

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

CIAA calls on Commissioner Kyprianou to publicly support the Platform - Speaking at the CIAA-sponsored Friends of Europe 'Café Crossfire' debate on 8 June, Jean Martin, President of CIAA repeated his calls for Commissioner Kyprianou to publicly support the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. "We would like to see a bit more explicit support from Commissioner Kyprianou. The motivation for our members can be useful." In a follow-up to both the EU/US summit in May on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and the Obesity Europe Conference of the previous days, Mr. Martin stressed that obesity was "not just a problem for the food industry," but that it was a "multi-factorial issue requiring a similar multi-factorial approach to combat it, involving all stakeholders." He added, "it is wrong to focus exclusively on food" but highlighted the voluntary self-regulatory moves already made by the food and drink industry, in particular the Commitments of November 2005. Other speakers at the 'Café Crossfire' debate included Robert Madelin, Director General of DG Sanco and Geof Rayner from City University, London. More info on www.ciaa.be.

CIAA Meets with DG SANCO

CIAA met with DG SANCO International Questions Unit in Advance of Codex Alimentarius Commission On 21/06, two representatives from CIAA's International Standards Expert Group (ISEG) met with DG SANCO's International Questions unit to exchange views on issues scheduled for discussion at the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) on 3-7/07. The meeting was preceded by a conference call with the ISEG and the Chairs of the relevant Expert Groups. A number of issues were addressed during the discussion, namely the role of codex in the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health; the creation of an international definition of advertising; proposals for the elaboration of new standards, such as Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings; relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international organisations; and the development of Terms of Reference for the new Additives and Contaminants Committees.

Food Contact Materials

A meeting of the Packaging Inks Joint Industry Task Force (PIJITF) took place on 21/06, where representatives from the ink manufacturers, packaging converters and food and drink industries discussed the progress made since the last meeting and the next steps in the way forward to gain knowledge on packaging inks applications for food packaging.

Two working groups have been created to deal with data collection and risk assessment respectively. It was suggested to create a third WG to deal with analytical methodology. The data collection WG is further divided into 4 subgroups to deal with different packaging materials (flexible plastics, rigid plastics, metals, paper & board).

The CIAA expert Group on Food Contact Materials met on 21/06 in order to assess the way forward in

the discussion with the plastics industry on disclosure of compositional information of the packaging along the chain, and to prepare the forthcoming Commission meeting on 26/06.

A Commission Working Group meeting on food contact materials took place on 26/06, where industry representatives were invited to attend only the morning session. The PIJITF gave a presentation on the status of work and timeline for achieving the work plan. The other main item discussed was the Commission proposal on active and intelligent packaging, where EFSA disagreed with the proposed evaluation procedure, claiming lack of resources to deal with this work, and suggested as an alternative to follow a more general authorisation procedure for these new materials and articles. The packaging industry, Sanco and Member States would favour instead a specific authorisation for each specific application, as set in the current proposal.

Food ingredients

The Commission officials responsible for food additives, enzymes and flavourings attended the CIAA expert group meeting on Ingredients on 15/06 in order to brief CIAA members on the state of play in the development and adoption by the Commission of the package of proposals on "food improvement agents" (additives, enzymes, flavourings and common procedures). The Commission representatives gave 3 presentations and held an exchange of views with CIAA members on the future developments in this field and the expected CIAA contribution with respect to the review of the EU food additives categorisation system and the future work on intake assessment.

The CIAA Ingredients group will meet again on 11/07 to specifically assess the way forward on food additives categorisation.

Amendments to Directive 95/2 and Directive 94/35

Amendments to Directive 95/2 (miscellaneous additives) and Directive 94/35 (sweeteners)

The Health Council meeting on 1-2/06 adopted, by qualified majority (with Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands voting against) and at first reading (endorsing the European Parliament 1st reading agreement), a Directive amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners and Directive 94/35/EC on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs. The Directive should be published shortly in the EU Official Journal, once translations are completed.

Reach

The Council, following its political agreement on 13/12/05, adopted at an Environment Council meeting on 27/06 its Common Position on the Commission proposal on a new EU chemicals legislation, REACH. This Common Position will now be sent to the European Parliament for second reading (expected in autumn), according to the co-decision procedure.

Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

In the current revision of the Waste Framework Directive, an important stage has been reached on 22/06 with the publication of the draft report by Caroline Jackson, rapporteur in the EP's Environment Committee (1st reading). The report includes,

amongst others, amendment 12, which contains a definition of "by-products" and which makes reference to the jurisprudence of the European Court, which has repeatedly held that by-products fall outside the scope of the WFD. While the Commission proposal for a revised WFD had not contained any reference to by-products, the Jackson draft report has put the issue of by-products on the agenda of the upcoming Parliament discussions on the WFD on 13/07 (ENVI committee). The report also contains a proposal for a more rigid 5-stage waste hierarchy, which CIAA opposes due to related problems in the field of packaging. The committee will vote on the draft report on 10/10. In the coming days, the Jackson draft report will be followed by two related EP reports: the draft report on the WFD by Ms Gutierrez-Cortines, rapporteur in the ITRE committee, and the draft opinion on the thematic waste strategy by rapporteur Hans Blokland (ENVI Committee).

WTO

Agriculture Committee Chair Crawford Falconer published on 22/06 draft modalities on agriculture, which ministers will discuss this week starting on 29/06 in Geneva. WTO Director General Pascal Lamy invited trade ministers in an effort to move the DDA negotiations forward by reaching a deal on modalities on agriculture and industrial market access. A detailed work plan lists the wide range of areas to be discussed this week, with Pascal Lamy suggesting a compromise based on the G20 proposal for market access negotiations and real cuts to domestic farm support.