



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF  
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  
Omladinskih brigada 1  
1070 Belgrade

Your ref

Our ref

Date

17/1981-2

23 May, 2017

**Catch certificates for fishery products for import into the Republic of Serbia**

Further to your letter to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority of 20 March 2017, we note that, as of 1 June, there will be a requirement for a catch certificate for the imports of fish and fish products into the Republic of Serbia, cf. the new Rulebook on regulation on the catch certificate for fishery products in accordance with Council Regulation EC No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008.

In this context, we would refer to the Agreed Record of Conclusions between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation EC No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of 3 September 2009, and updated on 29 April 2011, as attached.

Article 1.2 of the Agreed Record states that

*“In accordance with Article 12 (4) of the IUU Regulation, the catch certificates provided for in annex II of the IUU Regulation and annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 of 22 October 2009 laying down the detailed rules for the implementation of the IUU Regulation will be replaced by Norwegian catch certificates based on the Norwegian system of sales notes, which is an electronic traceability system under the control of the Norwegian authorities ensuring the same level of control by authorities as required under the Community catch certification scheme.”*

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In this, Norway and the EU agreed that Norway will issue catch certificates, thus replacing the catch certificate in the Council Regulation. The Norwegian catch certificates are issued electronically through <https://www.catchcertificate.no/> which is operated by the Norwegian sales organisations under the auspices of the Directorate of Fisheries.

Based on the above, we propose that the existing Norwegian catch certificates used for the EU are also used for imports of Norwegian fish and fish products into the Republic of Serbia. We believe that this would be an adequate and practical solution that would safeguard the requirements set out in the IUU Regulation, in line with the agreement that already exists between the EU and Norway.

If the Republic of Serbia agrees to our proposal, this understanding may be confirmed e.g. through an Memorandum of Understanding.

We look forward to receiving your reply to our proposal, in order for us to be able to fulfil your requirements by 1<sup>st</sup> June and to appropriately inform our exporters.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

Astrid Holtan  
Deputy Director General

Mari Didriksen  
Adviser



*Embassy of the  
Republic of Serbia*

Note No: 41/17

The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Oslo presents its compliments to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Culture, Public Diplomacy and Protocol and has the honor to enclose the original letter sent by the Assistant Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Mrs. Daria Janjić-Nišavić to the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries to the Kingdom of Norway, Mrs. Astrid Holtan.

The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Oslo avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Culture, Public Diplomacy and Protocol the assurances of its highest consideration.



Oslo, 19 June 2017

Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Department for Culture, Public Diplomacy and Protocol  
Oslo





**Republic of Serbia  
MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**Date: 29.05.2017**

**Number: 337-00-228/2017-06**

**Nemanjina 22-26  
Belgrade**

**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**

Your ref. 17/1981-2

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform you that due to certain unclarities which could have caused several difficulties to our private sector while attaining the necessary documentation (catch certificates) needed for the import of fishery products originating from the EU into the Republic of Serbia, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection signed the Decision to postpone the implementation of the Rulebook on international catch certificates and the list of fishery products that do not require international catch certificates. While we are awaiting for the clarification from the EC regarding this issue, implementation of the aforementioned Rulebook is postponed by January 1, 2018.

However, we do agree to your proposal regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding which would regulate use of the existing Norwegian catch certificates.

I am looking forward to our future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Astrid Holtan  
Deputy Director General  
Royal Norwegian Ministry  
Of Trade, Industry and Fisheries  
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