

# CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

## Highlight

### **Research: "Food Quality and Safety Research - first results from FP 6**

*On 12 December a CIAA delegation attended a conference presenting first results from FP 6.*

*FP 6 had four main calls with in total 187 projects equal to 750 MEuro. In these projects 430 SMEs were directly involved. Project coordinators presented results concerning improved plant production systems, such as low input cereal production systems, projects related to nutrition and health, improved animal production systems, including welfare and food safety related projects, such as Heatox, related to acrylamide research in food or a project dealing with the improvement of decision making on food safety.*

## REACH

The European Parliament adopted its second reading of REACH on 13/12, overwhelmingly endorsing the compromise package agreed by the institutions prior to the vote by 529 votes in favour, 98 against and 24 abstentions. This result now paves way for the progressive implementation of the Regulation from June 2007.

## TVWF

The European Parliament adopted its first reading of the Hieronymi report on the revision of the television without frontiers directive on 13/12. On the issue of the advertising of food and drink products to children MEPs adopted an amendment calling on Member States to encourage audiovisual service providers to develop a code of conduct regarding children's programming containing or being interrupted by advertising, sponsorship or any marketing of unhealthy and inappropriate foods and drinks such as those high in fat, sugar and salt and of alcoholic beverages. More restrictive amendments calling for an outright ban of advertising of these products were rejected. In addition, an amendment calling for restrictions on advertising for alcoholic beverages between 6 am and 9 pm was overwhelmingly defeated.

## Novel Foods

### **Meeting of the Working Group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain, Animal Health and Plant Health on the impact assessment of the Novel Food Revision**

CIAA attended a meeting of the Advisory Group of the Food Chain and Animal Health on 1 December. On the occasion of this meeting the Commission presented a summary of the answers to the Novel Food questionnaire to which CIAA contributed.

The Commission in total received 65 contributions to the questionnaire, of which 41% were from industry, 18% from Organisations and 26% from national

authorities, other contributions have not been further specified.

Approximately 1/4 were responses from third countries. 82% of respondents considered the authorisation procedure of novel food as a whole, including the safety assessment and the authorisation decision, as too long. 49% considered the administrative burden as very significant.

The Commission regretted were much that very little concrete financial impact data were delivered.

On the occasion of this meeting it was also clarified that a proposal for a centralised authorisation procedure will be presented in 2008 separate from the revision of novel food legislation which is supposed to be presented in spring 2007. The centralised authorisation procedure is supposed to deal exclusively with safety assessments.

## Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive

On the 6/12 the Commission adopted its report on the implementation of the PPWD. The outcome of this report is very positive for the industry as it shows that while the environmental objectives of the Directive have been achieved, more work is needed to accomplish its second objective to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market for packaging and packaged goods in the EU. The report explicitly recognises that national measures still pose problems by requiring market operators to adapt their packaging to the requirements of each individual Member State which makes it more difficult for them to benefit from business opportunities within the internal market by selling the same product in the same packaging in different markets.

The internal market related aspects have been further strengthened in this final report as compared to the inter-service-consultation draft. This is fully in line with the CIAA position on the initial draft.

It should be underlined, however, that this very positive outcome does not necessarily reflect the position of all EU institutions. The Commission report is due to be submitted to the European Parliament and Council by the end of this year and it is likely to

be criticized by NGOs, but also within the European Parliament (ENVI Committee) and possibly by some Member States. It is consequently essential for CIAA to ensure that Parliament not adopt a Resolution on the Commission Report which insists on the further strengthening of environmental protection at the expense of consolidating the internal market safeguards.

## Trade

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**WTO** - The Geneva negotiation process is now described as "quiet" or "soft" or as "consultations". In fact, many discussions take place in form of bilaterals at all official levels. Serious negotiations cannot resume until at least one player, or all main players all together, show a willingness to move and to compromise. The EU considers that it will have to wait until the end of January to see whether the debate on the US farm bill and budget stabilises sufficiently and provides the US administration with a minimum of room of manoeuvre. This reduces indeed the "window of opportunity" for finding a breakthrough in the first half of 2007.

**Trade problems with Russia** - Moscow persists to threaten to ban all EU exports of meat products as from 01/01/2007. Russian veterinary authorities met this week with Commission officials and the Finnish and German presidency, where Russian officials

continue to insist that the problem remains a bilateral issue only with certain EU Member States. EU veterinary administrators will meet on 14/12 with Commission services involved, including DG Sanco, DG Trade and DG External Relations, and the Commission will also meet with Member States to find a coherent solution.

## New .eu domain for CIAA

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As of December 2006, CIAA has changed its online domain from [www.ciaa.be](http://www.ciaa.be) to [www.ciaa.eu](http://www.ciaa.eu). The entire portfolio of CIAA websites (eufoodlaw, statistics, etp, gda, smes-net) will all undergo the same domain name adjustment in the coming weeks. For those wishing to contact the CIAA secretariat, we urge them to update their email address books accordingly. For example the @ciaa.be domain has now become @ciaa.eu. The old domain and email addresses will continue to work for some time during a brief changeover period. If you require further information, please contact Niall Doheny ([n.doheny@ciaa.eu](mailto:n.doheny@ciaa.eu)) or Régine Mynsberghe ([r.mynsberghe@ciaa.eu](mailto:r.mynsberghe@ciaa.eu)).

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