



Long Distance Advisory Council

REQUEST TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO ENSURE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR PROCESSED TUNA TRADING WITHIN THE EU MARKET

The European seafood processing industry is strategically important for the supply of the EU market itself, playing a key role in the social and economic development, the maintenance and even in the creation of jobs in relevant coastal areas upon which this activity has been traditionally based in Europe.

The European Union market is the first seafood market worldwide, increasing every year its consumption levels, with canned tuna as one of the most in-demand products.

The European Union has an annual consumption of 733,000 tonnes of canned tuna¹, of which 350,000 tonnes are produced in the EU² and 383,000 tonnes come from third countries³.

The community production directly creates 20,140 jobs⁴. Therefore, the community production of processed tuna has been affected in recent years by the significant increase in imports from third countries that already account for over 50% of the products commercialised in the community market.

As a result, LDAC members agree on the need for the EU to develop effective policies that promote the sustainability of tuna exploitation and, in that context, the viability, future competition and survival of community fishing and processing operators.

To this end, it is essential to ensure fair competition within the EU market, and this implies the urgent necessity that all operators, from the EU and from third countries, abide by similar rules relating to traceability, health and hygiene, food safety and employment, bearing in mind the framework established by the international conventions relating to occupational health and safety, the environment, a sustainable fisheries and respect for resources, traceability or labelling, among other.

¹ EUROSTAT - PRODCOM database.

² EUROSTAT database: Data on Foreign Trade.

³ Information calculated based on production data PRODCOM and EUROSTAT database.

⁴ EUROTHON: <http://eurothon.eu/about-eurothon/key-facts/>



The European Commission shall ensure that the authorities of the Member States exercise a uniform and strict control over compliance of these aspects and adopt the relevant sanctioning measures in case of failure to comply, where appropriate.

In this sense, it is necessary to have a stable legal framework in the long term brought about by the European Commission that ensures the consistency of all community policies due to their importance in a globalised market that is growing at international level. The commercial openness of the European Union in recent years regarding processed tuna has enabled the entry of large volumes of products coming from third countries, which should compete in a level playing field with the community production.

Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that all processed tuna marketed in the EU comply with the EU regulations by means of effective control mechanisms in order to ensure the existence of equitable rules to be respected by all operators competing in this market.

This way, the LDAC considers that having a true level playing field in the processed tuna market in Europe would have a positive effect on the European processed sector competition and, as a result, on the creation of jobs in this industry in the EU, thus enabling the development of a competitive and viable community sector in the long term.

*****END*****