



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



06.11.09

The Upcoming AGRIFISH Council Meeting

19th/20th November

The Council is expected to reach political agreement on two proposals regarding fisheries:

- A regulation concerning the conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures;
- A regulation fixing the fishing opportunities and the conditions relating thereto for certain fish stocks applicable in the Black Sea for 2010.

As for agriculture, the Council will have an exchange of views on simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which is an ongoing priority with comprehensive objectives that need to be pursued in all policy areas relevant to the agricultural sector. The Council stands committed to reaching the target of a 25% reduction in administrative burdens on farmers arising from EU legislation by 2012 at the latest. The Council already adopted conclusions on simplification of CAP in May 2009 and it was then agreed to return to this issue under the Swedish Presidency in November. The Council will also hold a policy debate on rural development in the context of the future of CAP.

Furthermore, the Council is expected to approve Poland's application to grant State aid for the purchase of agricultural land by farmers. The Council will also have an exchange of views on the annual consultations for 2010 between the EU and Norway.

Fisheries

Commissioner Borg wins the Swedish Seafood Award for his work on sustainable fisheries – 04/11/2009

Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Joe Borg, was nominated to receive the Kungsfenan Swedish Seafood Award. This prize is awarded every year in recognition of



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important achievements in sustainable fisheries and gastronomy. Mr Borg will receive the prize for his vital work, over the past five years, to put EU fisheries on a sustainable footing. Commissioner Borg's nomination for the Kungsfenan award comes just a month after he received the Elisabeth Mann Borgese award from the Government of Schleswig-Holstein for his efforts to contribute to the creation of an Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU.

In fact Joe Borg, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, was granted the Kungsfenan Swedish Seafood Award.

[Click here](#) for more info

Opening of crucial meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) – 06/11/2009

On 7 November, there will be the opening of the Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in Recife, Brazil. Key issues on the table for the EU are how to ensure the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna, in particular by reducing the total allowable catches (TAC) and fishing capacity, the strengthening of compliance with ICCAT rules and the adoption of the right science-based measures for all fish stocks. The EU wants to ensure that, beyond bluefin tuna, the other stocks that need attention receive it and that the right conservation measures are adopted so as to ensure the sustainability of the related fisheries. [Click here](#) for further info

Information

MEUSAC, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA) and Bank of Valletta are organising an information session for farmers, the industry of agro-processors, producer groups and all those interested in the agricultural sector on measures 133, 132, 124, 142 and 111. This activity is going to be held on **Friday 20 November at BOV Centre, Cannon Road, St Venera.**

For more information and to confirm your attendance, one can phone our offices on 22003300 and ask for Mr. Brian Pace or send on info.meusac@gov.mt by not later than Wednesday 18 November. [Click here](#) to view program.