

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

EU Platform for action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health - "Round Table" organised by Commissioner Kyprianou with leaders of stakeholders' organisations, Brussels 21 February
On Tuesday 21 February almost a year after the launch of the EU Platform for action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, Commissioner Kyprianou organised a "Round Table" with leaders of stakeholders' organisations to review the process and discuss its future challenges. Commissioner Kyprianou welcomed the 24 stakeholder organisations and noted the important achievement made so far by discussing, together, best practices on how to tackle the obesity issue. He stressed that obesity is a complex issue and that EU coordinated actions from all parties were required in order to tackle obesity. He congratulated all stakeholders for taking their part of responsibility by submitting concrete commitments to fight against obesity and acknowledged that the process was going in the right direction but there was an urgent need to get concrete results to answer to public opinion. He highlighted the need for an effective monitoring system able to validate commitments and engender credibility and assurance in the Platform process/outcome and that if things continue in the same direction the Platform will be a significant part of the Nutrition Strategy at EU level.

Food Safety

During the last meeting of the Food Safety Expert Group on 15/02 a CIAA paper on the Functioning of the European Rapid Alert System (RASFF) was finalised. However, this paper still needs to be endorsed by the Food and Consumer Policy's written procedure. It focuses on the shortcomings of the RASFF and is aimed as being the basis for discussions with the Commission to improve the functioning of the system. Moreover, it is supposed to become part of a broader discussion with the Commission regarding its policy on food management and other safety issues in general. The RASFF requires quick action. A major recommendation for improvement of the RASFF from our side is:

To establish a clear procedure to allow the Commission to evaluate the validity, accuracy and necessity of notifications prior to issuing the RASFF carefully, which could best be done with an early involvement of all concerned parties in the evaluation procedure.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Monitoring and Reporting Guidelines

The Commission is reviewing the Monitoring and Reporting Guidelines (MRGs) to the EU ETS with a view to finalise by the end of June 2006 a revised set of MRG to be applicable in the 2nd trading period starting in 2008. Due to their complexity and inflexibility, the current MRG put a high administrative burden especially on small installations. CIAA has established contacts with

the responsible Unit in DG ENV and has been invited with other ETS industry sectors to comment on the recently published first draft revised MRGs. The Climate Change WG is currently finalising the CIAA comment on this first draft. The main CIAA objective is to achieve a reduction of the ETS/MRG compliance burden for small sites (below 25 kt CO₂/year) already for the 2nd trading period.

WTO

On 09/02, WTO agriculture committee chairman Crawford Falconer submitted to negotiators, a list of specific questions that need to be addressed in the coming weeks. In the last weeks negotiations focused on export competition and food aid, without any major progress. At the same time, several countries published new proposals on trade facilitation, and the US tabled an offer on TRQ expansion of sensitive products.

EU Trade Commissioner Mandelson started a two-day visit in Washington on 21/02, primarily discussing parallelism on export subsidies, food aid and bilateral disputes. On 10/03 the EU will meet Brazil, India, Australia, Japan and the US in London for a stocktaking session on the Doha Round, which will be crucial as the April deadline for drafting modalities seems already difficult to meet. Nevertheless, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy insisted that the negotiations are likely to be more substantive than the Uruguay round and that the market access package will be significant because of using ambitious formulas.