

CONSULTATION

Topic: Draft Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on enzymes used or intended for use in foods

Start date of consultation: 17th October

Finish date: Open

Consultation details.

Comments are requested on the following.

The European Commission have tabled, at the level of the Member State Expert Group on Additives, a draft proposal for a new European Parliament and Council Regulation on enzymes used or intended for use in foods. This was signalled in the White Paper on Food Safety, in which the Commission announced its intention to amend the framework Directive 89/107/EEC on food additives to lay down specific provisions in respect of enzymes. The scope of Directive 89/107/EEC only covers enzymes used as food additives and currently, only two enzymes are authorised under this Directive. The remaining enzymes are considered as processing aids and fall under the legislation of the Member States. In-depth assessment of the situation has led to the development of a specific proposal for enzymes.

In order to ensure a high level of protection of human health and protection of consumers' interest, this proposal covers all enzymes used or intended for use in food, whether used as additives or used as processing aids. It will:

- establish a Community authorisation procedure for food enzymes, following a risk assessment by EFSA. Authorisations will be granted for 10 years in the first instance.
- The food enzymes for which no health concern is revealed during evaluation and their conditions of use will be included in a positive list of products authorised at Community level.
- An 18 month transitional period following adoption of the Regulation will be allowed during which enzymes already on the market can continue to be marketed. During this period, the requisite information to support the application to be included on the positive list must be submitted by the company placing the enzyme on the market.
- For labelling purposes food enzymes will be considered as additives. If the enzyme is still present in the finished food, even in an altered form, it will be subject to the provisions of the Labelling Directive. The name "enzymes" may however be used on the label rather than the specific name of the enzyme.
- The labelling provisions will not apply if an enzyme is only present in a foodstuff as a result of carry-over from one or more of the ingredients of the foodstuff, nor if it has been used as a processing aid and is consequently not present in the final food or only present in the form of a residue.

The Commission's draft proposal was initially discussed in an Expert Group meeting on 11th September, and the Commission plans to formally publish it in late 2003. **The draft proposal is associated with this summary as a Word file.** The proposal is at an early stage in the EU legislative process and revisions to the text will be made available to interested parties via this Consultation mechanism on an ongoing basis. Comments on this first draft of the proposal are welcomed. No closing date is put for the receipt of comments by FSAI.

All comments and views should be sent via email to: consultation@fsai.ie

Or post to:

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