

## **Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food, pursuant to Article 4(2) of the above Regulation**

### **Cacao pulp juice**

**Recipient Member State:** Belgium Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment

### **Justification**

The Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment has examined the request for determination of novel food status of the following ingredient:

Cacao pulp juice

*Cacao pulp juice is obtained from the pulp (mucilage) that surrounds the cacao beans in the cacao fruits from the *Theobroma cacao* L. trees. At harvest, the cacao fruits are cleaned and opened to remove the cacao beans and the pulp. The pulp is mechanically separated from the beans and filtered to remove the insoluble fraction. The obtained juice (85% water) is pasteurised and can be concentrated.*

As mentioned in the request, the requester did not find any evidence that this ingredient was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997.

We have consulted the other Member States and the Commission and none of them had knowledge of a significant history of consumption.

We therefore conclude that the ingredient 'cacao pulp juice' described above must be regarded as a novel food as defined in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283, and falls under the following category:

- (iv) food consisting of, isolated from or produced from plants or their parts.