



**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD
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SIX-MONTHLY REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU

**Summary of draft EU legislative proposals submitted by the
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for review by the Oireachtas**

January to June 2010

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
30 July 2010

Introduction

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002. The report provides an overview, in tabular form, of the draft legislative measures falling under the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and which the Oireachtas reviewed during the period 1 January to 30 June 2010 on the basis of Information Notes submitted by the Department. It also provides an update on outstanding proposals reviewed by the Committee prior to 1 January 2010.

In addition the report outlines progress on EU agriculture and fisheries issues under the Spanish Presidency of the European Union during the period 1 January to 30 June 2010. The report also provides a preview of the Belgian Presidency for the period 1 July to 31 December 2010.

Review of the Spanish Presidency

Overview

Spain took over the rotating six-month Presidency of the EU with effect from 1 January 2010. It is the first of the trio of Presidencies, consisting of Spain, Belgium and Hungary, which will hold the Presidency for the period 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2011. The Spanish Presidency was the first to operate fully under the rules of the Treaty of Lisbon which came into force on 1 December 2009 and as such had to expend much of its energies on the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon. In the agriculture and fisheries sector, there is now a full co-decision role for the European Parliament with the Council on most legislative matters and the Presidency had to adjust to new work practices. It also had to deal with the bedding in of a new Commission and European Parliament who were just starting a new term running to 2014.

Despite these challenges the Presidency pursued its theme of “**Agriculture and food, a strategic sector for Europe**” to very good effect. The role of the agriculture sector to the EU economic recovery was recognised by the Heads of State and Government in its Spring European Council Conclusions on the EU 2020 Strategy. At the behest of Ireland and a number of other Member States the European Council conclusions referenced the need for all common policies, including the CAP, to support the strategy. The conclusions went on to state that “a sustainable, productive and competitive agricultural sector will make an important contribution to the new strategy, considering the growth and employment potential of rural areas while ensuring fair competition”. The Presidency also pursued this issue at Council in March and the informal Council in May where the topic for discussion was “Agriculture and reform of the CAP in the perspective of the EU 2020 Strategy”.

The competitiveness of the EU Agri-food model and how the food supply chain could function to greater effect was to the fore in discussions at Council, with the adoption of Council and Presidency Conclusions respectively. These discussions ran along side the Commission High Level Group on Milk which was examining the medium and long term challenges facing the industry arising from the abolition of milk quotas in 2015. This group concluded its work in June with a report and recommendations to be considered in July under the Belgian Presidency.

Discussions on the “Future of the CAP”, a feature of all Presidency programmes in the run up to the Commission Communication on the matter, continued focussing on market management measures with Presidency Conclusions agreed at March Council. The Council also held an exchange of views on the simplification agenda in June. The programme of codification and simplification and repeal of obsolete legislation also continued, however it was somewhat constrained as the Commission were required to amend certain texts to take account of the new arrangements under the Treaty of Lisbon.

Another priority of the Presidency was to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality in the agriculture sector and this issue was debated by Ministers in May.

On animal health and welfare the Council in February debated the options for animal welfare labelling. The Presidency concluded the “Pet Passport” proposal which provides for the continuation until end of 2011 of additional safeguards for those Member States including Ireland who are traditionally free from rabies.

On forestry the Presidency secured first reading agreement on the regulation to prevent the placing of illegal timber on the EU market. It also reached agreement with the Congo on measures to ensure that only legally produced timber can be exported to the EU from the Congo.

The Presidency continued the debate on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and discussed the results of its consultation process at the Informal meeting of Fisheries Ministers in Vigo. It also commenced discussions on the fishing opportunities for 2011. It made progress on proposals for long term management plans for Anchovy, Horse Mackerel and Northern Hake.

The Future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The Presidency facilitated the ongoing consideration by Council of the Future of the CAP. The Presidency brought forward a paper outlining the main market-related issues facing the CAP, assessing the effectiveness of existing measures and identifying a range of possible additional or complementary measures for the future. Council considered this paper in February and adopted Presidency conclusions at March Council. These conclusions noted the need to maintain an efficient safety net for producers, to examine other market measures, to explore the benefits of risk management measures (e.g. insurance schemes) and the need to have a legal mechanism to respond to crisis in the market, while also taking into account price volatility, the need for income stabilisation and food security issues. The importance of having an adequately funded CAP was emphasised by many Member States.

The European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee adopted an own initiative report by George Lyon MEP¹ in June which will be debated at a plenary session of Parliament in July. These deliberations by Council and European Parliament will be considered by the Commission when drafting its Communication on the future of the CAP which is expected in November 2010.

¹ European Parliament Report A7-0204/2010

EU 2020 Strategy and Agriculture

The European Council in its Spring conclusions noted the role of CAP and recognised the significant contribution the agriculture/food sector can make to growth at EU level. The strategy was debated at Agriculture Council in March, and the informal Council in Merida in June considered a Presidency paper “Agriculture and reform of the CAP in the perspective of the EU 2020 Strategy”. There was unanimous agreement that agriculture has a crucial contribution to make to the strategy in terms of sustainable growth, rural employment, territorial cohesion, mitigating climate change, economic growth, increasing exports and social inclusion. Issues discussed included the need to have a strong and well resourced CAP, to ensure security of food supply, to maintain direct payments and rural development pillar structures, to strengthen rural development measures, to simplify the CAP, to focus on increased competitiveness and innovation in future policy.

International Competitiveness of the Agri-Food Model

Much of the discussions during the Presidency focussed on the international competitiveness of the EU Agri-food model and on the functioning of the food supply chain. In January Council debated the Commission Communication on the “Better Functioning of the Food Supply Chain” based on a Presidency questionnaire. Discussions concluded with the adoption of Presidency Conclusions in March. The Conclusions focussed on improving the structure and consolidation of the agro-food sector (strengthening Producer Organisations), increasing transparency (using the European Food Prices Monitoring tool), combating unfair practices through stricter controls and easier reporting procedures, encouraging self-regulation initiatives (voluntary codes of practice and setting up a European Stakeholders Forum) and a possible review of CAP and competition policy to see how producers bargaining power can be strengthened within these rules.

The Communication also refers to the High Level Group on Competitiveness within the Agro-Food chain which is operating in parallel. This group adopted a roadmap of 30 recommendations in July 2009 with specific recommendations which tailored with the above conclusions. The High Level Group on Milk which was examining the medium and long term challenges facing the industry arising from the abolition of milk quotas in 2015 was also dealing with similar issues. This group concluded its work in June with a report and recommendations which will be considered in July under the Belgian Presidency.

The Presidency hosted a conference in Seville in April on “Reinforcing the External Aspect of the European Agri-food Model”, and held discussions on the impact of EU rules on competitiveness of the agriculture sector in various forum. Ministers debated the issue of the International Competitiveness of the European Food Model at May Council. There was a broad consensus that higher European standards should be promoted and highlighted in international agreements and internally to EU consumers and a view that new standards should not be introduced without adequate impact assessment. These discussions were reflected in the Council Conclusions adopted at June Council.

EU Mercosur negotiations

Negotiations for an agreement with the Mercosur group of South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) were originally launched in 1999 but were

suspended in 2004 arising from major differences between the two sides in expectations across a range of headings including industrial goods, agriculture, services and intellectual property.

At the initiative of both the Spanish Presidency and the Argentinean Presidency of Mercosur, the EU Commission College took a decision in early May to re-launch negotiations with Mercosur. The first negotiating round took place from 29 June to 2 July, 2010 and focused on process.

A number of Member States, are supportive of the launch of the negotiations. However, Ireland and some other Member States raised reservations on the relaunch of the talks and submitted a joint paper which was discussed at the 17 May Agriculture Council, raising concerns on the impact on the WTO negotiations, seeking clarification and assurances in relation to any future talks and detailed analysis of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the anticipated outcome of these negotiations. Ireland's position was also set out in COREPER and at several meetings of the EU Trade Policy Committee, in bilateral meetings with Commission and at the Agriculture Council on 29 June 2010 in the context of the Argentinean restrictions on food imports. These negotiations will be very closely monitored.

Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

CAP simplification was the subject of discussion in several different contexts during the Spanish Presidency. At the June Council the Commission gave a presentation of recent and upcoming efforts on simplification. It also considered a paper submitted by a number of Member States including Ireland urging continued simplification both at technical level and in the policy deliberations for CAP after 2013 as a matter of priority. Most Member States (including Ireland) were satisfied with the progress made to date on simplification, particularly in regard to the 39 suggestions made by Member States in 2009². A number of suggestions made by Ireland were taken on board by the Commission in the areas of Risk Analysis, definition of eligible land under the Single Farm Payment, and on the lack transparency in regard to penalties and obligations imposed on farmers for rural development support measures. Member States raised issues regarding the necessity for greater rationalisation of cross-compliance rules and the need for more risk-based controls and audits moving away from flat-rate corrections. Both Commissioners for Agriculture and Health committed to work together on simplification of cross-compliance measures in the context of CAP post 2013 negotiations.

High Level Group (HLG) on Milk

The High Level Group (HLG) on Milk was established by Commissioner Fischer Boel to examine a series of mid-term and long-term issues in the dairy sector arising from the expiry of milk quotas. It delivered its report in June. Its recommendations cover seven main areas (contractual relations, bargaining power of producers, inter-branch organisations, transparency, market management measures, marketing standards/labelling and innovation/research). The report will be discussed further under the Belgian Presidency when the Commission will consider further action where necessary. Council also reviewed the 2 quarterly reports on the dairy market (March and

² Council Document 9103/09

June) which indicated that the general situation had improved with the Commission now gradually releasing intervention stocks to the markets.

Bananas Regime [COMs (2010) 96, 97 and 98]

The Spanish Presidency signed an agreement with Latin American Bananas suppliers to reform the EU trading regime for fresh bananas bringing an end to a long running dispute in the WTO concerning the EU banana regime. The dispute concerned access to the EU banana market where African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have traditionally enjoyed duty free access and where Latin American bananas have been subject to high import tariffs. The discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on the tariff rates for bananas which will reduce existing tariff rates on the importation of bananas into the EU from Most Favoured Nation countries will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

Animal Health and Welfare

In the area of animal health, the Presidency progressed work on the “Action Plan for the Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013”. The report, on “*Options for animal welfare labelling and the Establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals*” was discussed at the February Council. The Report examines the effectiveness of the current instruments, legal framework and measures as regards information on animal welfare, if and how they might be improved and what new mechanisms (if any) are needed. It presents a range of issues concerning animal welfare labelling and communication, and the possible establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals. There was general support at Council for a voluntary harmonised flexible EU system of labelling to reflect animal welfare inputs to products.

Pet Passports/Rabies regime [COM (2009) 268]

This proposal called for an extension of the transitional arrangements for the non-commercial movement of pet animals (e.g. pet cats and dogs) until 31 December 2011 and was a priority of the Spanish Presidency. Ireland strongly supported the proposal which provides for additional safeguards for those Member States historically free of rabies (Ireland, UK, Sweden, Finland and Malta). The proposal had been progressed under the Swedish Presidency. The Spanish Presidency secured first reading agreement with the European Parliament in April and the final legal texts were adopted and published in May.

Plant Health/ Forestry issues

Biocides – [COM (2009) 267]

The proposal to revise the EU rules governing the placing on the market of biocidal products was progressed during the Spanish Presidency. The proposed Regulation will replace the existing legislation set out in Directive 98/8. The revision seeks to remedy a number of weaknesses that were identified during the first eight years of its implementation and reduce the financial and administrative burdens for SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises). A public consultation was concluded at the end of February with contributions from FSAI, Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Justice and Law Reform and IBEC. Further input has also been provided, during March and April, by European organisations (CEFIC, PAN) and consultancies. All responses have been considered and incorporated into the Irish position, where appropriate. A full stakeholder seminar

meeting is planned for the Autumn in order to provide the final Irish positions taking account of current developments in Council and the European Parliament. Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

Forestry protection [COM (2010) 66]

In follow-up to last year's White paper on *"Adapting to Climate Change: towards a European Framework for action"* the Commission in March adopted a Green Paper on *forest protection and information in the EU*. This paper sets out options for an EU approach to the protection of forests and to information about forest resources and their conditions. It also sets out the main challenges facing European forests in a changing climate and provides an overview of tools available to ensure forest protection. It also outlines existing forest information systems that could be used to address the challenges and monitor environmental impacts and effects of actions.

A public consultation process being undertaken by the Commission will conclude on 31 July 2010. In April the Presidency held a high level conference on Forest protection in Valsaín, Spain, the conclusions of the 'Valsaín Declaration'³ were adopted at the June Environment Council.

