

Application for consultation to determinate 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: German Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

Information referred to in Article 7 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/456

1. Name and description of the food concerned

Preserved pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*), also pine-cone varenje (*Pinus sylvestris*).

The finished product contains young pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*), which are boiled down with drinking water, sugar and, optionally, citric acid, as well as the syrup produced by the cooking of the pine cones.

2. Novel food status

The preserved pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) for consumption as such are non-novel foods (“not NFS”) only in food supplements.

The syrup produced by cooking the pine cones is not novel.

3. Food category under which it falls

The food falls under the category in Article 3(2)(a)(iv) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 (food produced from plants or their parts).

4. Justification

In line with the outcome of the consultation request to determine novel food status pursuant to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of 10 May 2019, the pine-cone syrup produced by boiling down young pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) with drinking water, sugar and, optionally, citric acid, and which no longer contains any pine cones, is not considered to be a novel food.

According to the Belgian Royal Decree of 24 January 2017¹ the use of young pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) for consumption as such is only non-novel in food supplements (“not NFS”). The boiling down of young pine cones with drinking water, sugar and, optionally, citric acid does not constitute processing that would justify changing this classification. Consequently, the preserved pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) produced by means of the process communicated by the applicant for consumption as such are also classified as

¹ Royal Decree (Kingdom of Belgium) of 24 January 2017 amending the Royal Decree of 29 August 1997 on the production of and trade in food produced from or containing plants or plant preparations.

non-novel only in food supplements (“not NFS”).

The applicant stated that the above-mentioned product had already been produced and consumed to a significant degree in various EU Member States before 15 May 1997.

The Member State Latvia was consulted and confirmed that in Latvia preserved pine cones for consumption as such were marketed only in the form of food supplements, based on the above-mentioned classification derived from the Belgian Royal Decree of 24 January 2017.

The Member State Bulgaria was consulted and confirmed that the finished product, containing pine-cone syrup and preserved pine cones (both from *Pinus sylvestris*), had already been produced for human consumption before 15 May 1997. However, in Bulgaria the pine cones themselves are not consumed and the finished product must be labelled as follows: “Pine cones are to be used for decoration purposes only”. Consequently, it cannot be concluded from this either that the cones were consumed to a significant degree.

Since none of the EU Member States consulted were able to confirm that the preserved pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) had been used for consumption as such to a significant degree before 15 May 1997 in food other than supplements, the above-mentioned classification of the preserved pine cones (*Pinus sylvestris*) for consumption as such as defined in the Belgian Royal Decree of 24 January 2017 is still correct.

Therefore, only the syrup produced by boiling down the pine cones is considered not novel.