REPORT
Meeting of the Market Access Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues - SPS MAWG

19 July 2016
Charlemagne Building, Brussels

Participants:
EU Member States: BG, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, HR, IT, LT, NL, PT, SI, SE, UK

EU Business associations registered: AVEC, BVE (German food industry association), CEEV Comite vins, CLITRAVI, Danish Agriculture & Food Council, Danish Dairy Board, Dutch farmers' organisation, DVFA, EDA (European Dairy Association), ELC, Eucofel, Eucolait, European Seed Association, Expla (European Platform of Exporters of Bovine Genetics), FAVV (Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voeselketen), FEDIAF, FoodDrinkEurope, FRESHFEL, GME, UECBV (European Livestock and Meat Trading Union), VBT.

European Commission (COM): DG TRADE, SANTE, AGRI
Chair[ Art. 4.1(b) ], DG TRADE D3

1. WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS
9. Certification

10. Japan

The approval of food additives is a long standing issue. A first batch of about 50 substances was approved in the meantime and work is now starting to address a second batch of substances.

In this context, COM organised a seminar on 4 July 2016 to inform EU industry and Member States representatives of Japan’s procedures on the application process for the designation of food additives. Officials from the Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Food Safety Commission presented the legislation, the positive list system and the programme for expedited authorisation. A report of the meeting is available on CIRCA.

To support EU industry in the application for the approval of their food additives in Japan, COM established a project to make consultancy services available. Three EU companies or groupings will receive assistance to submit an application for food additive designation in Japan. Companies and groupings can express their interest in participating before the end of July. The three companies or groupings will be selected in August 2016. This pilot project will help to acquire experience with the management of the approval process and hopefully streamline the processing of the second batch substances.

ELC thanked COM for organising the seminar and informed that several ELC member companies already applied for participation in the pilot project. Wine industry association also welcomed the meeting but was disappointed that Japan had not simplified the process; rather the opposite appears to be the case. Several aspects of the procedure are still not clear and it seems unlikely that even one single application can be finalised within the project period of one year. Will industry be left alone when the project expired and applications are still not finished?

COM responded that discussions with Japan about streamlining the process are ongoing. The seminar helped to establish the fact basis for this discussion and indeed identified issues. The current negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement obviously help to maintain a high momentum in the work.

Companies and groupings can express their interest in participating before the end of July 2016 at JPfoodadditives@development-solutions.eu.
Industry is invited to share their experience in order to support and inform discussions with the Japan administration.

11. RUSSIA