Council Regulation (EU) 2020/1706\(^1\) opening and providing for the management of autonomous EU tariff quotas (ATQs) for certain fishery products for the period 2021-2023 was adopted on 13 November 2020. The Regulation was subsequently amended by Regulation 2021/1203\(^2\) so as to remedy the expiry of the bilateral fishery protocols with Norway and Iceland and the consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU as regards the market access of some fishery products.

The objective of the Regulation is to ensure the competitiveness of the EU processing industry and avoid jeopardising the EU’s production of fishery products by guaranteeing an adequate supply of fishery products to the industry. To this end, the Regulation reduces or suspends import duties for a number of fishery products within tariff quotas of an appropriate volume. The EU Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duties are currently lifted on Patagonian squid (*Loligo gahi*) up to the amount of 75 000 tonnes per year and the quota remains open until the end of 2023.

The Commission is currently assessing both the utilisation of the current ATQ regime as well as its pertinence from the perspective of the sustainability of trade in fishery products as compared to other existing preferential trade regimes. Depending on the results of this assessment, the Commission will take the necessary steps in view of the future ATQ regime. In addition, the EU is also progressively eliminating tariffs on fishery products including on squid in recently concluded free trade agreements, subject to the application of the preferential rules of origin including the vessel conditions.

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