

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

Green Paper on Diet - The Ries draft report on the Green Paper on Diet is now available. All in all the rapporteur takes a reasonably balanced approach, recognises action taken by industry and puts more emphasis on physical activity and actions to achieve a balanced lifestyle than on the food side of the equation. She does call for restrictions on advertising and marketing to children, and signals her interest in signposting systems, but also recognises the role of parental responsibility. She gives her full support to the Platform, calls for more research funds and more coherence between agricultural and health policies. She clearly prefers to adopt a positive approach, rather than a restrictive one, for example, she rejects the idea of a 'fat tax' and calls rather for positive messages to increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables. The EP ENVI Committee will debate the draft report on 3 October and the vote in ENVI is currently scheduled for 21 November with adoption in plenary in December of January. In addition, prior to the discussion on the draft report on 3 October, the Committee will hold an exchange of views with Robert Madelin on the EU Platform.

Food Improvement Agents

The food improvement agents package has officially been transmitted to the EP and there will be 3 different rapporteurs in the ENVI Committee: Mrs Westland (PES, SW) will do additives and the common procedure, the ALDE group will appoint a rapporteur on flavourings (in all likelihood Mrs Drcar Murko) and the EPP will do enzymes. 3 other Committees have been asked for an opinion - IMCO, AGRI and ITRE - IMCO and AGRI have decided not to do an opinion, ITRE has not decided yet. No timetable has yet been set.

Labelling

CIAA seminar on Nutrition Labelling

In June, CIAA's Board endorsed a common Nutrition Labelling Scheme recommended for use by the food and drink industries across all 25 Member States of the EU.

In a follow-up to this initiative, on 18/09, CIAA held a seminar devoted to presenting the details of the CIAA Nutrition Labelling Scheme to members of the European Platform, providing for an exchange of views on the scheme and a debate on the practicalities of its implementation. Attending the seminar were Platform members from EUFIC, BEUC, EuroCommerce, EUROCOOP, FERCO and WFA.

Implementation of the scheme is an individual decision taken by each operator. Companies who choose to implement the scheme may do so at any stage, as there is no "one-size-fits-all" scheme. Seven global companies committed in 07/2006 to implement the scheme. CIAA is in process of monitoring the implementation of the scheme through a product-labelling questionnaire.

Increasing the nutritional information provided by operators remains the most important task that CIAA has put forward in the scheme.

REACH

Over 350 amendments have been tabled in the EP ENVI Committee on REACH in view of second reading. The Common Position provisions excluding food and feed from certain titles has not been amended. The amendments will be debated in ENVI on 3/10 and the vote will take place on 10/10. Second reading in plenary is scheduled for the end of November/December.

EU Platform Adopts Monitoring Framework

The continuing evolution of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health was highlighted during a Plenary session of the Platform held in Brussels on 19/09, where members adopted the **Commission Monitoring Framework**.

The Monitoring Framework, or Work Package as it more commonly known is a document providing guidance to Platform members on how best to take forward the monitoring of their commitments in the overall context of implementation.

At the Plenary, Platform members agreed to monitor their own performance in a transparent, participative and accountable way, so that there would be a degree of multi-stakeholder involvement in reviewing progress and outcomes and in such a way that created trust in the data.

Commission Soil Strategy

The Commission presented, on 22/09, a new Soil Strategy, the last of the seven thematic strategies foreseen in the 6th Environment Action Programme. The strategy consists of a communication establishing a ten-year work programme and a draft proposal for a Soil Protection Framework Directive. The overall objective of the Strategy contributes to food safety by preventing soil contamination and is thus globally favourable to the F&D industry. However, F&D installations themselves fall under the scope of the potential soil polluting activities listed in Annex II of the Framework Directive except for the activities carried out by micro-enterprises. Careful

attention must be paid to the potential financial burden of national implementation measures of this Strategy at Member State level and will therefore be closely monitored by CIAA Secretariat.

Waste Framework Directive (WFD)

622 amendments have been tabled to the Jackson draft report on the revision of the WFD in the EP ENVI Committee in 1st reading. More than 22 amendments relating directly to by-products have been tabled, which is clearly a very positive development. Basically, all of these amendments have the clear intention to exclude by-products from the scope of the WFD, but differ widely in quality. CIAA is currently analysing all the amendments with a view to setting up a complete voting recommendation, covering by-products, but also waste hierarchy (including re-use definition), and national waste prevention programmes.

Enlargement

The European Commission cleared on 26/09 the EU's fifth enlargement with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1/1 2007. The EC also announced that Romania's and Bulgaria's accession will be subject to strict monitoring and that sanctions are envisaged in case of non-compliance with outstanding issues, such as a high-level of corruption in both countries, as the latest EC monitoring report indicates.

Trade

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy invited civil society on 25-26/09 to its annual two-day conference centred around the question "What WTO for the XXIst century". Many different panels and discussion were organised, many of those touching upon recent developments in DDA negotiations. A high-level discussion group of lead negotiators of the EU, US, Brazil, Australia, India and Japan elaborated on "outstanding issues in agriculture and impacts of farm policies". EU negotiator Carlos Trojan explained the EU's position and called for further reduction of domestic US subsidies, the US counterpart claimed insufficient market access opportunities at the current state of negotiations. However, all negotiating parties, producers and farmers, are unified in one perspective: concluding a DDA agreement in the coming months. WTO agriculture chair Crawford Falconer's closing remarks urged all parties to consider that what had already been achieved. He invited WTO members to look beyond the details and stumbling blocks at the trends in ag policies. He stressed the need for WTO members to overcome their usual "posturing" attitude and to opt for constructive work in small groups, including on outstanding technical issues. His approach was to restart negotiations in due time as where these had stopped in July.