

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

WFD: EP supports legal clarification on by-products - On 13/02, the EP plenary in Strasbourg voted in 1st reading on the Jackson report on a revised Waste Framework Directive. MEPs thereby supported the identical amendments 107/121 providing for a legal clarification of the crucial distinction between by-products and waste, as continuously advocated by CIAA over the last year. The achieved majority was extremely tight (by 346 votes in favour, 334 against and 9 abstentions). Due to the similarity of amendment 107/121 with the current Council text on by-products, which is fully backed by CIAA, the EP vote could lay the basis for consistent agreement on by-products in 2nd reading, which would meet industry's desire for legal clarity and certainty and ensure a harmonised treatment of by-products across the EU. Amendment 7 on by-products (to the recital) as adopted in the ENVI Committee was also adopted, thereby creating some inconsistency with amendment 107/121. However, given the stronger status of the latter amendment in Article 3(a) of the main part of the WFD, it should be expected to prevail over the recital. Concerning the other priority issues of CIAA, MEPs stuck largely to the compromise amendments adopted at the Committee level, meaning that voting results are less positive for industry (e.g. hierarchy implementation, prevention, etc) - please see EUPARL/013/07E for the detailed voting list with the full results.

Fusarium Toxins

European Commission Calls For Industry Data on Fusarium Mycotoxins

On 29/01, in response to the European Commission Fusarium Mycotoxins Forum of 15/16-01 CIAA submitted a letter to DG SANCO detailing its concerns with regard to the maximum levels for Fusarium mycotoxins in unprocessed, intermediary and final maize and maize products, established by Regulation 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs, which will enter into force on 1/07 and 1/10. In its letter, CIAA noted, while providing justification for doing so, that the current transition time set within the Regulation is inappropriate, and requested a delay of at least 2-3 years in order to facilitate the implementation of the appropriate measures.

Following discussions within the Member State Expert Committee and the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health earlier this month, industry was presented with a framework for future discussions regarding the levels for Fusarium-toxins in maize and maize products. Although elements from the CIAA letter were clearly considered in this framework, their adoption is dependent on the delivery of data substantiating our arguments by 1st March.

Ingredients

CIAA has finalised its detailed comments on the Commission proposals for Regulations on food additives, food enzymes and common authorisation procedures. These comments have been sent on 12 February to DG Sanco, the Council and the German Presidency of the Council. CIAA has requested meetings with the Commission and the German Presidency to discuss these detailed comments (meetings to take place early March).

CIAA is also currently finalising its detailed comments on the Commission proposal on flavourings, which should be available shortly.

European Technology Platforms

Meeting of the European Technology Platforms (ETPs) related to Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) on 6 February 2007 in Brussels

The ETP Food for Life responded to the invitation of the ETP "Plants for the future" together with other Platforms involved in bio-economy (Forestry, Farm Animal Breeding, Global Animal Health, Biofuels, Sustainable Chemistry) to explore synergies between research areas covered by the KBBE ETPs and strengthen interactions and develop common actions. A crucial role of KBBE ETPs is to provide input to the European Commission for the definition of the FP7 calls of proposals within the theme "Agriculture & Fisheries, Food, and biotechnology". In that context, a working group will be created to work on the development of potential KBBE common positions that could improve KBBE ETPs' influence on coming FP7 work programmes.

Trade

A meeting of senior trade officials of more than 30 WTO member states met at the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos on 27/01 and agreed to restart suspended multilateral DDA negotiations. On 08/02 WTO Director General Pascal Lamy noted to the WTO General Council, that "political conditions are now more favourable for the conclusion of the Round". Trade Negotiating Committees are fully working to advance technical issues on all levels. CIAA welcomed the resumption of the DDA talks (TCO/043/07E). If negotiations advance in the coming months, and the US administration renews its Trade Promotion authority by June, the Round could be concluded by the end of 2007 with a Ministerial meeting held beginning of 2008.