VPA with Congo [COM (2009) 697 and COM (2010) 118]

In May the EU and the Republic of the Congo signed a Voluntary partnership Agreement (VPA) with which provides a legal framework aimed at ensuring that all imports into the EU from Congo of timber products covered by the VPA have been legally produced. Under the VPA imports of timber products from Congo to the EU will have to be accompanied by a forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) licence. This licensing scheme verifies through supply chain controls, legal compliance framework and independent audit, that the timber products are legally produced. The agreement is voluntary, however it will become legally binding once ratified by both parties.

Placing of illegally harvested timber on the market [COM (2008) 644]

The Council and European Parliament following intensive negotiations reached agreement at first reading on a proposal that will ban illegally harvested timber from entering the EU. The proposal sets out the obligations on operators who place timber and timber products on the market. This proposal is based on the due diligence principle requiring operators to minimise the risk of placing illegally harvested timber and timber products on the EU market. The general objectives of the proposal include the support of the international fight against illegal logging and related trade, and the reinforcement of EU consumers' confidence in timber. Final adoption of the proposal and publication of the regulation is now expected under the Belgian Presidency.

Fisheries

Green Paper on Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has been in operation since 1983 and has been subject to 10 yearly reviews, the next of which is due in 2012. The Commission published a Green Paper in April 2009 and subsequently launched a consultation process on the reform of the CFP. The results of this consultation were published in April, and discussed at the informal meeting of Fisheries Ministers in Vigo, Spain.

³ Council document number 9305/10

Ministers at Council in June debated the options for change including a no policy change scenario. Commission suggested some solutions including the introduction of Individual Transferable Quotas (transferable only within Member States), a solution opposed by Ireland and some other Member States. Other issues discussed included criteria to define “small scale fishing”, governance and discards. The Commission has also initiated a broader assessment of the impact of the CFP reform, which will focus in particular on the environmental, the economic and the social aspects in this impact assessment. This analysis will be used in preparation of the legal proposals for the reformed policy, the impact assessment should be finalised in autumn 2010. The Commission proposes to hold a major conference on the reform in November. It will be followed by a legislative proposal to the Council and the European Parliament around June 2011, with a view to its entering into force in 2012.

Fishing Opportunities

The Commission’s Communication on fishing opportunities for 2011⁴ was discussed at the June Council in Luxembourg. The Communication sets out the general approach to be taken by the Commission in formulating its proposals for fishing opportunities in 2011. This will constitute a basis for consultation with stakeholders and Member States. The document outlines the state of the stocks, the need to reduce capacity, the Commission's continued commitment to long-term plans and possible new rules governing the setting of some total allowable catches (TAC) scheduled to be decided in the last quarter of 2010.

Bilateral Agreements with EU and third Countries

The conclusion of the EU/Faroe and the EU/Norway consultations in January allow for the fixing for 2010 of fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Norwegian and Faroese waters as well as for Norwegian and Faroese vessels in EU waters [COM(2010)23]. The successful conclusion of the EU/Norway consultations was particularly important for Ireland in respect of Mackerel, which, from an economic perspective, is our most important stock. Several other bilateral agreements were progressed with discussions to continue under the Belgian Presidency.

Preview of Belgian Presidency

Belgium took over the rotating six-month Presidency of the EU with effect from 1 July 2010. It is the middle Member State of the trio of Presidencies, taking over from Spain, and to be followed by Hungary. It will progress the work set out in the agreed Trioka programme of work continuing under the theme of “**Agriculture and food, a strategic sector for Europe**”. The Presidency proposes to put the Treaty of Lisbon fully into practice, particularly with regard to the extension of co-decision to agriculture and fisheries legislation.

Presidency priorities

The main agriculture priorities for the Presidency are the Future of the CAP and the Dairy sector. The fisheries priorities include Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Fishing opportunities for 2011, continuing work on the multi-annual plan for Atlantic horse mackerel, and Anchovy stock in Bay of Biscay. It will also seek agreement on technical measures. Fisheries Councils are scheduled for October, November and December.

⁴ Council documents 9888/10 & 10913/10

The Presidency will also progress initiatives expected from the Commission during its Presidency including distribution of foodstuffs to the less well off, a Commission report on the Outermost Regions of the EU⁵, proposals to adapt existing agricultural legislation to the Lisbon Treaty and simplification of agricultural legislation in the area of rural development and direct payments, and a Commission report on the farm advisory service. The Presidency will continue to monitor developments in WTO/DDA and other bilateral negotiations which may impact on the agriculture sector.

