

State of play of the discussions on the European Commission's proposal on official controls and the link to quality certification schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

Negotiations - Recap:

- The EU Commission adopted the proposal on 6th May 2013
- The position of the EU Parliament was adopted at first reading plenary vote in April 2014. The new rapporteur (COM ENVI) is MEP Karin Kadenbach (S&D – AT)
- In the EU Council, the technical examination of the proposal takes place within the Joint Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Public Health) and Phytosanitary Experts. Meetings held so far are as follows:
 - 1 meeting day under the IE Presidency, 7 meeting days under the LT Presidency, 12 meeting days under the EL Presidency, 12 meeting days under the IT Presidency.
- Discussions are continuing under the Latvian Presidency (3 meetings have been held so far) in order to reach agreement on a compromise text.

Synopsis of the main elements in the Official Controls Proposal relevant to the DPO, PGI and TSG Products

- Whilst PDO, PGI and TSG products are already covered by the current Regulation on official controls (Regulation 882/2004) the proposal clarifies that such products are within the scope
- In all sectors, official controls will be carried out regularly on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency
- Regular unannounced official controls will need to be directed at identifying fraudulent practices
- Possibility for control bodies to take certain measures in cases of non-compliance
- Possibility for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to establish specific rules for carrying out sector specific controls
- Exclusion from mandatory fees for official controls for PDO, PGI and TSG products