



WORKING GROUP 3 – EU CONTROL AND SANITARY ISSUES, CONSUMER RULES

Benoît Thomassen

Chair

Online (Zoom)

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 09:30 Welcome from the Chair, Benoît Thomassen
- 09:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (26.05.21)
- 09:40 Substantiating Green Claims
- 10:20 Empowering the Consumer for the Green Transition
- 10:50 Caviar Labelling
- 11:10 EU School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme
- 11:40 Health and Environmental Value of Seafood
- 12:40 Sanitary & Hygiene Rules
- 12:50 AOB
- 12:55 Summary of actions points

13:00 End of the meeting

ACTION POINTS (26 MAY 2021)

Voluntary Sustainability Claims on Seafood Products:

- Agreed draft advice to be put forward to the Executive Committee for adoption through written procedure
 - Advice adopted on 15 June 2021
 - Commission's reply on 30 June 2021

Plant-based imitation seafood:

- Amended draft advice to be considered through written consultation (2 weeks) by the working group, in order to fully clarify the Annex
- Once agreement is reached under written consultation, draft to be put forward to the Executive Committee for adoption
 - Advice adopted on 22 July 2021
 - Commission's reply is pending

ACTION POINTS (26 MAY 2021)

Health and Environmental Value of Seafood:

- Chair and Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to the members, in order to gather input for future advice, ahead of the next meeting
 - Questionnaire circulated to members: 1 – 15 July 2021
 - Draft advice circulated on 6 September 2021

AOB:

- Requested topics to be included on the draft agenda of the next meeting
 - Agenda item on maximum level of sulphite in crustaceans
 - Cadmium of brown crab addressed in WG1

SUBSTANTIATING GREEN CLAIMS

➤ DG ENV's Public Consultation on a Potential Legislative Proposal (August 2020)

- Environmental claims: explicit environmental information on products or companies (labels, logos, text, websites, brochures, on shelf, radio, tv)
- Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint: Life Cycle Assessment methods
- Environmental performance: Calculation from extraction/growing of resources to the end of life of the product or portfolio
- EC's JRC is developing PEF and OEF methods, including for marine fish

- MAC adopted advice on 10 December 2020.

SUBSTANTIATING GREEN CLAIMS

➤ **First Open Public Consultation for the Marine Fish PEFCR**

- Feedback possible from 2 August to 4 October 2021
- Information meeting organised by AAC on 26 August 2021
- Technical Secretariat: representative organisations, research institutes, NGOs, companies (includes AIPCE and FEAP)
- Covers both wild catch and farmed fish
- Three supporting studies will be carried out to test the PEFCR
- After the studies, a second public consultation will take place
- Final version: validated by Technical Advisory Board + Commission experts (included Member States representatives)

SUBSTANTIATING GREEN CLAIMS

➤ Exchange of views & way forward

- Priority under Work Programme of Year 6 (2021-2022)
 - MAC advice on the first public consultation?
 - Submission of individual contributions from members directly?
 - Wait for next consultations and/or potential legislative proposals?

EMPOWERING THE CONSUMER FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION

➤ **DG JUST initiative (Circular Economy Action Plan)**

- Strengthen the role of consumers in the green transition
 - Reliable & useful information on products
 - Prevent overstated environmental information (« greenwashing ») and sale of products with a covertly shortened lifespan
 - Set minimum requirements for sustainability logos & labels
- Roadmap: 23 June 2020 – 1 September 2020
- Public Consultation: 30 June 2020 – 6 October 2020
- Commission adoption: Planned for second quarter 2021

➤ **Way forward**

- Development of advice on the initiative?
- Wait for adoption of the Commission's proposal?

CAVIAR LABELLING

➤ Way forward

- MAC Advice on the AAC's Recommendation: 14 April 2021
- Commission's reply: 18 May 2021
 - Division of CN categories implies revision of CMO Regulation (not foreseen) – different labelling requirements need to be justified
 - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 (indication of origin/provenance of primary ingredient of a food) – applicable (will contribute positively to transparency in caviar)
 - Common marketing standard for caviar – requires uniform trade characteristics. EU standard needs to be complementary, coherent and add value – invitation to elaborate on why EU marketing standard on caviar would be needed

CAVIAR LABELLING

➤ Way forward

- Wait for new initiatives from AAC?
- Proceed with new MAC advice?
 - Justification of different labelling requirements (CMO Regulation)?
 - Elaboration on why EU marketing standards would be needed?

EU SCHOOL FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND MILK SCHEME

➤ Review (DG AGRI)

- EU School Scheme: Supports the supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and certain milk products to children together with educational activities about agriculture and healthy eating habits
- Revision of the scheme and measures fixing the EU aid
- Contribute to promoting sustainable food consumption (F2F Strategy)

- Roadmap: 29 June 2021 – 27 July 2021
- Public Consultation: First Quarter 2022
- Commission adoption: Fourth quarter 2023

EU SCHOOL FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND MILK SCHEME

➤ Way forward

- Your experience with efforts to expand coverage to seafood products at national and EU level?
- Inclusion of a recommendation under the “health & environmental value of seafood” draft advice?
 - “Assess the relevance of extending the coverage of the EU’s School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme to include healthy seafood products, in order to promote healthy diets in children, in line with international and national nutritional recommendations” (recommendation i)

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE OF SEAFOOD

➤ Consideration of draft advice

- Questionnaire circulated to members: 1 – 15 July 2021
 - Answers from CONXEMAR & FEAP
- Draft advice circulated on 6 September 2021 (answers + presentations)

SANITARY & HYGIENE RULES

➤ Exchange of views on maximum level of sulphite in crustaceans

- AIPCE letter to European Commission

➤ Way forward

- Written question to DG MARE?
- Development of advice?

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

- **AOB**
- **Summary of action points**
- **End of meeting**