

# CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

## Highlight

*CIAA has just published its 2006 Annual Report. Highlighting the work, progress, achievements and future challenges of the EU food and drink industry, the report delves deep into the issues that shaped the work programme of CIAA in 2006. The 40-page report is available for download direct from the CIAA homepage [www.ciaa.eu](http://www.ciaa.eu) Free hard copies can also be ordered via the website.*

## Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed

### CIAA Meets with European Commission to Discuss Functioning of Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed

On 22/03 March, a CIAA delegation met with Commission experts to discuss the functioning of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). After a number of concrete examples had been presented to substantiate the CIAA position, it became clear that the Commission had not foreseen the serious impact that incorrect rapid alerts could have on the food and drink industry. CIAA also took the opportunity to request that it become involved in current discussions on the implementing measures for the RASFF, and proposed that industry be represented at a forthcoming governmental expert meeting discussing the impact of rapid alerts on industry. A working document containing implementing measures is expected to come out end of April.

## Newly Reactivated Hygiene Expert Group

### Newly Reactivated Hygiene Expert Group Prepares for Commission Consultation on EU Hygiene Package

The first meeting of the newly reactivated Hygiene Expert Group took place on March 20/03, under the Chairmanship of D. Dongo (Federalimentare). Discussions focused on members' responses to a CIAA questionnaire assessing the impact of the EU's legislative package on hygiene, which will be the subject of a Commission stakeholder consultation beginning with a meeting of the Advisory Group

on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 04/05. CIAA will be present at the discussions.

The stakeholder consultation will in turn provide input into a Commission impact assessment of the regulations and a report on their implementation, after which it will be decided whether a revision of the legislation is merited. Although the deadline for the transmission of these proposals to the Council and European Parliament is May 2009, the Commission has set itself the deadline for completion of these texts by May 2008, and has cautioned that it will be "insensitive" to industry feedback submitted after that date.

## Trade

### WTO DDA

Negotiators continue to push for WTO negotiations to get into the final end game. Despite strong commitments by all main negotiating parties, they do not hide either their scepticism. Some gaps in timing can also be noted: the EU works towards getting a breakthrough at the end of June, for the USA, this should be more likely around July. For C. Falconer, the Chair of the agriculture negotiation, the current advancement of the G4 and G3 process in agriculture negotiation does not make any date earlier than July for a breakthrough sound realistic. He may also consider providing in April or May some new input and focus to the negotiation process.