

Brussels, 6th October 2023

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1. EU AgriFish Council - Meeting 18th September 2023 - Main outcomes

The EU AgriFish Council met on 18th September 2023. Ministers focused on the agricultural aspects of the directive on soil health, agricultural issues related to trade, including linked to the latest developments related to Russia's war against Ukraine, the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, and under AOB Sweden informed about the ASF outbreak.

To read more, please click [HERE](#).

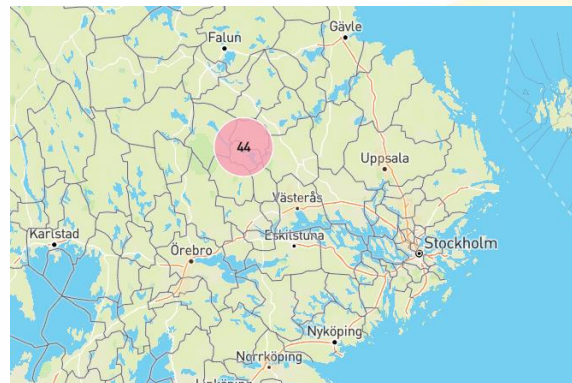
Next meeting: Luxemburg, **23rd and 24th October 2023**

2. ASF confirmed in wild boar in Sweden

Sweden confirmed ASF in wild boar population was confirmed by the national authorities, early September.

Seven wild boars were found, six dead and one dying, and they were later confirmed as ASF positive.

According to the media, the affected animals were found in Fagersta, some 200 kilometres (124 miles) north-west of Stockholm. The origin of the infection would be a municipal waste dump.



According to the Follow-up report n^o6 sent by the Swedish Authorities to WOAHA on 2nd October 2023, 44 outbreaks affecting 46 wild boars (45 found dead and 1 killed and disposed of) have been confirmed so far: 40 in Fagersta, and 4 in Norberg.

3. Waste Framework Directive - Feedback Request by 15th November

The European Commission has opened a feedback period for stakeholders to give their input on its proposal for a Directive on Food waste – reduction targets. Please find the public consultation website [here](#).

The COM published its proposal on 5 July; at that same date it was sent to EP and Council for co-decision. The mandatory targets are part of the Green Deal/ Farm-to-fork goals and have been based on national monitoring data gathered in recent years.

The COM consultation allows us to provide feedback to all three institutions, clarify our views and propose positive steps of action if we want.

The feedback period is open **until 22nd November** (although a date extension is likely due to translation to all EU languages).

In this proposal, different reduction targets for primary production, processing and manufacturing and retail and consumption have been set as follows:

- Primary production: 0%
- Processing and manufacturing: 10%
- Retail and consumption stages: 30%

As this will impact the meat sector, part of the processing stage, you are kindly invited to:

- 1) provide your feedback on the proposal, as well as
- 2) national and /or company data on meat waste (losses and waste, and what kind of statistics exist), and
- 3) information on what is done at national level (proactively or due to national laws) by 15th November.

4. EU agri-food trade rebounds in May 2023

The main findings of the latest monthly agri-food trade report published by the European Commission on 25th August 2023 show that, after the EU agri-food trade slowed down in April, it bounced back with an increase of both imports and exports in May. The higher increase in exports compared to imports allowed the EU agri-food surplus to increase by 2% month-on-month in May, reaching +€5.2 billion.

Exports

EU agri-food exports climbed by 8% month-on-month in May 2023, reaching €19.4 billion, the same amount as in May 2022. Exports from January to May 2023 totalled €95.7 billion overall, up 8% from the corresponding period in 2022.

The top three destinations for EU agri-food exports between January and May were the United Kingdom, the United States and China. Exports to the United Kingdom and China increased compared to 2022, while they decreased in direction of the United States and Egypt.

Imports

EU imports rose as well in May and equalled €14.3 billion, a 10% month-on-month gain. They remained 8% below their level in May 2022, as unit values of agri-food imports have decreased over the year. Since the beginning of 2023, total imports remained 3% higher than at the same period in 2022.

The top three origin countries for EU agri-food imports between January and May were Brazil, the United Kingdom and Ukraine. Imports from Ukraine had increased in comparison to 2022, while imports from Argentina and Russia had decreased.

More insights as well as detailed tables are available [HERE](#).

