

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

On the 1st of June, Harry Salonaho, President of the Finnish Food and Drink Federation and CEO of Valio and Jean Martin, President of CIAA met with Mauri Pekkarinen, the Finnish Minister of Trade and Industry in view of the upcoming Finnish Presidency starting on the 1st of July. This meeting was aimed at presenting the main food and drink industry objectives for the months to come. It was also a welcome occasion to formally submit the CIAA benchmarking report on competitiveness and highlight its main findings. Minister Pekkarinen welcomed the food and drink industry activity on the competitiveness issue and the focus on key issues, such as R&D, trade and better law making. He shared in particular the concerns as regards the participation of SMEs in research activity and expressed high interest for the innovation capacity of the food and drink sector.

Revision of Novel Foods Regulation

Revision of Novel Foods Regulation: CIAA Members Urged to Respond to Online Consultation

On 02/06, an online consultation on the revision of the Novel Food Regulation (EC) No 258/97 was launched by the Commission. The aim of the consultation is to gather input from the general public, stakeholders and Member States in order to carry out an impact assessment for a future legislative proposal to revise the current Regulation. The Commission is seeking feedback industry investment in novel food development. The Commission is seeking feedback on how to create a more streamlined authorisation procedure, for which answers to the online consultation are of crucial importance.

On 06/06, two representatives from DG SANCO met with CIAA's "GMOs and Novel Foods" Expert Group to discuss the online questionnaire and its objectives. At the meeting, the representatives urged CIAA to provide data in order to ascertain the burden for industry of current approval procedures. In view of the fact that the consultation will run until 1st August, the CIAA deadline for comments from its membership is 14/07.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Draft Opinion on Microbiological Testing: Call for Comments

CIAA has submitted its response to a call for comments on an EFSA draft Opinion on Microbiological Testing, Criteria and Other Objectives. The draft Opinion aims: i) to clarify the links between and possible uses of the concepts "Appropriate Level of Protection" (ALOP), "Food Safety Objective" (FSO), "Performance Objective" (PO), "Performance Criteria" (PC) and microbiological criteria in relation to opinions on biological hazards, and ii) to identify circumstances where the use of microbiological criteria as a tool for

defining the acceptance of an end product might be appropriate and likely to improve consumer protection. In its comments, CIAA stated its general agreement with the draft Opinion. CIAA particularly highlighted its appreciation that the draft addresses in a general sense the essence of our specific concern with regard to the criteria for Salmonella, namely that microbiological sampling and testing cannot totally eliminate Salmonella from the food chain.

Moreover CIAA stressed that priority should be given to setting Food Safety Objectives for food in general for all (or, at least) for the most important pathogens, differentiated according to the susceptibility of consumer groups (e.g. infant versus normal population). Commodity/pathogen-specific FSOs should be established only in exceptional cases, namely where a different risk level associated with a specific food/group of foods is accepted/required (and where a certain pathogen is unambiguously linked to a specific food).

EFSA Renews Scientific Committee and Panels

On 02/06, 191 scientists began working for the EFSA Scientific Committee and Panels with a new three-year mandate, following a rigorous selection procedure initiated by EFSA's call for expression of interest last November. According to EFSA's Founding Regulation, EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels are renewed every three years, with current members either replaced or re-appointed.

The full list of the chosen scientific experts who accepted their nomination, together with the report outlining the procedure followed for evaluation of the candidates, is available at the following link: http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/catindex_en.html

WTO

At the heights of WTO negotiations, diverging positions in agriculture negotiations on market access and domestic support seem not to come closer

although negotiators stick to the schedule, which envisaged technical discussions on internal subsidies at the end of May, discussions on market access this week, and export competition next week. Ambassador Crawford Falconer, chair of the agricultural committee, is expected to present initial draft modalities in the week of 19/06, and WTO

members agreed last week to the proposal of WTO Director General Pascal Lamy to hold a ministerial meeting in Geneva in the week of 26/06, which is hoped to unblock the current standstill.

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