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July 2011

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The future of additives in the EU

By Xavier Lavigne, Food Law Manager, EAS

Additives continue to be the subject of much discussion in the European Union (EU).

Since the adoption of a new regulation package, FIAP (Food Improvement Agent Package), in 2008, the EU has progressively been putting in place its framework for driving the EU Improvement Agent legal framework towards full harmonisation.

The European Commission is still finalising the system, creating positive lists of approved food improvement agents (additives, enzymes and flavours) for use in the EU, and at present the bulk of the work is focused on the EU Additives and EU Flavours lists.

While a positive EU Additives list was in existence before FIAP was introduced, the regulation's new framework required it to be completely revised.

Originally most stakeholders believed that the revision of the EU Additives list would simply involve a reorganisation and copying and pasting the current lists.

However, the FIAP framework also made a requirement for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to establish a rolling re-evaluation program – starting with colours.

This re-evaluation process began at the same time as the discussions on the EU Additives list. Therefore the revision will most likely include some new level proposals on the basis of EFSA's opinions so far.

Certainly, if this is not covered within the publication of the EU Additives list, it will be with the first amendment that should come shortly after publication.

[More](#)

Meetings to be monitoring:

July 2011

1. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: 4-9 July Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting ([provisional agenda](#))
2. BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 5 July European Parliament Plenary sitting for 2nd reading of the food labelling proposal
3. PARMA, ITALY: 5-7 July EFSA ANS panel meeting
4. BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 11 July EU Standing Committee on General Food Law
5. BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 12 July EU Standing Committee on Biological Safety of the Food Chain
6. SINGAPORE: 13-15 July Asian Congress of Nutrition 2011
7. BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 20 July EU Standing Committee on Genetically Modified Food and Feed

Other upcoming events:

Meet EAS advisers at Vitafoods Asia



OTHER EU UPDATES: EU Additives List (Annex II)

April 2011	Standing Committee adopted Additives List (Annex II)
July 2011	European Parliament scrutiny period begins (lasts 3 months)
December 2011	Expected timing for the publication of the EU Additives List
December 2012	Estimated date of application (based on a 1-year transition period), to be confirmed with publication in the Official Journal of the European Union

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