



Following the publication of the first series of EFSA opinions on Article 13 claims, several letters have been addressed to Commissioner Dalli and to DG SANCO with regard to the effects of the claims regulation on the specific sector of food supplements. With this answer we provide a collective reply to all letters.

First of all, the Directorate General Health and Consumers would like to emphasize that the main aim of the Regulation is to ensure that nutrition and health claims that are made on foods are truthful, clear, reliable and useful to the consumer and based on generally accepted scientific evidence so that the consumer is fully protected. It therefore ties in with the Commission's campaign for healthier lifestyle choices by allowing citizens to know exactly what they are consuming. In that respect, the Regulation sets the appropriate authorisation procedures in order to ensure that only scientifically substantiated health claims are made on foods which involve the European Food Safety Authority as risk assessor and the Commission and the Member States authorities as risk managers.

Further, it is important to note that small and medium size companies will benefit tremendously from the Regulation, as they may use health claims approved through applications submitted by larger companies, insofar the Regulation allows in most cases all companies which can demonstrate compliance with the conditions of use for the claims to use them.

Finally, we can reassure that throughout the authorisation process EFSA and the Commission strive to ensure a transparent way of working. Information can be obtained on the Commission website, where comments received from the public on EFSA advice is made publicly available. The Commission website also contains a Register of all the authorised claims and the conditions of use applying to them as well as a list of rejected health claims and the reasons for their rejection.