

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

The President of CIAA accompanied by the President of the Federation of Austrian Food Industries met Dr. Martin Bartenstein, Federal Minister of Economics and Labour, on 11 January in Vienna. The meeting was an opportunity to present the CIAA memorandum addressed to the Austrian Presidency of the EU which started on 1 January. Competitiveness and the Lisbon agenda were the overriding themes for Mr. Bartenstein who highlighted "growth and jobs" as a priority of the Presidency. Mr. Bartenstein will chair the Competitiveness Council for the Presidency and invited CIAA to contribute to the on-going debate on the Lisbon agenda, notably in view of the spring EU summit to be held in Salzburg at the end of March.

Fora on Mycotoxins

CIAA Delegation Attends Commission Expert Fora on mycotoxins - On 12 - 13/01 CIAA and several of its member sector associations attended two Commission and Member State expert fora on the mycotoxins Ochratoxin A (OTA) and Fusarium toxins. The fora considered presentations by stakeholders on a range of issues, including the prevention of Fusarium toxins in wheat and maize, and the prevention of OTA in coffee, cocoa and wine. The Commission and Member States will now meet behind closed doors in April/May to review current OTA measures, during which time stakeholders will be given further opportunity to comment. Meanwhile, the Commission will adopt a Commission Regulation early next month, which will establish methods of sampling and analysis for Mycotoxins in foodstuffs.

Food Safety Platform

The FSP gets down to business - CIAA met with other food chain representatives on 16/01 for a meeting of the Food Safety Platform (FSP) which featured discussions on a number of challenging issues, including an evaluation of the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), a discussion on the interpretation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, as discussed in the Joint Food Chain Roundtable on Pesticides, and a frank presentation by EFSA representatives of recent developments with regard to the EFSA Management Plan, Review and Stakeholder Platform. Much discussion was devoted to the RASFF in particular, resulting in an agreement by members that a FSP letter should be sent to the Commission, detailing the food chain's concerns with regard to the operation of the System.

Claims

Based on the CIAA position for the second reading (CA/001/06), the secretariat and members have made a first contact with the European Parliament (EUPAR//006/06) and with the Council. Coordination

was also made with the Commission. It clearly appears that the different decision makers are seeking a compromise in order to reach a decision, if possible, after the second reading. In this light, the CIAA undertook the task of developing proposals for alternative amendments concerning Article 4 and the procedure, knowing that the use of these alternatives should be decided upon common approval through meetings in the form of conference calls with the Claims Task Force. The next conference call has been provisionally set for 30/01/06.

Revision of the IPPC Directive

On 13/01, DG ENV launched the 1st meeting of the IPPC Advisory Group, which will support the Commission in the preparation of the review of the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Directive scheduled in 2007. CIAA is an active member of this Group, where our expert will coordinate the F&D industry's input. Main task is the supervision of 6 studies looking in particular at IPPC impacts on competitiveness and environmental benefits. In the long run, the objective is to influence the revision of this major IPPC Directive and ensure that its scope is better defined and the thresholds above which F&D installations are covered are not stricter.

WTO

EU Trade Commissioner Mandelson recalled in a speech held on 23/01 the EU's ambition for concluding an ambitious Doha deal in 2006 and repeatedly urged trading partners to make offers in all areas of negotiation. The Commission is not willing to make any further offer on market access. Government officials including the EU Agriculture Commissioner Fischer Boel will meet this weekend at the Davos Economic Forum, which will start intensive bilateral meetings on key issues in the coming weeks.