

ARTICLE 4 REQUEST

Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Consultation request to determine the status of pomegranate (*Punica granatum L*) seed oil pursuant to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods

Recipient Member State:

France, Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF).

Name and description of the food:

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum L.*) seed oil

The product is mainly intended to be used as food supplement, seasoning oil and within a culinary preparation. However it could be integrated to a wide range of products requiring oil.

Status :

The DGCCRF concludes that Pomegranate (*Punica granatum L*) seed oil is considered as **novel food**.

Novel food category :

Article 3(2)(a)(iv) "...food consisting of, isolated from or produced from plants or their parts, except when the food has a history of safe food use within the Union"

Reasons for this conclusion :

The request concerns pomegranate (*Punica granatum L*) seed oil. The extraction methods are either traditional (cold pressing) or commonly used to obtain oil (hexane extraction).

Based on the evidence provided, it cannot be justified that pomegranate (*Punica granatum L.*) seed oil has a history of consumption in the European Union prior to May 15, 1997.

After consulting other Member States, none of these has confirmed a history of consumption of pomegranate (*Punica granatum L*) seed oil prior to May 15, 1997.