

# CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

## Highlight

*CIAA Hosts the Second ETP Event - On the 2 February, CIAA hosted the extended stakeholders' meeting of the European Technology Platform (ETP) European Technology Platform (ETP) Food for Life ([www.ciaa.be](http://www.ciaa.be)), attracting more than 200 participants from a wide spectrum of domains. The Platform, which aims to address the need for innovation within the agro-food sector, was originally launched on 5 July 2005.*

## ETP

Following the ETP event, an industry-led Board, chaired by Professor Peter van Bladeren (Nestlé), was formed and six Expert Working Groups (WGs) reflecting the science-led themes of *Food and Health, Food Quality and Manufacturing, Food and Consumer, Food Safety, Sustainable Food Production and Food Chain Management*, and two facilitating WGs, *Communication, Training and Technology Transfer* and *Horizontal Activities*, were established. Together, these Groups developed a draft **Stakeholder Strategic Research Agenda (SSRA)**, which was subsequently submitted for consultation by experts attending the February stakeholders' meeting. The SSRA is now in the process of being revised according to this consultation, and will be submitted to the European Commission in early March 2006 in order to feed into the formal development of Framework Programme 7 (FP7).

## WTO

**WTO negotiations-** Although the Davos mini-ministerial meeting reconfirmed the deadlines set in Hong Kong, there is serious off-the-record scepticism from Commission officials whether the end of April deadline can be met. Not least because of the amount of issues that need to be resolved, but also due to the mismatch of set deadlines for NAMA and AMA on one hand (30/04) and Services (31/07) on the other. P. Lamy has insisted in Davos on the need to come out of the defensive and to make simultaneous offers on all aspects of the negotiating agenda. P. Mandelson is repeating that he expects other to move on industrial tariffs and Services, before the EU may consider improving its agricultural offer any further. The negotiation process continues in a multi-layer approach, with numerous meetings including bilateral, G6 meetings (EU, US, Brazil, India, Australia, Japan) and a "Senior officials" group.

A WTO interim panel report distributed on 07/02 to the EU and the complaining parties US, Canada, and Argentina, rules against the EU GMO moratorium. The panel lays out on 800 pages that the GMO moratorium in place since 1998 in the EU and six member states violates the SPS Agreement as approvals should have been processed without undue delay and based on risk assessments. The final decision is expected in the coming month, which could then be appealed by the EC.

The US Congress passed on 01/02 the "Deficit Reduction Act 2005" which repeals the so-called "Byrd Amendment", which has been a persistent source of trade tension and contrary to WTO obligations. The EC welcomed the decision, but regretted the long transition period, which will allow continuing to distribute anti-dumping duties directly to US companies until 2007.

## CAP

The Commission today approved a Communication entitled "An EU strategy for biofuels". This Communication was already announced by the Action Plan on biomass approved in December 2005. The central aim of the Commission is to encourage the development of a biofuel policy, by focusing on key axes such as stimulating demand for biofuels, enhancing trade opportunities and supporting research in this sector.

## Non-Annex I products

The Commission presented a working document proposing the reintroduction of a weekly application facility across the year during the NAI Management Committee on 20.01. Member States welcomed the document and urged the Commission to amend the Regulation 1043/05 rapidly. The vote could take place at the next Committee on 17/02.