

# Consultation on the determination of the status of a novel food under Article 4 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Information according to Article 7 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/456

**Recipient Member State:** Germany

## 1. Name and description of the food in question

Roasted silver skin of coffee beans (testa of *coffea* sp.)

## 2. Status as a novel food

The product is a novel food.

## 3. Food category

The food falls within the category referred to in Article 3 (2) (a) (iv) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 (“Foodstuffs from plants or parts of plants”).

## 4. Reason

The German federal states’ authorities responsible for food surveillance as well as the competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

Roasted coffee beans usually contain a minor part of silver skin (1 to 2 % of the whole bean's weight) because the silver skin is commonly blown off in the roasting process. There are also other ways of coffee preparation (e.g. home roasting of green coffee) where most of the silver skin is retained and subsequently ground together with the coffee beans before the coffee beverage is produced by hot water extraction.

The biggest share of roasted coffee beans marketed are not consumed directly but only the hot water extract (coffee beverage) while the insoluble parts (spent coffee grounds containing the silver skin) are usually discarded and not consumed.

From the consumption of the hot water extract a history of consumption of the *isolated* silver skin cannot be deduced.

In addition, coffee beverages have been prepared by “Turkish or Greek coffee preparation”: where a significant amount of the coffee grounds remains in suspension and is consumed with the resulting beverage. This was common especially in southern EU countries.

A share of roasted coffee beans is also consumed directly (e.g. covered with chocolate or ground as an ingredient to bakery wares or confectionery). From another consultation request concerning spent coffee grounds it was concluded that these products (roasted coffee beans) are not novel.

However, in the opinion of the Recipient Member State based on the consultations with other Member States, the consumption of the silver skin as part of roasted coffee beans as such or together with non-filtered coffee beverages cannot be taken as a history of consumption for the *isolated* silver skin.

In conclusion, roasted silver skins of coffee beans have not been used for human consumption to a significant degree within the Union before 15 May 1997.