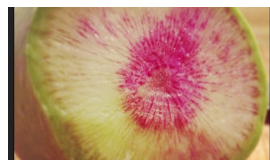




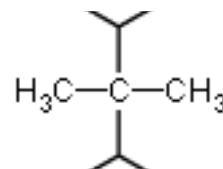
EU ORGANIC
REGULATION PROPOSAL



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
LABELLING FOR MEAT
IN PROCESSED FOOD



NOVEL FOOD



BISPHENOL A AND
PROTECTING EU
CONSUMERS

SAFE Safe Food
Advocacy Europe
Striving for Safer Food for European Consumers

NEWSLETTER

Dear Members & Friends,

this is our first SAFE Newsletter! From now on you'll receive our updates in the last week of every month.

In this Newsletter we analyse two important EU Legislation Proposals concerning organic products and Novel Foods. In addition, we propose you two articles about Country of origin labeling for meat and Bisphenol A.

On the last three pages you'll find an overview of EU projects and upcoming events.

Enjoy reading. We are looking forward to receive your feedback.

Yours,

Floriana Cimmarusti
Secretary General of SAFE

EU Organic Regulation Proposal

In March 2014, the European Commission has published a Regulation Proposal on organic production and labelling of organic products COM (2014) 180 aiming to review the existing EU Organic Regulation of June 2007.

WHY A NEW EU ORGANIC LEGISLATION?

European Commission's main declared goals are: removing obstacles to the development of organic production in the EU; improving consumer confidence in organic products;



fair competition for farmers and operators;
enhancing growth and jobs.

Below a summary of the main differences between current legislation and future proposal:

Organic certification control:

- If during a control an organic product is found to have residues of pesticides above a specific level, the organic producer will be decertified;
- Removal of annual inspection to check operator compliance;
- A new system of group certification for small farmers;
- The organic control system will not be governed anymore by the current EU organic Regulation. Instead, it will be regulated by the legislation on official controls on food and feed which is under the responsibilities of DG Sante of the European Commission.

Third Countries:

- A system of equivalence agreements is proposed: it implies that organic production rules in third countries are recognised as equivalent to those of the European Union;
- Reciprocal agreements will be drafted with those third countries.

To employ 100% organic ingredients and to improve the environmental impact of organic production:

- Food will be labelled as organic only if at least 95% of their agricultural ingredients are organic. Removing various derogations and exceptions from current legislation;
- Organic enterprises will be required to develop a system for improving their environmental performance;
- Organic farmers will have to operate their entire holding organically;

- Livestock must be provided with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic production.

WHAT IS OUR POSITION

SAFE really welcomes the Proposal of the new organic Regulation to remove more than thirty derogations from the current legislation, aiming to offer true organic products to consumers. Furthermore, it is very positive to introduce a system that wishes to improve the environment impact of organic activities. However, SAFE is against the removal of the annual inspection which should remain as the minimum requirement of the organic control regime. In addition, a system of equivalence agreements with third countries could create a situation where the controls of organic food is less reliable for EU consumers.

MORE

Please find below the text of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products COM (2014) 180: <http://bit.ly/17MDAKd>

Current legislation Council Regulation No 834/2007: <http://bit.ly/18fLpJC>

KEY PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE EU LEGISLATION PROCESS

European Parliament:

- Shadow Rapporteur: Martin Häusling (Greens);
- Committee responsible for Agricultural and Rural development (AGRI) and Committee for opinion Environment, Public health and Food Safety (ENVI);
- Rapporteur for opinion: Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP).

Council of the European Union: meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries (AGRIFISH) under the Latvian Presidency.