



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
Food processing technologies and novel foods

Brussels, 14.05.2019
SANTE DDG2 E2/ (2019)3448121

Ans (2019) 3181214

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 29 April 2019 on behalf of Food Supplements Europe, FoodDrinkEurope and EU Specialty Food Ingredients, concerning the French decree suspending the placing on the market of foodstuffs containing the food additive titanium dioxide (TiO₂, E 171) as from 1 January 2020, which was notified by the French authorities to the European Commission on 26 April 2019. According to the decree, the measure is based on the report from ANSES of 12 April 2019, on the risks linked to the exposure to E 171.

We take note of the concerns you express about this measure, in particular about its risk assessment/food safety basis, and the impact it would have on food producers and the internal market.

The Commission organised an extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee on 13 May 2019, which was the opportunity to exchange views on the French measure with the Member States, in accordance with Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

Moreover, since the report from ANSES cites new scientific studies which have not yet been assessed by EFSA, the European Commission requested EFSA to issue an urgent statement assessing that report, indicating whether the previous EFSA conclusions on the safety of E 171 as a food additive remain valid and whether new uncertainties are identified, which would need to be further addressed by additional studies. This statement has been published on 13 May. It will further inform the discussions on the follow-up to be given to the French measure, in line with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on food additives.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
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