On Plant Health it will consider the evaluation report on the operation of the plant health regime with a view to simplification. The Agriculture Council will also monitor the developments in connection with the GMO framework in particular a new proposal expected in July providing the option for Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs on their territory.

On animal health discussions will focus on the TSE Roadmap II with a view to reaching Council Conclusions. It will also discuss the options for funding of the animal health strategy.

Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The Simplification of the CAP remains a priority during this Presidency. The Presidency intends to extend simplification activities to other areas including veterinary, phyto-sanitary and environmental areas. The necessity for greater rationalisation of cross-compliance rules and the need for more risk-based controls and audits moving away from flat-rate corrections; animal identification and the rural development regulation were highlighted as priority areas for further simplification. Upcoming initiatives are expected to include the revision of the plant health regime, consolidation of the seed marketing directives and revision of the animal identification rules. Nineteen of the 39 suggestions made by Member States in 2009⁶ have already been implemented; other proposals will be addressed in the simplification package to be revealed at the October Council.

The future of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) post 2013

The Belgian Presidency will be prioritising work on the future of the CAP. The outcome of the Commission's public consultation process will be assessed at a two day conference in July. It will continue the consultation process on the future of policy post-2013 at the Informal Council in September. It will hold a policy debate in December on the Commission Communication, due to be published in November. Discussions will continue into the Hungarian Presidency in the first half of 2011 with a view to adopting Council Conclusions in March 2011.

High Level Group on Dairy

The Presidency will organise a debate on the report and recommendations of the Milk High Level Group of 15 June 2010 at Council in July. It will return to this matter again in September when an interim report is expected from the Commission on expiry of milk quotas. The Commission is expected to present a package of specific legislative

⁵ French Overseas Department, the Azores and Madeira and the Canary Islands

⁶ Council Document 9103/09

proposals arising from these reports with an initial exchange of views scheduled for December Council.

Competitiveness of the Agri-Food Sector

A Conference for a Competitive European Agri-Food Industry is planned for 14 October 2010.

Phytosanitary, Veterinary and Food Safety issues

Agricultural Product Quality

The Presidency has also indicated its intention to open a debate on a review of Europe's agricultural product quality policy. Legislative proposals from the Commission are expected by the end of 2010 and are likely to incorporate some of the issues on marketing standards and origin labelling raised in the report of the High Level Group on Milk.

Plant Health

The Belgian Presidency and Commission will co-host a conference on 28 September which will feature a presentation on the results of the public consultation on the Community Plant Health regime. The Belgian Presidency will also coordinate Europe's position in negotiations with third countries with a view to facilitating the sanitary and phytosanitary conditions applicable to imports and exports.

Genetically Modified Organisms

The Belgian Presidency has also indicated that Council will keep under review issues relating to genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Commission is expected to table a legislative proposal to change Directive 2001/18⁷, in early July which will provide a legal basis for Member States who wish to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs on their territory.

Animal health

TSE Road Map 2010-2015

A new Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Roadmap for 2010-2015 is expected to be presented early in the Belgian Presidency. This roadmap will review the measures in place for TSE and consider what actions should be taken over the next 5 years. At the same time, the Belgian Presidency intends to commence discussions on the question of financing the prevention and control of animal diseases.

Forestry

Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information

Another priority of the Belgian Presidency is the Green Paper on Forest Protection and information. The end of the public consultation launched by the Commission is scheduled for 31 July 2010. The responses received will inform and guide Commission considerations regarding additional action at EU level to better prepare EU forests for climate change and enhance the fulfillment of their functions. The Green Paper sets out the main challenges facing Europe's forests, which cover more than 42 percent of the European Union's land area.

⁷ Directive 2001/18/EC - on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EE

Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)

The Voluntary partnership Agreement (VPA) provides a legal framework aimed at ensuring that all imports into the EU of timber products covered by the VPA have been legally produced. Under the VPA's imports of timber products into the EU will have to be accompanied by a forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) licence. This licensing scheme verifies through supply chain controls, legal compliance framework and independent audit, that the timber products are legally produced. The Presidency intends to progress discussion on VPA's with Cameroon.

