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Dear Interested Parties

### **European Parliament agreement to legislation on ‘Foods for Specific Groups’**

Yesterday the European Parliament agreed the new ‘Regulation on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control’. The short form working title for this new regulation is proposed as ‘Foods for Specific Groups’.

The Commission’s press release and FAQs are available at the following links:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-522\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-522_en.htm)

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-528\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-528_en.htm)

The text of the regulation adopted by the Council is available here:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/13/st05/st05394-re01.en13.pdf>

The final regulation will be published in the Official Journal in the next few weeks.

### **Working Group meeting of 15 May:**

Member States discussed the priorities for the work that needs to be completed before the 2-year deadline set in the legislation. Initial priorities are for the transfer of the Gluten rules to the Food Information for Consumers Regulation and the review of infant formula and other milks.

#### **Timing**

Depending on the date of publication of the Regulation, there will be a 2 year deadline (for example: July 2015) to agree four Delegated Acts (DA) and the reports on Growing up milks (GUMs) and foods for sports people. In addition there will be one implementing act and one DA for the transfer of gluten regulations to be completed within 3 years. No deadline is set for agreeing rules on Lactose labelling.

#### **Transition**

The rules will apply within 3 years; therefore products on the market today have 3 years transition, plus sell through. The different streams of work will need to be carried out in parallel to be completed within these deadlines.

## **Priorities for working group discussions**

The mandate for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has already been sent for Infant formula (IF), Follow on Formula (FoF) and other milks. This will be addressed in 2 steps:

- The report on the requirements for infants and young children and the role of GUMs is estimated to be completed by the end of October 2013.
- The report on the composition for IF and FoF and if necessary GUMs is estimated to be completed by end of March 2014.

These reports are required for the detail of the DA, but discussion of the other issues for this DA will start earlier in the autumn.

Discussions on the DAs for medical foods and baby/ weaning foods will also start in the autumn and will focus on the transfer of current rules to DAs, with a focus on the specific changes agreed in negotiations, rather than a full review at this stage.

An EFSA mandate for the review of total diet replacements for weight control will be sent with a request to propose compositional requirements. The intention is to start discussions in working group on this, at the beginning of 2014.

Foods for sports people will be addressed at a later date, allowing time to consider how the rules on health claims on sports foods are working and then finally, the rules for lactose labelling will be considered.

## **Your views**

We will be seeking your views as discussions progress and to request your input into providing information for assessing the impact of the regulatory package as a whole.

As discussions are due to start in the autumn, I would like to take this opportunity to invite your initial views on the process and detail of the four DAs under discussion.

Yours faithfully

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(by email)

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