

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

*CIAA hosted a special dinner debate launch the brochure highlighting industry action in tackling obesity. Marking the recent second anniversary of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, on 18 April, CIAA used the occasion of a special dinner debate to launch a brochure outlining the wealth of progress made by Europe's food and drink industry in the ongoing fight against obesity. The brochure produced by CIAA's secretariat entitled **Promoting Healthy Diets and Lifestyles - Europe's food and drink industry in action** was presented to the special invitees consisting of key MEPs, European Commission delegates, the head of DG Sanco Mr Robert Madelin, Permanent Representation attachés, members of the Brussels-based EU press corps, and representatives of CIAA's broad membership base. Feedback to date on the CIAA event has been extremely positive with the publication of the brochure in particular receiving wide coverage in the EU affairs media. It is expected that further coverage will follow in the days and indeed weeks ahead. CIAA will continue to monitor this situation on behalf of its members.*

The new CIAA brochure can be downloaded from the new dedicated CIAA diet and health website on www.ciaa.eu/commitments. For further information, please contact Sabine Henssler, CIAA Communications Director at s.henssler@ciaa.eu or on +32 2 514 11 11.

First national food platforms meeting

The first national food platforms meeting (NFP) which took place in Rome on 14/04 was a success, bringing together 150 people from 25 countries. The European Technology Platform "Food for Life", in conjunction with the Italian National Technology Platform, Federalimentare and CIAA, organised a meeting gathering NFP. The event was held in Rome on 14/04 during the International Food & Drink exhibition "CIBUS ROMA" 13-16/04. DG Enterprise, national authorities, national food & drink federations, and representatives of the academy and of research centres attended this meeting. The main objective of NFP is to enhance research and innovation in food at national level.

The first meeting of the national platforms in Rome was an ideal occasion to get set up a network to exchange views and to start to discuss best practices. Twenty-five countries provided a short presentation to introduce their platform through its main activities and results.

It was a first contact and further discussion should start via <http://etp.ciaa.eu> and continue during a second meeting to be held in Brussels on 14/09.

Food Contact Materials

A Commission Working Group meeting on Food Contact Materials took place on 28/03, industry was invited to attend the morning part of the meeting.

The meeting was the occasion for industry to present updates on the work of the Metal Closures Industry Group (MC-IG) and the Packaging Inks Joint Industry Task Force (PIJITF). DG Sanco presented an updated version of its proposal on recycled content for

plastics used in food contact materials and a working document for a proposal on active and intelligent packaging. Industry and Member States can submit comments on both texts by end April, DG Sanco intends then to review both texts in view of the next Commission Working Group meeting scheduled on 30th May (to be confirmed).

Climate, Energy & Green Taxation

On 28/03, the European Commission launched a new Green Paper on the use of "green" taxes and other market based instruments (MBIs) in the field of environment and energy policy. The document follows the Spring European Summit of 8-9/03 2007 in Brussels, at which EU heads of state and government committed to reducing European CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020 and to increase the share of renewable and bio-fuel by 20% and 10% respectively by the same date. One of the main options proposed by the Commission in the new Green Paper is shifting tax burdens from labour to environmentally damaging activities (mainly energy use). The Paper was launched by Environment Commissioner Dimas and Taxation Commissioner Kovacs, who argue that increased use of MBIs (taxes, charges, subsidies and tradable permits) could be a more cost-effective way of achieving the EU's climate and energy targets than direct legislation. According to the document, taxes could be used, for instance, to promote the development of generation bio-fuels and to reduce CO2 emissions outside the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (e.g. from small installations). The Commission has launched a broad consultation on the Green Paper and is calling for contributions from stakeholders by 31/07. See also ENV/045/07E.

Additives/common authorisation procedure

The EP ENVI Committee adopted on 11/04 the Westlund reports on additives and the common authorisation procedure. On additives, the Committee supported the rapporteur in calling for the co-decision procedure as opposed to comitology as proposed by the Commission for the modification of the annexes and voted in favour of a rolling re-evaluation programme. MEPs did not, however, support Mrs Westlund's amendments on the change in the definition of processing aids and also rejected the call for a dual legal base for the proposal. In addition, a large number of the more technical amendments proposed by CIAA were adopted by the Committee. On the common authorisation procedure MEPs again rejected comitology for approvals, favouring the co-decision procedure, and rejected the call for a dual legal base. For a detailed analysis of the vote see EUPARL/040/07. These reports will now go forward for first reading during the 18-21/06 plenary session.

HACCP Requirements

CIAA Underlines its Objection to Proposed Exemption of Micro-Businesses from HACCP Requirements

CIAA has submitted letters to relevant contacts within the Commission, Council Secretariat, Parliament and German Presidency, underlining its objections to a recent proposal by the Commission to amend Regulation 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs, in order to exempt "micro-enterprises" (as defined within Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC), such as bakeries, butchers, grocery shops, restaurants and bars, predominantly selling their products directly to the final consumer, from all of the HACCP requirements contained within the Regulation. The amendment of Regulation 852/2004, which was adopted by the College of Commissioners on 7th March, is one of ten "fast track action" proposals stemming from the Action Programme to reduce administrative burdens in the EU, introduced in January this year.

In its letter, CIAA points out that although the European food and drink industry has always agreed with the need for a flexible approach to HACCP for

very small businesses, without compromising food safety, sufficient flexibility for such businesses is already firmly incorporated within EU hygiene legislation. An exemption, therefore, from the requirements to put in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure based on the HACCP principles could risk lowering the level of consumer protection, given that food safety incidents can arise from even the smallest enterprises, for example during the production of minced meat by butchers or patisserie by bakeries.

CIAA is hopeful that its comments will be taken into account in future discussions of the proposal within the European Parliament and Council of Ministers.

Trade

WTO Doha Round negotiations

Six major trade partners including the EU, U.S., Brazil, India, Australia, Japan (G6) announced mid April their ambition to find common ground on agricultural issues by mid-June and to conclude DDA negotiations by the end of the year. In the last weeks, negotiations on substance advanced very slowly and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy declared on 20/04 at an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee to focus more on the multilateral process.

In the meantime, agriculture Committee Chairman Crawford Falconer is expected to publish this week a text high-lightening outstanding issues in the agriculture negotiations, which will then be discussed at the agricultural committee on 04/05. Thereafter, a first revision of the draft modalities is likely to be published.

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