EXPERT GROUP ON FOOD INTENDED FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, FOOD FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL PURPOSES AND TOTAL DIET REPLACEMENT FOR WEIGHT CONTROL

SUMMARY REPORT

Brussels, 12 October 2018

Chair: Mr Jacques Humières

1. Welcome

The Commission (COM) welcomed the experts by recalling the context of the meeting: Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes and total diet replacement for weight control[1] requires the Commission to adopt delegated acts on the specific compositional and information requirements for the categories of food falling within the scope of the Regulation, including baby foods (BF) and processed cereal-based foods (PCBF). The objective of the meeting was to discuss the possible options outlined in the Commission Staff Working Document for the general approach to lay down compositional requirements for BF and PCBF in the future delegated act.

2. Exchange of views on the general approach for laying down compositional requirements

The COM presented to the experts the Commission Staff Working Document on the adoption of a delegated act pursuant to Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 on PCBF and BF.

Following the presentation Member States were asked to share their views on the options identified in the working document. Many Member States`experts who took the floor tended to agree more with option 2 (non-descriptive approach) than option 1 (very descriptive approach) however some experts indicated that a sort of combination of option 1 and 2 could also be considered. One Member State pointed out that that in principle future compositional requirements should reflect the national food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) and recent scientific data. Some others highlighted that only products which were indeed essential to satisfy the nutritional requirements of infants and young children should be placed on the market as BF and PCBF. This objective might be ensured by food categorization and/or by careful setting of the compositional and labelling requirements. Another Member State mentioned that food categories laid down in the delegated act could be seen as recognition of their necessity in the diet of infants and young children. Therefore, those food groups which are not necessary in the diet of that age group should not be mentioned in the future measure. It was further noted that some elements of the current Directive[2] could also be considered when reflecting on the categorization of BF and PCBF. Member States were asked to send

[1] OJ L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 35

[2] Commission Directive 2006/125/EC of 5 December 2006 on processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children, OJ L 339, 6.12.2006, p. 16

their further comments on the working document in writing by the beginning of December 2018.

The COM explained the next steps and the timeframe for the future work on the delegated act. As regards the compositional aspects of the delegated act, another Expert Group meeting is envisaged for early next year with the aim to further discuss and agree on the future structure (food categories) of the delegated act and to start discussing the compositional requirements for BF and PCBF. Once the compositional requirements have been discussed and finalised (foreseen in the course of next year) EFSA will be asked, in the context of a future mandate, to comment on the adequacy of the proposed compositional requirements.

As regards the labelling part of the delegated act, the COM recalled that EFSA had accepted (in September 2016) a mandate for an update of the scientific opinion on the appropriate age for introduction of complementary feeding of infants with a deadline of 30 September 2018. Due to the unexpected workload and high public interest in the topic the deadline had been extended until 31 July 2019. Once the scientific opinion will be adopted appropriate labelling requirements could be discussed with Member States that - together with the compositional requirements endorsed by EFSA - will serve as a basis for the drafting of the future delegated act.

3. AOB

Upon request of a Member State the COM gave an update on the ongoing work related to the amendment of the maximum vitamin D level permitted for infant formula by delegated Regulation 2016/127[3]. In this context, the COM informed the Expert Group that in view of the conclusions of the EFSA's Scientific Opinions on erucic acid in in feed and food[4] amendments are envisaged to the maximum levels of erucic acid set out by the delegated act. The COM recalled that other questions sent prior to the Expert Group meeting under AOB had been replied in writing.

[3] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127 of 25 September 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific compositional and information requirements for infant formulae and follow-on formulae and as regards requirements on information relating to infant and young child feeding, OJ L 25, 2.2.2016, p. 1.

[4] EFSA Journal 2016;14(11):4593, 173 pp.