5. UECBV Animal Health Update / September 2023

Please click [HERE](#) to have access to the Animal Health Update for September 2023.

6. European affairs: State of the Union, Green Deal, EPP event in Parliament

Please find a single note [here](#) that contains information on the following topics:

1. the EU Commission President's "Speech to the EU – SOTEU" on 13th Sept. highlighting the new foreseen "Agri-Dialogue",
2. an overview of the EP about the Green Deal legislation already done or pending as reaction of the SOTEU, and
3. an event held by the EPP on 19th Sept. in line with the AGRI Council the day before.

7. The Commission is not clear about its priorities on Animal Welfare. Future legislation limited to transport?

Politico issued a press note on 5th October 2023. Please find a fragment here below:

ANIMAL PROTECTION CONFINED TO TRANSPORT: *New Green Deal chief Maroš Šefèoviè has provided a new timeline (please find in [here](#) the full replies to additional quesitons from MEPs, included a specific question on the timeline for animal welfare package) of outstanding policy files under the Green Deal that includes a proposal for the "protection of animals during transport," scheduled in December. (...)*

The animal welfare rules were expected to be unveiled last month, and initially consisted of four pillars — the welfare of animals at farm level; during transport; at the time of killing; and a voluntary European label for animal welfare. After weeks of talks, the Commission proposed a scaled-back version that tackled only the transport aspect. (...).

8. UECBV - AGM - October 2023 - Barcelona - Updated version of the programme - New deadline for final registration (11th Oct.)

As a reminder, UECBV will hold it's Annual General Meeting in Barcelona at the end of the month.

Please click [here](#) for having access to the latest version (as at 3rd October) of the programme.

We wish to draw your attention to the following points:

- It is still possible to register but the deadline for final registration is set at 11th October 2023;
- The NetWorking eXperience scheduled for 26th October is cancelled due to a lack of participants;
- About the accommodation, there are no more rooms made available in the venue hotel, so the new participants have to book their hotel rooms by themselves.

For what regards the meetings of the UECBV working groups / sections / internal AGM, you might have seen that some draft agendas have already been circulated. The rest will follow soon.

We are excited at the idea of seeing you again. *Fins aviat! Hasta pronto!*

9. UECBV in CELCAA delegation to WTO

UECBV participated in a mission to the WTO organised by CELCAA from 12th to 14th September, you will find [HERE](#) the report of the mission.

During the mission, delegates met with:

1. The Canadian Permanent Mission in Geneva
2. UNCTAD, Bureau for Trade and Environment
3. WTO Commodities Division
4. WTO Directorate
6. EU Delegation
7. Permanent Mission of India to the WTO
8. Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

These exchanges enabled delegates to get key messages across, build links with these key bodies and, specifically for the meat sector, UECBV was able to secure its participation in the industry advisory committee for the development of eVET, a new online certification system planned to improve the implementation of the SPS Agreement in an effort to better manage international food and animal trade.

10. Meat data dashboards & Commodity Price Dashboard - latest updates

For your information, please receive below the links to the latest updates on the meat data dashboards made available for:

[BEEF](#)

[PIG MEAT](#)

[SHEEP MEAT](#)

11. List of approved EU and third country establishments

Please note that the webpage has changed. It includes both EU and third countries establishments but only modifications for third countries are highlighted below.

Also note that **even if a country is listed with establishments, it does not automatically mean that export from these countries is possible**. Many countries are still on the TRACES NT overview, such as Afghanistan or Bahrein, that are not included in the country approval list ([Regulation EU/2021/404](#), amended by [Regulation EU/2022/424](#) for *Mongolia*) and RMP list ([Decision EU/2011/163](#)). See also [ENSCA PM 300](#)

To have access to the lists: [Click HERE](#).

New updates were published for:

Country	Section	Establishments	Published on
China	Click here	136	19/08/2023
Serbia	Click here	7	22/08/2023
Türkiye	Click here	27	02/09/2023
Pakistan	Click here	44	21/09/2023
Brazil	Click here	36	03/10/2023

12. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

There have been no alerts since the last Circular Letter.

To access the new RASFF Portal: [Click HERE](#).

You can also consult the RASFF alerts published before 3rd June 2021 [HERE](#).

NB: when searching, casings belong to the category "*meat and meat products*".

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