

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.

Receiving Member State: SPANISH AGENCY FOR FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION (AESAN)

Name and description of the food:

The food for which the opinion is requested is **Plant-based product**.

It is a mass without ingredients of animal origin resulting from the process of production of edible biomass by means of the agglomeration and nutritional modification of a plant substrate edible by at least one strain of filamentous fungi (*Pleurotus ostreatus*).

How the food is intended to be used: to be consumed as such in the form of prepared food. This food is a complete meal, not being an ingredient or raw material of another food.

Status: Novel food

Category (When applicable): Article 2(a)(ii) food consisting of, or isolated from or produced from, micro-organisms, fungi or algae;

Justification and conclusion:

The plant substrate to be used is an edible substrate based on different plant species to which liquid mycelium of different species of fungi (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) will be inoculated to obtain an edible biomass.

In the application, mycelium is added to the product and is not removed and should therefore be considered as an ingredient of the product.

No evidence was submitted in the application that fungus mycelium (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997, and no Member State or the Commission was aware of a significant history of consumption.

Therefore, provided that *Pleurotus ostreatus* mycelium does not fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 or Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, we conclude that the ingredient described above should be considered as a novel food as defined in Article 3(2) category (ii) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.