

MARS

[REDACTED]

FOODDRINKEUROPE

[REDACTED]

European Brands Association (AIM)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (FDE) explained that the meeting had been requested to follow up on the Juncker's action plan, which the industry considers ambitious, also because of the tight timeframe. Business would like to help implementing this plan and sees that cooperation with the Commission and other stakeholders would be fruitful on various elements.

[REDACTED] thanked the industry representatives for the publication of the Manufacturers and retailers' statement of 26 July, which was done extremely rapidly, the day after the meeting with Commissioner Jourová on dual quality. [REDACTED] also asked for more information on the preparation of the Code of Conduct, in particular on what commitments/standards the industry associations are planning to propose to their members to prevent issues of dual quality food and on the timing for its preparation and publication.

Industry Code of Conduct

FDE indicated that the work on the Code of Conduct is still at a preliminary stage and that possible content could consist in: (i) a clarification that associations are contrary to dual quality practices; and (ii) possible commitments to ensure more transparency on product composition. Subject to expeditious consultations amongst members which are about to start, a first version of the Code could be ready at the beginning of September. The industry associations are also reflecting on other initiatives such as a meeting with all relevant stakeholders in Slovakia this Autumn or invitation to policy makers (e.g. Commissioner or national authorities) to visit manufacturing plants.

Interpretative note on legislation applicable to dual food practices (the UCPD)

Commission explained that we have started our assessment of how this action could be implemented. Taking as a basis what we have in the UCPD Guidance we could draft more specific interpretative principles which the authorities could use to address dual food issues when there is evidence of a violation of Union law allowing for action. Ideally such interpretative note should be endorsed by Consumer Protection Cooperation authorities to achieve a wider acceptance and produce a real deterrent effect vis a vis the business community. A first draft could be presented and discussed at the meeting of the CPC authorities at the end of September. A final version agreed / endorsed by CPC authorities could be published in autumn.

The industry showed a strong interest in this initiative and how this could be linked to the evidence gathering (guidelines on the harmonised testing approach) that the JRC will be conducting in the course of 2017/18. They support what is already in the UCPD Guidance on dual food and suggested that it may be difficult to draw more

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specific principles on this topic. Mars stressed that there is a need to establish what are the criteria to define and compare quality; and that products of different ingredients are not necessarily of a different quality. [REDACTED]

JRC's assessment of national studies and guidelines on the harmonised testing approach

JRC explained that: (i) they have already started double-checking the results and methodology of national studies and will engage in a direct dialog with the laboratory responsables through technical meetings; (ii) they will develop guidelines for a robust harmonised testing approach including sampling. Together with DG GROW, DG SANTE and DG JUST will set up a network composed of representatives of the Member States competent Authorities, industry, consumer organisations, the European Commission, and Members of the EU Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) that would develop the harmonised guidelines. The kick-off meeting is envisaged for September.

The aim is to conduct testing, discuss the results with MS and ensure the availability of the guidelines for a harmonized and robust testing approach including the interpretation of the results. JRC explained more in details some of the steps. The exact timing for finalising this work is not yet precise, but it will probably run into 2018.

The meeting was concluded emphasising the strong commitment of the industry and the Commission to continue the constructive cooperation to solve dual quality issues; and to keep each other informed of any developments. Another meeting with will be scheduled in the second half of September.

