

Message 104

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2022) 03421
 Directive (EU) 2015/1535
 Translation of the message 103
 Notification: 2022/0441/IRL

Forwarding of the observations of a Member State (Greece) (article 5, paragraph 2, of Directive (EU) 2015/1535).
 These observations do not have the effect of extending the standstill period.

(MSG: 202203421.EN)

1. MSG 104 IND 2022 0441 IRL EN 22-12-2022 21-09-2022 COM 5.2 22-12-2022
2. Greece

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4. 2022/0441/IRL - B00

5. article 5, paragraph 2, of Directive (EU) 2015/1535

6. Please be informed that the national competent authority for controlling the production, movement and placing on the market of ethyl alcohol, spirit drinks (Regulation (EU) 2019/787), beer and fermented beverages, after examining the draft regulations on public health (alcohol products) of the Irish authorities (notification number: 2022/441/IRL) wishes to submit an observation to the Irish authorities, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5(2) of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 "laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society Services", as follows:

"As part of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2015/1535, the Irish authorities notified draft provisions on public health (notification number: 2022/441/IRL).

The notified provisions of the Irish legislation provide that labels on pre-packages of alcohol products must contain various warnings (accompanied by relevant symbols) intended to inform the public of the fact that the consumption of ethyl alcohol may cause diseases. In addition, they provide that the holder of a licence for the sale (or promotion for sale) of alcohol products, including online sales, must ensure that near the entrance of the licensed premises or on the relevant website, warnings shall be displayed intended to inform the public about the direct link between the consumption of alcohol products and various diseases caused, as referred to in those provisions.

The serious public health issue of the consumption of alcohol by the European population, as well as its link with diseases (various types of cancers, cirrhosis of the liver, cardiovascular diseases, etc.) has been included in the Commission's Beating Cancer Plan (Commission Communication COM(2021) 44 final/3-2-2021) which has been drafted in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This plan provides that the Commission will review its promotion policy on alcoholic beverages and propose a draft legislative regulation on the health warnings on the labels of alcoholic beverages before the end of 2023.

Given the Commission's commitment, the Greek authorities believe that the issue should be addressed as part of a harmonised EU approach in order to achieve the goal of public health protection without the risk of fragmentation of the single market in the movement of alcohol products."

European Commission

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