

To Trade and Industry representatives

30 January 2007

Reference: FSH/0082

Dear Sir/Madam

### **IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM GUINEA**

This letter concerns restrictions on imports of fishery products from Guinea.

At a SCofCAH meeting held on 18 January 2007, it was agreed that emergency measures applying to fishery products imported from Guinea and intended for human consumption should come into force with immediate effect. A recent Community inspection in Guinea has revealed the situation is very serious in relation to a lack of public health controls and handling of fishery products, and recommends the immediate suspension of imports of fishery products from Guinea. The Decision is expected to be published shortly and the prohibition will then come into immediate effect. We will write to you in the near future to inform you of the date of implementation of the restrictions.

Considering the seriousness of the shortcomings identified, the suspension of imports must also be applied to products which have been dispatched to the EU before the entry into force of the emergency measures and presented for importation at an EU port after its entry into force, i.e. it will also apply to consignments which are presently in transit.

We will notify all stakeholders should we have further information on the status of imports of fishery products from Guinea, however, if you have any questions on this letter please contact me or my colleague Mariam Aleem (Tel 0207 276 8903).

Yours sincerely

MIKE GLAVIN

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