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, 15 November 2013

Chairman: Mr. Basil Mathioudakis

1. Exchange of views on certain requirements for food for special medical purposes (FSMPs) for infants

The Commission asked experts to share their views on whether specific statements should be requested for FSMPs for infants in the future delegated act in order to explain their relationship to breastfeeding and on whether the prohibition to use the terms "humanised", "maternalised", and "adapted" (currently required by Directive 2006/141/EC) should be extended to FSMPs for infants. Different positions appeared from the discussion which would require further consideration of the issue.

The Commission then brought to the attention of Member States the question of whether the use of claims should be allowed for FSMPs for infants. It was agreed that this issue would be further discussed at a later stage.

Finally, the Commission brought to the attention of Member States the issue of whether the distribution of samples should be allowed for FSMPs for infants. The Commission recalled that the distribution of samples may be useful to determine an infant's reaction to a certain product. Several delegations underlined that samples should not be distributed directly to consumers and supported the distribution of samples to and through health care professionals only.

Member States agreed with the Commission's request to share data on the products notified in their territory as FSMPs for infants, in order to have a clearer picture of the products on the market.

2. Exchange of views on pesticides within the meaning of Article 11(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013

The Commission introduced the existing rules applicable to pesticides in foods for infants and young children – in Directives 2006/141/EC and 2006/125/EC – and recalled the requirements of the FSG Regulation on pesticides and the obligations of the Commission when adopting the delegated acts.

Experts acknowledged the complexity of the issue (especially with respect to scientific assessment and enforcement) and asked for further time to reflect together with responsible colleagues in the relevant branches of the national administrations. It was however noted that the existing rules guarantee a high level of protection of these vulnerable groups of the population.