



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health

Working Group meeting on Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers

Brussels, 18 April 2016

Centre de Conférences Albert Borschette

Meeting room AB-3B

Chair: *Mr Tim Gumbel*

Deputy Head of Unit E1 – Food information and composition, food waste

The goal of the meeting was for the Commission to give an introduction to the creation of the food labelling information system and to have a discussion on the implementing act on the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, Article 26(3), on voluntary origin indication.

The food labelling information system

The Commission made a short introduction to the food labelling information system and gave an update on the ongoing work on the food labelling information system.

Main remarks by Stakeholders:

Certain Stakeholders welcomed the food labelling information system and found that it would be a very useful tool with a great potential. They stressed, however, that it is vital that the system becomes useful as well as user friendly, and they offered their assistance to help with the creation and testing of the system. They asked for some clarifications on the role of Member States as regards the completeness and accuracy of the information provided by the system as well as on the manner for updating the information provided.

The Commission explained that the aim of the food labelling information system is to have an easy-to-use IT tool which will provide accurate and complete data for the labelling requirements of certain food products. Member States will be involved to a certain extent, but with the right balance. They should not be burdened extensively with this project. The collection of data for the food labelling information system will be done by an external contractor. The Commission with the assistance of Member States and other stakeholders will validate the data.

As regards the responsibility for updating the system, the Commission explained that for the first years of operation of the system and until this is well established, the Commission will be responsible for updating the data provided by the system.

The Commission informed that some parts of the database would be ready for publication in 2017 and welcomed the offer of stakeholders to assist the Commission on this ambitious project.

The implementing act on the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, Article 26(3) on voluntary origin indication

The Commission informed that the presented draft of the implementing act on the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, Article 26(3), on voluntary origin indication had already been discussed with Member States, but that it is important to hear comments from both Member States and stakeholders before considering amendments to the draft text. The Commission informed that a second discussion with Member States would take place end of May and that the implementing act was currently planned to be finalised by the end of 2016.

Stakeholders welcomed the draft implementing act. They expressed certain concerns regarding clarity and legal certainty of the application of the implementing act and in that context they stressed the importance of obtaining guidance to avoid divergent interpretations of the new text.

Stakeholders emphasized that protected origin denomination such as PDO, PGI and TSG as well as trademarks should be excluded from the scope of the implementing act.

Furthermore, stakeholders stressed that flexibility should be incorporated into the draft to enable food business operators to use the possibility to indicate the origin of the primary ingredient to be of a different origin as that of the food, even though the primary ingredient would come from several countries, where one of them would be the same as the origin of the product.

The Commission acknowledged the need for providing guidance, which at a later stage will be considered. The Commission informed that according to its understanding, as regards PDO, PGI and TSG Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 apply cumulatively.

List of participating stakeholder organisations

Members of the Advisory Group

Organisation
AESGP Association of the European Self-Medication Industry
AIPCE-CEP European Fish Processors and Traders Association
AVEC Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU
BEUC The European Consumer Organisation
CEFIC European Chemical Industry Council
CELCAA Comité européen de liaison des commerces agroalimentaires
CLITRAVI Centre de liaison des industries transformatrices de viandes de l'UE
COPA-COGECA Comité des organisations professionnelles agricoles de l'UE
ECPA European Crop Protection Association
ECSLA European Cold Storage and Logistics Association
EDA European Dairy Association
EHPM European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers
EHPM European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers
EUROCOMMERCE European Representation of Retail, Wholesale and International Trade
EUROCOOP European Community of Consumer Cooperatives
EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS
FESASS European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FOODDRINK EUROPE European food and drink industry confederation
HOTREC Umbrella association of hotels, restaurants and cafés
INDEPENDENT RETAIL EUROPE
PFP Primary Food Processors association
UEAPME European Craft and SME Employer's Association

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UECBV European Livestock And Meat Trading Union

Non-members

AICV European Cider and Fruit Wine Association
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ELC Federation of European Specialty Food Ingredients Industries
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ESSNA European Specialist Sports Nutrition Alliance

FACEnetwork Farmhouse and Artisan Cheese & Dairy Producers European Network

FOOD SUPPLEMENTS EUROPE

SAFE Safe Food Advocacy Europe
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SIPA Seafood Importers and Processors Alliance
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SNE Specialised Nutrition Europe
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