

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

Following the annual Christmas break, CIAA began the New Year with a staff get-together hosted by President Jean Martin. Highlighting past achievements and future challenges, Mr. Martin also drew close attention to the recent meeting between CIAA and the Austrian Federal Minister for Economics and Labour - Mr. Martin Bartenstein. Mr. Bartenstein will chair the Competitiveness Council over the next six months of the Austrian EU Presidency. The meeting between CIAA and the Minister focused on; better regulation, industry competitiveness, research, and technological innovation. Pointing out the constructive and innovative role played by CIAA over the last number of years, Mr. Martin said that this would continue to be the case, and that CIAA looked forward to working closely with the new Austrian EU Presidency.

European Parliament

Claims - The indicative timetable for the second reading of claims in the EP is now available. The rapporteur's draft recommendation is to be debated on 31/01; the deadline for amendments will be set for mid-February and the vote in Committee is scheduled for 21/03. Second reading by plenary should then take place during the 15-18 Many session.

ETP Food For Life

Board Meeting - The first meeting of the Board of the European Technology Platform "Food for Life" took place at the CIAA offices on 9/01. The meeting, which was well attended, generated much constructive discussion.

Contaminant Expert Forum

CIAA to Attend European Commission Contaminant Expert Forums, 12-13/01 - On 12/01 a CIAA delegation consisting of a number of sectors from the food industry, will attend a Commission expert forum on the contaminant Ochratoxin A (OTA), followed by a forum on Fusarium toxins on the 13/01. A report on the discussions will follow in due course.

Thematic Strategies

Thematic Strategies on Waste and Resources

On 21/12 2005, the Commission adopted the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, a legislative proposal revising the Waste Framework Directive as well as the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources. These documents have now been submitted to the European Parliament. The final Thematic Strategy on waste and the parallel legislative proposal have not been significantly changed during inter service consultation. In particular, there is still no reference to by-products and their legal status thus remains ambiguous. However, as a positive element, the legislative proposal explicitly excludes animal by-

products from the scope of the waste framework directive if they are covered by Regulation (EC)1774/2002. The legislative proposal still contains worrying recommendations for measures to be introduced in national waste prevention programmes. The Thematic Resource Strategy sets out an "analytical framework" to consider the environmental impacts of resource use in all areas of public policymaking and also foresees "sectoral initiatives" with industry based on life-cycle thinking.

WTO

WTO disputes - A panel decision on the ongoing trade dispute over the EU treatment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was anticipated in 12/2005, but is now expected to be released in February 2006. The US argues the EU continues a de-facto moratorium, the EU claims to have passed sufficient laws on labelling and traceability, but several EU Member states have not yet implemented the EU directive.

Russia WTO accession - The US failed to reach an agreement on Russia WTO accession by the end of 2005, mainly because of Russia's failure to better enforce IPR protection, but bilateral talks are expected to be finished no later than mid-2006. Besides the US, Russian negotiators are still in talks with Colombia, Australia and Switzerland.

CAP

Just before the end of 2005, the Commission adopted the expected three proposals for regulations from the Council. Two concerning the policy on the quality of food and drink products: a re-think of the existing regimes relating to protected geographical indications, guarantee of the origin of the product and proof of specificity. Another proposal relating to organic production follows the European action plan in the area of agriculture and organic food, adopted by the Commission in June 2004. The Council and the EP will now examine these proposals.