

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

Europe's food and drink industry in 2030, CIAA President outlines his 2030 vision
Speaking at the Perspectives for Food Conference for 2030 held recently in Brussels, Jean Martin, President of CIAA outlined his vision for Europe's food and drink industry as the year 2030 looms ever nearer. As consumers look for health, Mr Martin said the food and drink industry would increasingly compliment the services offered by the pharmaceutical industry and that consumers will invariably be faced by greater choices than ever before. He said that between now and 2030, the food and drink industry would be facing exciting challenges which presented interesting business opportunities. He concluded by saying that Europe's food and drink industry remained committed to meeting and indeed anticipating consumer's needs, would continue to engage in collective efforts such as the European Technology Platform and would work towards enhancing Europe's competitiveness. However, the industry would only be able to do so under certain conditions. Mr. Martin therefore called for support from the public authorities in R&D funding and coordination of spending and a regulatory framework which helps and does not hinder innovation and research.

Food Safety Platform

Food Safety Platform Meets to Discuss Issues of Common Concern

On 07/05, the Food Safety Platform, comprising the representative European sector organisations of the seven main partners in the food chain, including farmers, consumers, retailers and food services, in addition to food and feed producers and the agri-food trade, met to exchange views of a number of issues of mutual concern, including the low-level presence of non-authorized GMOs, the review of the EU's legislative "Hygiene Package" and the functioning of the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The Platform is expected to next meet in mid-September, at which the subject of nanotechnology in food is scheduled for discussion.

Implementation of EU "Hygiene Package"

CIAA Participates in European Commission Consultation on Implementation of EU "Hygiene Package"

On 04/05 May, CIAA attended a European Commission's Advisory Group of the Food Chain and Animal Health, dedicated to exchanging views on experience gained to date from the application of the EU's legislative "Hygiene Package", with a view to providing input into a Commission review of the implementation of the legislation. Prior to the meeting, in order to facilitate discussion, the Commission circulated a questionnaire to which CIAA submitted a response, largely based on input which it had received via the CIAA questionnaire on this subject earlier this year.

At the meeting, stakeholders were reminded that although May 2009 was the official date by which the Commission must submit its report and, if necessary, proposals for a revision of the Hygiene Package, to the Council and European Parliament, stakeholders were recommended to provide input before May 2008, after which a Commission impact assessment

of the proposed revisions would be submitted to the Impact Assessment Board.

Further stakeholder consultations will take place before May 2008, the next being foreseen for the coming autumn. In the interim, the Commission cautioned stakeholders that it would need to be selective when considering the input received, in order to avoid unwanted reaction by Parliament and Council of Ministers.

Flavourings/enzymes

On 08/05, the EP ENVI committee adopted the Drcar Murko and Doyle draft reports on flavourings and enzymes. On flavourings, the EP adopted 95/5 for labelling the term 'natural', supported the rapporteur's compromise on BAPs and Annex IIIB (deletion of the annex and prior scientific evaluation for setting maximum levels) whilst also excluding herbs and spices from the scope of the regulation. MEPs also introduced the concept of technological need and benefits for the consumer into the conditions of use, simplified the reporting provisions and provided for a stream-lined procedure for GM derived source materials. On enzymes, the EP adopted various restrictive amendments on conditions for inclusion in the Community list and conditions of use and called for a 10-year re-evaluation of enzymes. MEPs did, however, simplify the B2B labelling provisions and again provided for a stream-lined procedure for GM derived enzymes. The two reports will now go forward for first reading during the 18-2/06 plenary session.

Trade

WTO

WTO agriculture Committee Chair Crawford Falconer circulated on 30/04 a communication summarizing outstanding issues in DDA agricultural negotiations.

The 28-page document challenges WTO members by trying to summarize and find "*potential centres of gravity*" (including some references, e.g. the "frankly inconceivable" US offer on domestic support, limitation of sensitive products to 1-5% of tariff lines on market access, phasing out of 50% of export support by 2010). First reactions by WTO member delegation at an informal agricultural committee meeting on 07/05 were rather modest.

Bilateral Relations

EU Trade Commissioner Mandelson met on 04/05 in Brunei ASEAN economic ministers at the sidelines of the 13th meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). An agreement was reached to begin FTA negotiations between the two regions, despite differences human rights and political

repression in Myanmar. A roadmap and timetable is going to be worked out in the coming weeks. Free trade negotiations with South Korea are also advancing, with a first meeting in Seoul taking place this week. Negotiations with South Korea are expected to advance rapidly, as the South Korean side would like to conclude the bilateral agreement by the end of the year.

Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU
Avenue des Arts, 43 - B-1040 Brussels

Publication: S. Naccachian. Tel: +32 2 514 11 11 - Fax: +32 2 511 29 05 - E-mail : ciaa@ciaa.be