

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

2006 CIAA Congress a success - *Attended by more than 400 delegates from Europe and beyond, this year's CIAA biennial Congress, our association's biggest-ever, proved hugely popular among attendees, participants, speakers and organisers. Run along the theme, "Food for Life... meeting consumers' needs," the Congress was articulated in the three parallel sessions of Food and Health, Food Safety and Food and Consumers. Speakers came from across the spectrum, from industry, academia, the European Commission and NGOs. The highlight of the event was the Gala Dinner on the first night of the event at which Markos Kyrianiou - European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection - addressed delegates. For further information on the Congress and to download copies of the speeches, presentations, proceedings and photographs, go to the dedicated CIAA Congress website on <http://www.ciaacongress.be>*

CIAA meets Commissioner Verheugen

A CIAA delegation, led by J. Martin, met with the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Enterprise and Industry, G. Verheugen, on 7/11 to emphasize CIAA priorities for improving the food and drink industry competitiveness. Commissioner Verheugen was well aware about the food and drink industry's key items and very responsive to the issues outlined on better regulation, innovation, agricultural raw materials and trade policy. He expressed a strong commitment to ensure that not only his services but also in other areas of the Commission business interests would have to be given positive consideration.

GMO LL rice 62

Finally Decision 2006/754/EC amending Decision 2006/601/EC on emergency measures concerning the unauthorised GMO LL Rice 601 was published in the Official journal on 7/11 (FCP/310/06)

Contrary to the report in the last Flash LL Rice 62 is not explicitly mentioned in the Decision. The Decision concerns unprocessed food.

Member States - Member States shall ensure that, at the point of entry into the Community, official sampling and analysis of each consignment of products is carried out before they are placed on the Community market to demonstrate that it does not contain genetically modified rice "LL RICE 601". Within 15 working days this sampling and testing has to be done according to the protocol as described in the Decision.

The competent authorities of the Member States shall issue an official accompanying document indicating that the consignment has been subject to official sampling and analysis and setting out the result of the analysis.

If a consignment is split, copies of the original analytical report and of the official enclosed document must accompany each part of the split consignment up to and including the wholesale stage. Those copies shall be certified by the competent authority of the Member State on whose territory the splitting has taken place.

Recovery of costs - All costs resulting from sampling, analysis, storage and issuing of official accompanying documents and of copies of analytical reports and accompanying documents pursuant to shall be borne by the food business operator responsible for the consignment or its representative.

All costs related to official measures taken by the competent authorities as regards non-compliant consignments shall be borne by the food business operator responsible for the consignment or its representative.

GM Food and Feed

Report from the Commission on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed finally published.

The long awaited report on the implementation of Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed has finally been published.

The report indicates that the placing on the market of GM feed labelled as such is much more common place than the marketing of GM food.

Only one product, 1507 maize, has so far been authorised under the new Reputation's authorisation procedure, other products having been authorised through transitional measures. The report also refers to the current examples of the adventitious presence of unauthorised GMO products and it indicates that the commission may take further steps to prevent the entry into the EU of unauthorised GM products. Overall, the Commission considers it too early to judge the success or failure of the Regulation, and

commits to producing a second report after more experience with implementation has been gained. According to Article 48 of Regulation 1829/2003 the Commission is to forward to the European Parliament and to the Council the report on the implementation of this. This article also states that the report should be accompanied, where appropriate, by any suitable proposal. Such a proposal has not been presented. Dates for discussion in the European Parliament and the Council have not been fixed yet.

Trade

Vietnam joins WTO - A special meeting of the WTO General Council on 7/11 approved the WTO Working Party's recommendation to accept Vietnam as the 150th member of the WTO. The communist country's Prime Minister Truong Dinh Tuyen explained that negotiations for WTO membership were closely accompanied by economic reform, known as "doi moi". The Vietnamese National Assembly still needs

to ratify the accession, followed by 30-day waiting period. Vietnam's accession has been formalised just days before Hanoi hosts the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic (APEC) Forum.

EU poultry imports - The EU and Brazil agreed on 27/10 to modify the current poultry import regime from simple bound tariffs into tariff rate quotas (TRQs) in accordance with GATT Article XXVIII. Imports from Brazil into the EU of salted poultry meat, preparations of turkey meat and cooked chicken meat will be subject to a quota on the level of the existing tariff, which will be managed on an import licensing system. Agriculture Commissioner Fischer Boel stated "I am very pleased with the outcome of these negotiations, which ensures that our interests are safeguarded [...]". Similar negotiations with Thailand are not concluded yet.

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