

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

CIAA Congress, last chance to register!

CIAA holds its biennial Congress on 26 & 27 October. Based on the theme Food for Life - Meeting Consumers' Needs, the Congress will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Brussels and feature high-level speakers from industry, EU institutions and consumer organisations.

The Congress officially begins on 26 October at 2pm with a welcome speech by CIAA President, Mr Jean Martin. Subsequently, the congress will be articulated in three parallel sessions (Food & Health, Food Safety, Food & Consumer), during which WHO, EFSA, DG SANCO and other Commission departments, consumer and industry representatives will address key issues covering topics such as obesity, consumer behaviour in relation to health and nutrition, the EU approach to consumer requirements and needs, food science and technology developments in support of consumer well-being and more. Commissioner Markos Kyprianou will be the guest of honour at the Congress Gala Dinner on the evening of 26 October. For more up-to-date details of the event and to register your participation, visit www.ciaacongress.be For further information contact Thierry Habbotte, CIAA Communications Director on +32 25 14 11 11.

Food Improvement Agents

The EP rapporteurs on the package of 4 proposals on food improvement agents have now been confirmed: Mrs Asa Westland (PES, SW) will deal with additives and the common authorisation procedure, Mrs Mojca Drcar Murko (ALDE, Slovenia) will be rapporteur on flavourings and Mrs Avril Doyle (EPP, Ire) on enzymes. The IMCO and AGRI Committees have decided not to do opinions on the package and the ITRE Committee will only do an opinion on enzymes.

Food Contact Materials

The Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFAH) adopted at its meeting on 6/10 a Commission Regulation on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. This Regulation should be published in the EU Official Journal by the end of this year.

The so called "4th amendment" to the plastics Directive 2002/72/EC was only discussed at the Standing Committee meeting, a new version has been presented which will incorporate the provisions included in the draft proposal on "restrictions for closures" referring specifically to plastic components in closures. The Commission expects to adopt this consolidated version of both texts at the next Standing Committee meeting in October. A proposal on "restrictions" will still remain to take up specific restrictions applying to substances used in other (non plastic) materials and articles, e.g. restrictions applying to phthalates, BADGE, nitrosamines.

EFSA Stakeholder Platform

EFSA Re-Elects Chair and Vice-Chairs - EFSA has announced that Sue Davies, the representative for the European consumer organisation, BEUC; Annette Toft, the representative of the farmers' association, COPA-COGECA; and the food and drink industry representative, John Wood, have been re-elected Chair and Vice-Chairs, respectively, of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform for a further three-year period.

CIAA to Develop Position on Nanotechnology

On 14-15/09, CIAA delivered a presentation on "nanofood" at a conference on nanotechnology hosted by the Finnish EU presidency. In recognition of the growing debate surrounding nanotechnology, the CIAA Science Expert Group has been given the mandate by the Food and Consumer Policy Committee (FCPC) to contribute to a task force with the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC) to debate the issue and work on a more substantiated scientific position on this subject.

LLRICE601

CIAA Establishes Incident Monitoring Team for Following the news on 22/08 that traces of LL RICE 601, an unauthorised and non-commercialised GM event both in EU and US, had been found in rice and rice products that were imported from the US, CIAA, after the creation of the Incident Management Group, has established an Incident Monitoring Team to closely monitor the issue.

Simplification of the CAP

On 3-4/10, the Commission organised a conference entitled "A simple CAP for Europe - A challenge for all". The conference focused on CAP simplification, which is part of the Commission's strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment in the context of the Lisbon agenda for growth and jobs. 250 participants, from Member States and professional organisations notably, took part in this event during which Commissioners Fischer Boel and Verheugen, Director J.-L. Demarty gave speeches. Commissioner Fischer Boel was keen to highlight that simplification of the CAP was not a way to reform it by the back door. She explained DG Agri approach regarding technical and political simplification. On the one hand, the Action Plan, released by DG Agri, lists 20 proposals that would lead to rapid simplification impact on stakeholders. On the other hand, political simplification is about amending policies to make them simpler. The Commission will follow three main avenues in this context: sectorial reforms still under discussion, health check of the CAP

scheduled in 2008, general review of the EU budget in 2009.

Trade

EC Trade Commissioner Mandelson released on 4/10 a strategy report entitled "Global Europe: Competing in the World", which outlines measures improving the EU's external competitiveness by effectively linking the internal growth/jobs agenda with an external trade dimension. The communication tries to define a "modern" trade policy that meets global challenges. Although the EC's primary objective remains the WTO DDA, a "new generation of FTAs" is underway focusing more on economic gains through additional market access opportunities beyond neighbourhood and development motivations. Among the possible target countries or regions, the EC report raises: ASEAN, Korea, Mercosur, China, India, GCC and Russia.

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