

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

On the morning of 24 July, WTO negotiators from the US, India, Brazil, Japan, Australia and the EU failed to advance agricultural trade talks and decided to suspend current DDA negotiations which started in November 2001. Despite new impetus given to negotiators for drafting modalities at the recent G8 summit in St. Petersburg, WTO members left Geneva on 24 July for a time of reflection, which is likely to be a long break. EU Trade Commissioner Mandelson and other negotiators, such as India's trade minister Kamal Nath, expressed deep disappointment and clearly point at the U.S. negotiators inflexibility in domestic support, whereas the U.S. administration blames the EU for not having offered sufficient market access. In a press release on 25 July CIAA regretted the suspension, announced by WTO Director General's Pascal Lamy as "today there are only losers." Other organisations, such as COPA-COGECA also regret the current situation and hope that a reflection period helps to refocus on the objective of a fair and balanced agreement in the future. The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) deeply regrets the suspension and suggests keeping the current offers for continued negotiations after a reflection period. The IPC also suggest implementing aspects for least developed countries sketched out in Mandelson's outlook on 25 July, who is going to meet business and civil society representatives on 27 July.

CIAA attends EFSA Stakeholder Platform

On 20-21/07, following an EFSA presentation on the key elements of the work of the Scientific Committee on the identification of emerging risks, CIAA delivered a presentation on the role of food operators with regard to the identification, characterisation and monitoring of emerging risks at a meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform in Parma. Referring to a few case studies, namely acrylamide, CIAA informed the Platform members about the role and capacities of the F&D industry to provide any support to risk assessors/managers to either prevent or solve emerging issues and, as in the case of acrylamide, to provide mitigation strategies.

In addition to the above, the Platform meeting featured a presentation by EFSA's new Executive Director, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, on EFSA's stakeholder policy and the Management Board recommendations on the future priorities of EFSA, while other EFSA representatives spoke on EFSA's risk communication strategy; the outcome of the discussions at the Sixth Scientific Colloquium on the risk-benefit analysis of foods on 13-14/07; and Guidance to ensure the transparency of EFSA risk assessments (scientific-related considerations), a Document that was endorsed by the Scientific Committee in April 2006 and on which members of the Platform are invited to send comments before 15 September.

Finally, the Platform was also informed of three ongoing public consultations: a consultation on a Guidance Document on Risk Assessment for Birds and Mammals, the deadline for which is 1st September; a consultation on a Working Document on the Environmental Risk Assessment of Additives, Products and Substances in Animal Feed, which has a deadline of 31/10, and a consultation on the risk assessment

of plants containing genetic modification events combined by crossing. The deadline for comments on this document is 10/09.

Contaminants / Pesticides

Pesticides - On 12/07 the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, this proposal will replace the existing Directive 91/414/EEC. The Commission proposal, COM (2006) 388, was transmitted to the EP and the Council on 18/07, according to the co-decision procedure.

The Commission also adopted, on 12/07 a Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides. The strategy is set out in a communication, accompanied by a proposal for a framework Directive (COM (2006) 373) setting out common objectives and requirements to improve the way pesticides are used across the EU. This strategy is one of the 7 Thematic Strategies that DG Environment is presenting following the adoption of the 6th Environmental Action Programme.

Mycotoxins - On 20/07 DG Sanco held a one-day meeting of the Expert Committee "Undesirable substances" in feed with the presence of representatives of the relevant stakeholder organisations.

The meeting aimed to discuss all issues related to the monitoring of mycotoxins in cereals and cereal products intended for animal feeding, in view of the forthcoming adoption by the Commission of a Commission Recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxin and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding.

The meeting consisted of stakeholders' presentations on the experiences as regards the current levels of mycotoxins in products intended for use in animal feedingstuffs, presentations by DG Sanco on the

provisions for mycotoxins in food and feed and the monitoring of their presence, and discussion on guidelines for the monitoring (including sampling provisions) and templates for submission of data.

FP7

On 27/07 the Competitiveness Council adopted a political agreement on FP7. The text maintains the €1935m budget line for 'agriculture, food and biotechnology'. Once formally adopted, the Common Position will be forwarded to the EP for second reading which is currently scheduled for 30/11.

Revision of WFD

The EP ENVI Committee held an exchange of views on the Jackson draft report on the revision of the waste framework directive on 13/07. The issue of by-products attracted significant attention and triggered comprehensive comments from representatives of all political groups. The proposal to introduce a definition of by-products and to exclude them from the scope received the backing of the spokesmen of the 3 largest political groups (EPP, PES, ALDE). MEPs active on the by-product issue indicated that they will work on adjusted/improved amendments (based on the Jackson proposal) to further clarify her amendment. The deadline for amendments is 05/09.

Water protection legislation proposal

New water protection legislation proposal published by the Commission - The Commission has

published this week a new proposed Directive on environmental quality standards in the field of surface water. This proposal is due to implement the Water Framework Directive (WFD) for surface waters and sets concentration limits for 41 substances. The new proposal does not specify however emission control measures (which industry is primarily responsible for) on the ground that existing legislations (IPPC, REACH, various pieces of pesticides legislation, etc) already require measures to be taken. The Commission propose quality standards leaving to Member States to decide which measures to implement in order to meet the targets.

For further information on the Water Framework Directive and the new proposal:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-dangersub/pri_substances.htm

CIAA Congress

CIAA 2006 Congress - Food for Life..., meeting consumers' needs

On 26 and 27 of October, CIAA, The Confederation of the food and drink industries of the EU, will hold its bi-annual congress at the Hilton Hotel (Brussels). With the theme "Food for life ..., meeting consumers' needs," CIAA expects about 350 delegates from the food and drink industry, public institutions, consumer organisations, science and press, both from Europe and beyond.

Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU

Avenue des Arts, 43 - B-1040 Brussels

Publication: T. Habotte, S. Naccachian. Tel: +32 2 514 11 11 - Fax: +32 2 511 29 05 - E-mail : ciaa@ciaa.be