

Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

Recipient Member State

Finnish Food Authority

Name and description of the food in question

Biomass of *Paecilomyces variotii*

Paecilomyces variotii is a fungus, which has been previously produced and marketed as feed product for chicken, pigs, and cows in Finland with a brand name PEKILO®. The production of the feed stopped in 1991. Outside EU the organism has been used in China in the production of drink *Baijun* and fermented food *Minchin*. The fungal biomass of *Paecilomyces variotii* is intended to be used as a protein ingredient in several food categories e.g. in meat or dairy analogues.

Status

Novel food.

Food category

3 (2)(a)(ii) food consisting of, isolated from, or produced from microorganisms, fungi, or algae

Reasons statement

Based on the information provided in the request for consultation, the biomass of *Paecilomyces variotii* fungus has not been used for human consumption in the EU before 15 May 1997, but only as feed. Information on the history of use as food was also asked from other EU Member States, but this was not known. Therefore, the food in question is a novel food, which belongs to food category 3 (2) (a) (ii): foodstuffs consisting of, derived from, or produced from micro-organisms, fungi, or algae.

Conclusion

Biomass of *Paecilomyces variotii* is novel food.