Placing of illegally harvested timber on the market

The Presidency will finalise the work carried out under the Spanish Presidency which aims to minimise the risk of illegally produced timber or timber products being placed on the EU market. Final adoption of the Regulation in Council and its signature by the representatives of the co-legislators is expected in October.

Fisheries Priorities

The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is a priority for the Belgian Presidency. The Commission proposes to hold a major conference on the CFP reform in November. The Presidency will stage an international symposium on 9/10 November to discuss improved cooperation between scientists and fishermen in a joint quest for sustainable fisheries with the findings to be discussed over lunch at November Council. The Presidency will organise a debate on the reform of the CFP at November Council. Legislative proposals on the reform are expected in June 2011.

Fishing Opportunities

The Belgian Presidency will work to reach a political agreement on fishing opportunities for 2011 and 2012. The Belgian Presidency is also prioritising work concerning multi-annual fishing management plans; especially the multi-annual plans concerning anchovy stocks and western stocks of Atlantic horse mackerel. These must be adopted during the second half of 2010. In addition, the Presidency will contribute actively to the evaluation of the plan for managing stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea and shall commence work concerning the future long-term plan for salmon in the Baltic Sea.

Bilateral Agreements with EU and Third Countries

The Presidency will progress the work on renewing a number of protocols to Fisheries Partnership Agreements and traditional annual negotiations with Greenland, Faroe Islands and others. It will also work at the agreement between the EU and Norway.

Draft legislative measures reviewed by the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on European Scrutiny

Table A summarises progress on the legislative proposals reviewed by the Oireachtas in the period January to June 2010.

- **Twenty** Information Notes were submitted by the Department and reviewed by the Oireachtas in the first six months of the year.
- **Twelve** proposals have been adopted.
- **Seven** proposals have not been adopted with discussions to continue under the Belgian Presidency.
- **One** proposal recorded a “no opinion” and was subsequently adopted by the Commission under comitology procedures.

Table B summarises progress made during the Spanish Presidency on the **twenty-four** outstanding proposals for which Information Notes were submitted to the Oireachtas prior to January 2010 by the Department.

- **Three** of these proposals have since been adopted.
- **Three** proposals were superseded by new proposals
- A number of other proposals are now subject to co-decision with the European Parliament since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Useful Websites

EU Legislation printed in the Official Journal:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>

Website search for EU legislation:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

EU Agriculture Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

EU Fisheries Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/index_en.htm

EU Food Quality Information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/>

EU Food supply chain:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/articles/structural_reforms/article16028_en.htm

EU Animal Health and Welfare Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index_en.htm

EU Animal Health Strategy

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis_cahp_en.htm

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 539	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (single CMO Regulation) - Dairy measures	No further scrutiny 28/01/2010	Adopted by Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 20 November 2009 as Council Regulation (EC) No 1140/2009 of 20 November 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) (OJ L312, 27.11.2009 p4) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:312:0004:0005:EN:PDF
COM (2009) 541	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture	No further scrutiny 28/01/2010	Discussions will continue under the Belgian Presidency on the amended proposal set out in COM(2010)393

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 613	Proposal for a Council Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MIR604 (SYN-IR6Ø4-5) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council	No further scrutiny 12/01/2010	Adopted by act of Commission as Commission Decision of 30 November 2009 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MIR604 (SYN-IR6Ø4-5) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (2009/866/EC) (OJ L314, 01.12.2009 p102) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:314:0102:0105:EN:PDF

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 636	Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for the 2010 fishing year the guide prices and Community producer prices for certain fishery products pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000	28/01/2010 Based on the information provided by the Department, it was agreed to note this adopted proposal. It was further agreed to send it to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for information.	Adopted by Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 30 November 2009 as Council Regulation (EC) No 1212/2009 of 30 November 2009 fixing for the 2010 fishing year the guide prices and Community producer prices for certain fishery products pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 (OJ L327 12.12.2009 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:327:SOM:en:HTML

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 650	Proposal for a Council Decision repealing Council Decision No. 2009/473/EC concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the provisional application of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea	No further scrutiny 12/01/2010	Adopted at Council (Environment) on 22 December 2009 as Council Decision of 22 December 2009 repealing Decision 2009/473/EC concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the provisional application of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea (2009/1016/EU) (OJ L348, 29.12.2009 p53) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:348:0053:0054:EN:PDF
COM (2009) 679	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing of a voluntary partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of the Congo on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT)	No further scrutiny 09/02/2010	Decision adopted at Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 May 2010. Agreement was signed by both parties on 17 May 2010.

