

To: Interested Parties

February 2008

Reference: CPD/0008

Expert Working Group on the Revision of the Nutrition Labelling Directive – Technical Issues

Dear Interested Party

The first meeting of the Experts' Working Group on Nutritional Labelling – Technical Issues took place in Brussels on 28 January 2008. This note outlines the main issues discussed at the meeting.

Revising the lists of vitamins and minerals and their Reference Daily Allowance (RDA) values

The Commission is considering using the SCF 2003 Opinion as a basis to update the list of vitamins and minerals, listed in the Annex of Council Directive 90/496/EEC, to bring it in line with subsequent legislation which refers to vitamins and minerals not currently included on this list. There was general support for this approach, however, some of the figures proposed by the SCF were considered to be too high, when placed in the context of studies conducted since that opinion was published. New RDA values published since the 2003 opinion will be discussed at the next meeting.

Definition of Dietary Fibre

The Commission is proposing adoption of the definition of fibre put forward for the 2007 Codex CCNFSDU meeting. There was a degree of support for this approach. It was suggested that the analytical methods used to measure fibre content should be harmonised at EU level in legislation or guidance.

Changing / updating list of energy conversion factors (ECFs)

The Commission set out the rationale for changing / updating energy conversion factors (ECFs). There was an initial discussion on establishing new ECFs for fibre, erythritol and polydextrose. The matter will be discussed at the next working group meeting.

Tolerances used for the purposes of nutrition declarations

There was some support for a harmonised EU approach via legislation or guidance. The Commission intends tolerances to apply to nutrition labelling for foods and fortified foods. Separate tolerances will be developed for Parnuts and supplements. The Commission agreed to produce an initial paper on tolerances for discussion.

Next Steps

The next working group on the Revision of the Nutrition Labelling Directive – Technical Issues will be held on 25 February 2008 and will discuss the Commission's initial draft paper on technical issues, included with this letter for your information. A note of the discussion at this meeting will be circulated. The Agency will be seeking clarification from the Commission on how this work is to be progressed in relation to the recently published Food Information Regulation proposal.

Yours faithfully

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