

# CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

## Highlight

*CIAA Lobbying seminar - On 27/06 CIAA held a lobbying seminar for members which proved to be a great success both in terms of the content and the speakers who participated. The morning session was dedicated to explaining the complex issue of comitology and in particular the 2006 reform which introduces a new procedure, the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, with the increased involvement of the EP. Thomas Christiansen (EIPA) gave a presentation on the background and the reform itself and then Richard Corbett MEP, one of the EP negotiators on the reform and Gregor Schusterschitz, Legal Counsellor from the Austrian Permanent Representation who chaired the Council working group on comitology reform, gave the perspective of their respective institutions on the reform. Lobbying best practices from the perspective of the EU institutions was the theme of the afternoon session and CIAA was privileged to have Alexander Stubb MEP give his views on effective lobbying, followed by representatives of the Commission, EP and Council who largely converged over how best to present and tailor messages from the point of view of the 'targets' themselves. Feedback from those attending the seminar has been extremely positive with general agreement that it was an extremely worthwhile and interesting event to attend.*

## CIAA Cooperates with DG SANCO and Member States to Produce Pamphlets for SMEs on Acrylamide Mitigation

DG SANCO is expected to shortly publish a number of pamphlets on its website explaining possible tools to mitigate acrylamide in key food products. The pamphlets, the result of several months' collaboration between CIAA, the Commission and national authorities, aim to convey the key messages contained within the CIAA Acrylamide Toolbox in a format which is more easily accessible to SMEs, and, to facilitate communication, have been translated into 20 languages. Each pamphlet will be dedicated to one of five different food products: bread, crisps, french fries, biscuits and cereals.

## CIAA present at Nanotechnology Events

On 14/06, CIAA delivered a presentation detailing current European food industry views on the subject of nanotechnology to an audience of regulators, academics and interested stakeholders, at a one-day seminar titled "Nanotechnology in Food". In its presentation, CIAA stressed that food products should be evaluated for their safety as presented to the consumer, not for the process by which they were made. As food is regulated by an extensive regulatory system, it is not evident that nanotechnology would need its "own" regulatory system as opposed to an adjustment of the existing risk assessment system on a case-by-case basis. It was stressed that nanotechnology applications in the food area were largely still in the research phase.

Nanotechnology was also the topic of discussion at a debate hosted by the European Policy Centre on 26/06, at which a framework for responsible nanotechnology, a joint effort by pharmaceuticals company DuPont and the U.S.-based think-tank Environmental Defense, was presented. The framework is a proposal for a comprehensive,

practical and non-regulatory framework to evaluate and address potential hazards of nanoscale material, which does not occur naturally. It was published on 21/06, and the colleagues from the US shared the spirit of the framework with the audience. The Commission representatives did not call for a specific regulatory framework on nanotechnology. There was agreement that a broad public dialogue was needed to avoid a debate similar to that for GMOs. The need for more data was also expressed.

## Doha Development Round

Trade Ministers from the G4 - EU, US, Brazil and India - met in Potsdam, Germany, last week to unblock the impasse in WTO negotiations. A breakthrough was not reached making a successful conclusion of DDA talks by the end of this year unlikely. EU trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson reported afterwards that no substantive or commercially meaningful offer was tabled by "emerging economies". The G90 nevertheless welcome that negotiations are back in a multilateral setting. The WTO agriculture committee chair Crawford Falconer cancelled a scheduled WTO agricultural committee meeting on Monday, but plans to hold a series of bilateral talks in the coming weeks instead. It is expected that he will circulate a revised compromise text in the next month, which will serve to work on draft modalities.

## Green Public Procurement (GPP)

Within the Commission's (EC) agenda on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and against the background of several retailers and national governments starting to establish criteria to distinguish between "green" and "less-green" food products, the EC recently announced to publish by the end of 2007 a Communication on GPP. The EC proposes that for the 10 environmentally most important product groups, including food & drink

products, national targets for green public purchases should be set via legislation.

The key issue for industry is that GPP requires the definition of criteria to distinguish between "green" and "non-green" products. In a Commission stakeholder meeting on 25/06, which CIAA attended, DG ENV announced their intention to have the GPP criteria determined by EU legislation (comitology). This means that, for instance, a new piece of legislation would specify which methodology national governments shall use to assess the "greenness" of food & drink products. DG ENV also said that, due to the environmental importance of food & drink products, they were determined to have this product group included. Currently, the EC has only the "organic" label

available. In the meeting, CIAA stressed the complexity of the food chain and the inherent difficulties in defining reliable, uniform, integrated and verifiable criteria to assess the life-cycle impacts of food products, e.g. if compared to energy-using products.

For industry, GPP may potentially trigger far-reaching consequences, because once the GPP criteria are established, they may soon be used to create discriminations also in the field of private consumption. Ultimately, there is also a risk that the criteria could one day be used for other purposes, e.g. eco-taxation. CIAA will develop a written contribution to the EC stakeholder consultation on GPP.

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