

To Trade and Industry representatives

26 February 2007

Reference: FSH/0082

Dear Sir/Madam

**DELISTING OF APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS IN PAKISTAN AND SURINAME
AND
UPDATE ON IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM INDONESIA**

This letter is to inform you of the conclusions of a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) on 21 February in Brussels.

Imports of Fishery Products from Pakistan and Suriname

Member States agreed draft Commission statements to delist all 11 approved fish processing establishments in Pakistan, and all five establishments approved for smoking fish in Suriname. The delisting of the Pakistani establishments follows an FVO follow-up mission to Pakistan in January 2007 which identified serious and highly serious deficiencies throughout the entire fish handling and processing chains. In addition, it was found that the establishments did not conform to HACCP, structural and traceability requirements. The delisting of the five establishments for smoking fish in Suriname is the result of a similar FVO mission where serious deficiencies in the smoking of fishery products have been identified. The European Commission has now initiated the process of drafting legislation that will put these proposed measures into effect. They are expected to come into force in late March if agreed by Member States and will include a provision to refuse consignments on the water prior to the implementation of the Decision.



We will keep you informed of the progress in these matters, and will issue a further letter when the proposed legislation comes into force or a statement is issued by the EU Commission.

Update on Indonesia in relation to Imports of Fishery Products

The Commission, in response to a request from the UK, reported that an FVO mission in January 2007 had found a considerable improvement in the hygiene controls and laboratory testing requirements in Indonesia. There were still some outstanding issues but very good progress had been made but they felt it may be premature to lift the restrictions on testing. The UK proposed that if the situation is improved the Commission might consider relaxing the 100% testing requirement on crustacea as they have no record of levels of histamines and that all the data submitted to the Commission had not identified serious levels of contaminants such as heavy metals or nitrofurans. The Commission agreed to consider this request when they received the final report of the mission.

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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