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2010) 023	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 23/2010 as regards the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and following the conclusion of the bilateral fisheries arrangements for 2010 with Norway and the Faroe Islands	No further scrutiny 23/03/2010 Given the importance of this proposed Regulation, which sets the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and national fishing quotas for 2010, for the Irish fishing industry and the fact that the agreement with Norway allows for the setting of quotas for mackerel catches, Ireland's most important stock from an economic perspective, it was agreed that this proposal warrants further scrutiny. To this end, it was agreed that the proposal is referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for detailed scrutiny	Adopted by Council (Environment) on 15 March 2010 as Council Regulation (EU) No 219/2010 of 15 March 2010 amending Regulation (EU) No 53/2010 as regards the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and following the conclusion of the bilateral fisheries arrangements for 2010 with Norway and the Faroe Islands (OJ L71, 19.03.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:071:0001:0038:EN:PDF
COM(2010)075	Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of amendments to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries	No further scrutiny 15/06/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

TABLE A

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2010) 096	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1964/2005 on the tariff rates for bananas	No further scrutiny 11/05/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2010) 097	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of a Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of an Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States	No further scrutiny 11/05/2010	Adopted by Written Procedure on 10 May 2010 as Council Decision of 10 May 2010 on the signing and provisional application of the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of the Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States of America (2010/314/EU) (OJ L141, 09.06.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:141:0001:0002:EN:PDF

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2010) 098	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of an Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States	No further scrutiny 11/05/2010	Adopted by Written Procedure on 10 May 2010 as Council Decision of 10 May 2010 on the signing and provisional application of the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of the Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States of America (2010/314/EU) (OJ L141, 09.06.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:141:0001:0002:EN:PDF
COM (2010) 118	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a voluntary partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of the Congo on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT)	No further scrutiny 11/05/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2010) 139	Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the Food Aid Committee as regards the extension of the Food Aid Convention, 1999	No further scrutiny 25/05/2010	Adopted at Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 3 June 2010 as Council Decision of 3 June 2010 establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the Food Aid Committee as regards the extension of the Food Aid Convention 1999 (2010/316/EU) (OJ L142, 10.06.2010 p7) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:142:0007:0008:EN:PDF

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2010) 144	Proposal for a Council Decision on the provisional application of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Solomon Islands	No further scrutiny 25/05/2010	Adopted at Council (Environment) on 11 June 2010 as Council Decision of 3 June 2010 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and on provisional application of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Solomon Islands (2010/397/EU) (OJ L190, 22.07.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:190:0001:0002:EN:PDF The Agreement will be applied retrospectively from 9 October 2009.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2010)146	Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Solomon Islands	No further scrutiny 15/06/2010	Adopted at Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 3 June 2010 as Council Regulation (EU) No 621/2010 of 3 June 2010 concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Solomon Islands (OJ L190, 22.07.2010 p29) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:190:0029:0029:EN:PDF The Regulation applies retrospectively from 9 October 2009.
COM (2010) 152	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean	No further scrutiny 25/05/2010	Adopted at Council (Transport, Telecommunication and Energy) on 24 June 2010. Decision will be published in the Official Journal.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2010)153	Proposal for a Council Decision on the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on the provisional application of the Understanding concerning the conservation of swordfish stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean	No further scrutiny 15/06/2010	Adopted at Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 3 June 2010 as Council Decision of 3 June 2010 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Understanding between the European Union and the Republic of Chile concerning the conservation of swordfish stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean (2010/343/EU) (OJ L155, 22.06.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:155:0001:0002:EN:PDF
COM(2010)154	Proposal for a Council Decision of [...] on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on the conclusion of the Understanding concerning the conservation of swordfish stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean	No further scrutiny 15/06/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2010)177	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Solomon Islands	No further scrutiny 15/06/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2010)249	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on permanent crops	No further scrutiny 29/06/2010	Discussions will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 553	Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2010 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required	No further scrutiny 01.12.2009 Forwarded to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for further scrutiny and to the Joint Committee on European Affairs for information.	Adopted by Written Procedure on 14 January 2010 as Council Regulation (EU) No 23/2010 of 14 January 2010 for fixing for 2010 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in EU waters and, for EU vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required and amending Regulations (EC) No 1359/2008, (EC) No 754/2009, (EC) No 1226/2009 and (EC) No 1287/2009 (OJ L21, 26.01.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:021:0001:0120:EN:PDF

