

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

PAPER FOR INFORMATION

EU UPDATE

This paper provides Members with an update on novel food applications under regulation (EC) No 258/97 and other EU issues that are relevant to the work of the Committee.

Novel and GM Food applications:

1. On 2 December a draft decision for the authorisation of Diacylglycerol oil was discussed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, the regulatory committee made up of representatives of the Member States' governments. Although the Commission had re-worked the text of the decision following an initial discussion in June 2005, MS continued to raise concerns about the levels trans-fatty acids (see ACNFP/73/8). No vote was taken and the Commission agreed to redraft the decision in the light of comments. A further discussion is scheduled to take place at the next meeting in February.
2. On 13 January 2006 the Commission authorised the placing on the market of foods derived from two GM modified maize lines (GA21 and MON 863). These GM maize varieties were authorised by the Commission following a failure by Member States to achieve a qualified majority to either approve or reject them. This mechanism for the Commission to issue a decision is in line with standard procedures for such a scenario.

European Food Safety Authority

3. EFSA has continued to hold further meetings of its scientific panels, and a number of relevant papers have been published. Minutes of the September and October 2005 meetings of the GMO Panel are attached (**Annex 1**). The GMO Panel also published an opinion for an application made under (EC) 1829/2003 for insect and herbicide resistant GM maize, (NK603 x MON810) for use in food and feed (**Annex 2**).
4. On 6 December, EFSA's NDA Panel¹ published two novel food opinions for Rapeseed and maize oils high in unsaponifiable matter (**Annex 3**). In both cases the Panel has concluded that the foods are safe for human consumption under the specified conditions of use. These novel food applications were submitted in 2001 and discussed by the ACNFP in 2002.

¹ Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies

5. During 2005 EFSA commissioned an external evaluation of its work, as required by the legislation that established the Authority, regulation (EC) 178/2002. The Authority published the evaluation report (**Annex 4**) at the end of December and the EFSA Management Board will discuss it after a period for public comment, which ends on 28 February.
6. EFSA are also inviting expressions of interest from individuals interested in becoming members of the Scientific Committee and their Scientific Panels. As a result of problems encountered with the on-line application procedures, the deadline has been extended to 17 February.

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January 2006

Annexes attached:

- Annex 1:** Minutes of EFSA GMO Panel meetings held in September and October 2005.
- Annex 2:** GMO Panel opinion on a GM maize for use in food and feed and resistant to insects and herbicide (NK603 x MON810).
- Annex 3:** NDA Panel Opinions on Rapeseed and maize oils high in unsaponifiable matter.
- Annex 4.** Bureau van Dijk Ingénieurs Conseils with Arcadia International EEIG (2005) "Evaluation of EFSA: Final Report".

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Minutes of EFSA GMO Panel meetings held in September and October 2005.

These documents have been published on the EFSA website at:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/gmo/gmo_meetings/catindex_en.html

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GMO Panel opinion on a GM maize for use in food and feed and resistant to insects and herbicide (NK603 x MON810).

This document has been published on the EFSA website at:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/gmo/gmo_opinions/1284_en.html

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NDA Panel Opinions on Rapeseed and maize oils high in unsaponifiable matter.

These documents have been published on the EFSA website at:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html

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Bureau van Dijk Ingénieurs Conseils with Arcadia International EEIG (2005)
"Evaluation of EFSA: Final Report".

This report has been published on the EFSA website at:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/mboard/mb_meetings/1276_en.html

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