

## Consultation

**Topic:** Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Start date of consultation: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003      Finish date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004

### Consultation details.

The European Commission has published a Proposal for a Regulation on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. This was signalled in the White Paper on Food Safety, in which the Commission announced that it would update existing Community legislation with regard to food contact materials (Action 47 in the White Paper).

The proposed Regulation will replace the current framework Directive 89/109/EEC in order to take account of the substantial technological developments in the area of food packaging in the past number of years. It will also repeal Directive 80/590/EEC as the Proposal integrates the symbol that should accompany food contact materials and articles as currently determined in that Directive.

The Proposal's objective is to secure a high level of protection of human health and the interests of the consumer while taking into account important technological developments in the area of food packaging,

The Proposal defines 'active' and 'intelligent' materials and articles and will allow compositional and organoleptic changes made to food by such materials provided these changes comply with any other Community legislation applicable to food. Labelling requirements are proposed to inform the user of active materials and articles (food packers) about the interaction of these applications with the food in order to comply with any relevant food legislation. In addition, three more groups of materials (ion exchange resins, adhesives and printing inks) are proposed to be added to the list of groups of materials that may be regulated by specific measures.

The Proposal establishes more detailed procedures for the safety assessment and authorisation of substances to be used in the manufacture of food contact materials than those in the existing legislation.

In line with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, this draft Regulation requires all food contact material businesses to have in place systems to identify at every given stage of production and trade, their supplier(s) and to whom materials and articles are supplied, whereby at least one step "above" and one "below" must be identifiable, unless specific provisions require further traceability. Additional provisions for specific groups of materials and articles may be adopted, if necessary, in specific measures.

It is proposed to establish a Community Reference Laboratory and national reference laboratories, in accordance with Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on official feed and food controls.

All comments and views should be sent via email to: [consultation@fsai.ie](mailto:consultation@fsai.ie)

### Or post comments to:

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**Submissions received will be sent to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, which is the competent authority in Ireland for legislation in this area.**