Summary of the application: extension of use of the traditional infusion obtained from coffee leaves (Coffea sp.) as defined in Regulation (EU) 2020/917

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The present application for the authorisation of a Novel Food (NF) covers the extension of use of traditional coffee leaves infusion, a traditional food from a third country (TF) authorised and placed on the EU market under Regulation (EU) 2020/917, in additional food categories. This application is in line with Regulation (EU) 2017/2469 and complies with the EFSA guidance on the preparation and presentation of the application for the authorisation of novel foods in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

The extension of use consists in the addition of conventional ingredients to the traditional coffee leaves herbal infusion for the production of flavoured beverage, following conventional processing techniques (i.e. thermal stabilisation such as pasteurisation, sterilisation, and UHT; drying treatments such as spray drying and freeze drying). Added ingredients, aimed at providing flavour, nutritional and technological properties, are approved under the Regulation (EC) 1333/2008 and are extensively used in the food industry for the formulation of infusion and flavoured beverages without posing any safety concerns. The application of thermal and/or drying processing ensures both the stability of the product and the prescribed technological properties.

Analytical results presented by the Applicant support the safety of the proposed beverage, showing that the concentration levels of contaminants and naturally occurring bioactive compounds in the final beverage are negligible and largely within the specifications set by Regulation (EU) 2020/917. In addition, the Applicant noted that similar products are marketed and consumed overseas.

The flavoured beverage obtained from traditional coffee leaves infusion is proposed to be marketed in the European Union following the specifications provided in Regulation (EU) 2020/917, and falling into the categories specified in Regulation (EU) 2022/47. The NF is intended for the general population and do not require any special precaution.

No potential health hazards have been identified based on the composition and/or in accordance with the anticipated intakes. Assuming clear labelling the NF may not mislead the consumer and, given the intended use, is not nutritionally disadvantageous. Consequently, for the purposes of article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283, based on the scientific evidence available, the flavoured beverage obtained from traditional coffee leaves herbal infusion do not pose any safety risk to human health.