

Consultation request for the determination of the novel food status under Article 4 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on novel foods

Recipient Member State

France, General Directorate of Food (DGAL), Ministry of Agriculture and food sovereignty, and General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty.

Name and description of the food in question

The request concerns a non-concentrated aqueous infusion of *Stevia rebaudiana* leaves.

The aqueous infusion is made with water only, is not concentrated and has not being subject to any selective extraction. The use is limited to following applications only :

- Tea, herbal and fruits infusions consumed as such ;
- Non-alcoholic flavoured drinks based on herbal, tea or fruit infusions such as iced teas.

Novel Food Status

Not Novel Food

Food category

Category : Art. 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 statement

Competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

The UK authority who was present during the evaluation of infusion of Stevia leaves in the frame of the European Novel Food Regulation, confirmed having received and validated evidence (sales invoices, distribution lists, press articles and advertising messages), demonstrating a history of human consumption to a significant degree throughout the European Union before 15 may 1997 for liquid infusion of stevia leaves in those applications.

Based on the submitted information and this consultation (during which no comments were received), a history of consumption has been demonstrated for non-concentrated aqueous infusion of *Stevia rebaudiana* leaves.

Date

28-06-2023