



Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

European Technology Platform SSRA now published On 5 July 2005 CIAA launched its European Technology Platform (ETP) 'Food for Life.' The launch of the platform was followed by the development of a Vision document aimed at shaping the future of R&D in Europe for 2020 and beyond. Within the ETP 'Food for Life' Vision document, a coherent strategy for the future of the food chain was developed – based upon the shared vision of its diverse stakeholders. The Stakeholder Strategic Research Agenda (SSRA), now available on CIAA's website, is a follow-up to the original ETP Vision document. The new SSRA has developed and built-upon the original ETP Vision document, expanding it into a coherent series of research challenges aimed at ensuring that R&D is conceived both with the consumer very much in mind and also as the major driver (fork-to-farm). The SSRA document is now open for broad consultation until the end of the year and is available for download via <http://etp.ciaa.be>

Addition of nutrients

Following the adoption of the Scheele recommendation in the EP ENVI Committee on 21/03, an informal dialogue was held between the institutions on 4/4 during which a compromise package was agreed in view of second reading on 17/05. However, it should be noted that this agreement stands only if a compromise is also negotiated on the claims regulation.

Claims

The first informal dialogue between the institutions took place on 24/4 with the view to agreeing compromise amendments for second reading in the EP plenary on 17/5. CIAA has drafted and widely circulated within the institutions its priorities for second reading, as well as its reaction to the Council negotiating mandate for the informal dialogue. The next dialogue will take place on 3/5. Compromise amendments will need to be agreed by 10/5 (EP deadline for tabling amendments for plenary) in order for the procedure to be concluded at second reading.

Packaging Directive

On 26/04, a CIAA delegation met the new desk officer for packaging and packaging waste at DG Environment, Karolina Frasz, who is the successor of Otto Linher in this position. Very positively, Mr Frasz told CIAA that the upcoming report on the implementation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, which is expected for early summer 2006, will not propose a revision of the Directive. This also means that no new recovery and recycling targets will be proposed by the Commission. These are excellent news, which are fully in line with the CIAA position. Following the publication of the report, the Commission will ask for comments from stakeholders and CIAA will develop a contribution to this consultation.

Despite the achievement of a zero-revision concerning the Directive, important issues to be continuously followed by CIAA include market distortions at the national level, the Commission's role in safeguarding the internal market, and the enforcement of the essential requirements by Member States.

Trade

Non Annex I products (NAI) - National delegates will further discuss the issue of differentiated export refunds for NAI products during the NAI working group on 28/04. The Commission will table a slightly modified working document. But it considers that implementing differentiated refunds for NAI products is an imperative and that the derogations proposed in the working document is the best solution it can propose. During the last Management Committee, Member States expressed clear and strong concerns vis-à-vis the Commission's Working Paper. A vote on this issue is expected during the meeting on 19/05.

WTO

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy announced on 24/04 not to hold a meeting of WTO Trade Ministers this week, as scheduled at the Hong Kong Ministerial for reaching agreement on draft modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access. At last week's special agriculture session Committee Chair Crawford Falconer had circulated reference papers on food aid, export competition and domestic support, which clearly acknowledged that negotiators lack progress for agreement. Nevertheless, member delegations acknowledged their commitment to the Doha Development Round, and for the agricultural negotiations, Falconer announced to meet on a fortnightly cycle for at least three times for trying to reach conclusion by mid-June. Despite Pascal Lamy's decision not to hold a ministers' meeting end of April but a regular TNC meeting on 1 May, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman announced that he would travel to Geneva. Portman will be succeeded by the current Deputy

U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab in the coming weeks.

Communications

CIAA congress 2006 Pre-announcement

CIAA's bi-annual congress takes place this autumn on 26 and 27/10 in Brussels. Under the theme of **'Food for Life..., meeting consumers' needs,'** the autumn congress will feature a large number of guest speakers and highlight many of the pivotal issues

facing the European food and drink sector. The pre-announcement for the autumn congress can be accessed by going to directly www.ciaacongress.be. A further announcement will be made in the coming months and online registration is scheduled to be operational from June/July onwards. Check the website for up-to-date information.

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