



Brussels Rural Development Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing session n° 10:
Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU):
Impacts and challenges for ACP countries

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THE EU REGULATION ON IUU FISHING, THE CHALLENGES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND
ITS IMPACT TO THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES
Views from the Private Sector

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Executive Summary

So much volume of tuna has always been caught in various oceans worldwide major catch of which comes from the waters of Western and Central Pacific, Eastern Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. The European Union is the single largest grouping of countries that import such fish resource, fresh and frozen and in value added form like canned tuna.

However, scientific studies have confirmed the seeming decline in the catch of selected species like yellow fin and big eye. And while the skip jack variety is still showing healthy signs of sustainability, there are growing concerns on the possibility of extinction of these two major varieties of tuna in the long run unless immediate corrective measures are undertaken. Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing or IUU has been identified as a major culprit behind this sustainability concern. Such subject, therefore, has been spreading like fire all over the world.

In response to call for action, the European Union has so decided to institute a legislation that hopefully can assist in controlling the prevalence of IUU fishing. If effective, such legislation can be a fine instrument to curb the said malpractice considering that the biggest consumers of such resource are countries composing the European Union.

While the objectives are noble, the paper being presented will attempt to highlight where the biggest impact is, what have been missed in the legislation, the loopholes and impracticality of certain aspects of the legislation and the challenges, further reforms and recommendations that will hopefully improve the chances of a successful implementation taking into consideration further the human inputs from all players as well as those other countries that have not officially legislated IUU regulations to curb such IUU practice.

Finally, as a final call and appeal to all concerned players especially the business minded ones, the tuna resource as a God Given Blessing, needs to be nurtured and protected. As skillful and faithful stewards, our role is to create growth, surplus and stability and sustainability of this precious resource for the benefit of the greater majority of people most especially the future generations.