EU autonomous tariff quota for imported fisheries products

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Sustainable imports of fishery products under the EU Autonomous Tariff Quota Regulation

What is changing and why?

Autonomous trade measures (known as autonomous tariff quotas, ATQs) for fishery and aquaculture products enable the European Union (EU) fish processing industry to import raw materials at reduced rates or duty-free from non-EU countries when processors have insufficient access to such materials. Today, non-EU countries exporting to the EU can access these quotas on a first-come, first-served basis, but no specific sustainability conditions have to be met. The EU is reviewing the current rules to decide whether sustainability criteria should be introduced. One option is to provide ATQs for fish exports only to countries that have ratified relevant environmental and/or labour conventions.

Actions

The consultation via the European Commission's Have Your Say webpage closed on 3 July 2025.

Timeline

The European Commission is considering introducing sustainability criteria into the ATQ regime after 2026.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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