sector and nitrogen inhibitors for major annual crops.

In July, the Commission is due to present two legislative proposals in the context of the Paris agreement: a proposal on an effort-sharing decision for the reduction of GHG Emissions in sectors outside the ETS (including agriculture) – i.e. distribution of the mitigation efforts between Member States – and another proposal on the integration of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate framework. At the Council, EU Agriculture Ministers considered that coherence should be ensured between the EU food security and climate change objectives in the drafting of the legislative proposals. In particular, a paper from [the Danish and Irish delegations](#) suggested that EU policy should encourage sustainable land management, afforestation and other forest sector mitigation activities, including forest product uses, that contribute to climate change mitigation and sustainably manage soil and forest carbon stocks. Most Member States' contributions also addressed the role soil can play in sequestering carbon. An inter-service consultation is taking place at the Commission on the contribution that carbon credits arising from LULUCF can make to help agriculture meet its GHG reduction target.

Soil - A new [Soil Biodiversity Atlas published by](#) the JRC (EU Commission's science services) maps the soil biodiversity of the entire planet. This atlas provides a detailed analysis of soil organisms and the threats to soil biodiversity at a global scale, including invasive species, pollution, poor land use practices or climate change. It also proposes solutions for sustainable management of soil. Meanwhile, a set of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management is on track to be presented to the FAO Council for adoption and publication in December. The guidelines are meant to serve as a reference of sustainable soil

management principles for an audience ranging from government officials and policy makers to farmers and pastoralists as well as development practitioners.

TTIP - Greenpeace [leaked consolidated texts from TTIP negotiations](#) i.e. texts where the EU and US positions are shown side by side. Among the main issues denounced by Greenpeace and EU health and consumer organisations is the fact that the EU precautionary principle is not enough protected. EU Trade Commissioner Malmström insisted on the fact that consolidated texts do not reflect the outcome of the negotiations and that a potential trade agreement will never lower EU level of protection of consumers, food safety, or the environment.

At the same time, the EU Commission published a [report](#) detailing the progress achieved during the 13th round of TTIP talks (25-29 April 2016). As regards the consolidated text on agriculture, good progress was achieved with respect to the least controversial provisions, but diverging positions remain on export competition and domestic support. Regarding tariffs, agricultural products identified as the most sensitive (e.g. beef) were not discussed yet. EU Agriculture Commissioner Hogan stated that he regretted the lack of breakthrough for agriculture, in particular on SPS barriers, access for EU beef, GIs and wine agreements.

Mexico - EU and Mexico are set to re-launch trade negotiations in Brussels in mid-June. The objective is to modernise and broaden the scope of their existing global agreement from 1997 (which includes a free trade agreement). Mexico is one of the 10 strategic partners of the EU and the first country in Latin America to sign an agreement for an economic partnership, political coordination and cooperation with the EU. The Commission estimates that EU-Mexico trade in goods has almost tripled since the existing trade agreement came into force, reaching EUR 53 billion a year. The EU is now Mexico's third trading partner (8% of foreign trade) after the US (67% of foreign trade) and China (9%), while Mexico is the EU's fifteenth biggest trading partner.