

Consultation request for the determination of the novel food status ARTICLE 4 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Consultation request to determine the novel food status of beta-glucan obtained by bacterial fermentation of *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09

Recipient Member state: France, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, General Directorate of Food

Date: 05/08/2024

Name and description of the novel food:

The request concerns beta-glucan obtained by bacterial fermentation of *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09.

Novel food status:

The product is considered as a novel food.

Novel food category:

The product falls under the food category defined in article 3(2)(a)(ii) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Reason statements:

The French Ministry of Agriculture Food Sovereignty, General Directorate of Food, has examined the request for determination of novel food status of bacterial fermentation of beta-glucan obtained by *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09.

To date, beta-glucan extracted from the mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus* is considered not to be novel and there are two beta-glucans authorised as novel foods listed in Regulation 2017/2470:

- Beta-glucan from *Euglena gracilis* microalgae,
- Beta-glucans from yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*).

From the data provided in the dossier, the applicant did not provide consistent evidence that beta-glucan obtained by bacterial fermentation of *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09 has a history of consumption in EU before 15 May 1997.

Moreover, it might also be considered as novel, given that *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09, previously known as *Rhizobium* sp. ZX09, appears to be novel as well. Indeed, there are no scientific data about this strain prior to 1997.

Conclusion:

Beta-glucan obtained by *Agrobacterium pusense* ZX09 is considered novel food since it does not present history of safe and significant consumption in the European Union before May 15, 1997.