

## **BTO 11/07/2017 - Meeting with BEUC on acrylamide, endocrine disruptors and dual quality of food**

SANTE participants:

- Sabine Jülicher, Director E
- [REDACTED], Deputy Head of Unit E2
- [REDACTED], Deputy Head of Unit E1
- [REDACTED], Head of Unit E4
- [REDACTED], unit E4
- [REDACTED], unit E4

BEUC participants:

- [REDACTED], Director-General
- [REDACTED], Director sustainability & Safety
- [REDACTED], Senior Food Policy Officer
- [REDACTED], Policy Officer on Chemicals and Trade

### **Acrylamide**

BEUC indicated that the draft Regulation establishing mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food as published on the Better Regulation Portal for a 4-week public consultation addressed many of their concerns expressed in previous versions of the draft Regulation. They stressed the importance of the setting of maximum levels for certain food categories in a second phase and to ensure that the application of the envisaged measures is controlled by the competent authorities. BEUC questioned if significant changes to the draft are to be expected following the comments received during the public consultation.

SANTE reiterated the commitment to initiate the discussions on setting maximum levels for acrylamide in certain food categories this autumn and indicated that no major changes are to be expected to the draft Regulation following the comments received.

BEUC indicated to inform MEPs if requested to express their support for the envisaged measures and their willingness to co-operate on a possible consumer awareness campaign.

### **Endocrine disruptors**

Following the 4th of July vote on the ED criteria in the PAFF pesticides legislation meeting, BEUC issued a negative press statement (<http://www.beuc.eu/publications/consumers-let-down-decision-hormone-disrupting-chemicals/html>) in which it calls EP and Council to oppose to the criteria, as it does not consider them protective enough.

BEUC stressed that food safety is an area where COM can demonstrate it is close to EU citizens.

BEUC recognised the improvement between the draft criteria presented in June 2016 and those voted on 4 July 2017. However, BEUC criticized the very lengthy process, the fact that the criteria are not suitable for horizontal application across legislation (while according to BEUC, the COM had a political mandate in the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP to set horizontal ED criteria) and that the criteria are not fit for purpose in areas such as cosmetics, toys or REACH. BEUC also said that the criteria were not science based. BEUC did not give any details but referred to the Endocrine Society's positions and letters.

BEUC also asked about the upcoming work to be launched with regards to the ED strategy and the research projects to be launched in the framework of Horizon 2020.

SANTE answered according to the agreed LTT on EDs (see press release and MEMO of 4 July 2017). SANTE also asked BEUC to consider the criteria within the frameworks in which they were presented, i.e. the pesticides and biocides legislations, which lay down clear regulatory consequences for substances identified as ED. The current interim criteria are not fit for purpose and need to be replaced by the scientific criteria as soon as possible.

#### **Dual quality of food/ General Food Law**

BEUC inquired about the involvement of SANTE in the discussions on dual quality. SANTE highlighted the link to food labelling rules and informed on ongoing discussions and plans for further work of JRC. On the General Food Law, SANTE referred to preparations for the anniversary on 27 November 2017 and invited BEUC to intervene at the event.