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 516	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council repealing Council Decision 79/542/EEC drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat	No further scrutiny 08.12.2009	Adopted at Council (General Affairs) on 26 April 2010 as Decision No 477/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 repealing Council Decision 79/542/EEC drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat (OJ L135, 02.06.2010 p1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:135:0001:0002:EN:PDF
COM (2009) 510	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 247/2006 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union	No further scrutiny 15.12.2009	Agreement was reached at Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) 29 June 2010 and adoption is expected early in the Belgian Presidency

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 506	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 43/2009, as regards fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks	No further scrutiny 08.12.2009 Forwarded to Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and food for information.	Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 505	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 754/2009 excluding certain groups of vessels from the fishing effort regime laid down in Chapter III of Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008	No further scrutiny 08.12.2009 Forwarded to Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for information.	Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 477	Proposal for a Council Regulation on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement Area	No further scrutiny 01.12.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 470	Council Decision on the establishment of the Community position to be adopted in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	No further scrutiny 01.12.2009	Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 406	Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> and amending Regulation (EC) No 1984/2003	No further scrutiny 13.10.2009 Given the information provided it was agreed to note this document.	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Agreement was reached at Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) 29 June 2010 with adoption expected early in the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 399	Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a long-term plan for the anchovy stock in the Bay of Biscay and the fisheries exploiting that stock	No further scrutiny 22.09.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 299	Proposal for a Council Directive on the marketing of seed potatoes (codified version)	No further scrutiny 03.09.09	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM (2009) 268	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals	No further scrutiny 03.09.2009	Adopted at Council (General Affairs) on 26 April 2010 as Regulation (EU) No 438/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals (OJ L132, 29.05.2010 p3) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:132:0003:0010:EN:PDF

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009) 267	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing on the market and use of biocidal products	No further scrutiny 03.09.2009	Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2009)189	Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for the western stock of Atlantic horse mackerel and the fisheries exploiting that stock	No further scrutiny 30.06.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2009)151	Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down a Scheme of control and enforcement applicable in the area covered by the Convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-East Atlantic fisheries	No further scrutiny 16.06.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM (2009)122	Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a long-term plan for the northern stock of hake and the fisheries exploiting that stock	No further scrutiny 28.07.2009 It was agreed to note this measure and request the Department to update the committee on the progress made in the negotiations. The proposal will also be sent to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for their information.	A progress report was submitted to the Oireachtas on 2 September 2009. Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2008)873	Proposal for a Council Directive laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community (codified version)	No further scrutiny 17.02.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2008)697	Proposal for a Council Directive laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness (codified version)	No further scrutiny 27.01.2009	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2008)644	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market	No further scrutiny 03.12.08 Forwarded to the Joint Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Finance; Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs for information	Adoption of the proposal is expected early in the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2008)351	Proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the driver's seat on wheeled agricultural of forestry tractors (codified version)	No further scrutiny 29.07.08	Superseded by COM(2010)395

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2008)324	Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures	No further scrutiny 23.09.08 Forwarded to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for further scrutiny	Transitional arrangements were adopted by written procedure on 27 November 2009 as Council Regulation (EC) No 1288/2009 of 27 November 2009 establishing transitional technical measures from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2011 (OJ L347, 24.12.2009 p6) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:347:0006:0008:EN:PDF Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2008)099	Proposal for a Council Directive concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade (codified version).	No further scrutiny 08.04.2008	Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon this proposal will now be co-decided with the European Parliament. Discussions on the proposal will continue during the Belgian Presidency.
COM(2008)091	Proposal for a Council Directive on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine (codified version).	No further scrutiny 08.04.2008	Superseded by COM(2010)359

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Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/Measure	Date Reviewed/ Decision of the Sub-Committee	Update
COM(2007)848	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatized wines, aromatized wine-based drinks and aromatized wine-product cocktails (Recast).	No further scrutiny 08.04.2008	Some technical difficulties have arisen with the proposal and it has not been progressed.
COM(2007)302	Proposal for a Council Regulation (EURATOM) laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and of feeding stuffs following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency (codified version)	No further scrutiny 20.11.07	Superseded by COM(2010)184