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 the Chlorella sp. (Auxenochlorella protothecoides, Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa, Chlorella sorokiniana, Chlorella vulgaris, Jaagichlorella luteoviridis, Parachlorella kessleri)

Recipient Member State: Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Safety Department

Date: 04/03/2022

Name and description of the novel food:

Chlorella sp. consists one or more species from this list of the species: Auxenochlorella protothecoides, Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa, Chlorella sorokiniana, Chlorella vulgaris, Jaagichlorella luteoviridis, Parachlorella kessleri

Dried biomass of unicellular microscopic freshwater algae of the genus Chlorella, referred to as Chlorella sp. or Chlorela, obtained by cultivation in an autotrophic (with the presence of light), heterotrophic (without the presence of light in fermenters) or mixotrophic combination of the two previous modes) mode. The dried biomass is in the form of a fine powder which is used as a food supplement in form of capsules, tablets etc. or lyophilized Chlorella extract. The dried biomass can be used as a food material in food industry (as a food component), e.g. in bakery products, pasta, beverages. The food does not contain nanomaterials.

Novel food status

Chlorella sp. (Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa, Chlorella sorokiniana, Chlorella vulgaris, Jaagichlorella luteoviridis, Parachlorella kessleri, Auxenochlorella protothecoides) is considered as not novel food.

Novel food category
Not applicable

Reason statement:

Products containing biomass of Chlorella are available on the Union market in a wide range. Some producers designate the product by the name of the species of the microalga, frequently as Chlorella vulgaris, or Chlorella or Chlorella sp. Taxonomy of Chlorella sp. is quite problematic because genetic analyses are not straightforward in determining of the specific species of the genus Chlorella. With reference to the French decision and official information, as well as detailed knowledge of the taxonomy of Chlorella supported by genetic analysis, we consider the species of Chlorella sp. (see above) as a traditional food which has the history of consumption as a food or food supplement in the EU before 15th May 1997.
Conclusion: