European Parliament

AT A GLANCE

Thematic Digest

European Parliament Press Seminar

What will we be eating in 2025? The EU novel foods regulation

29-30 September 2015, Brussels

Purpose

The European Parliament press service is holding a seminar for journalists in Brussels on the novel foods regulation. This new EU law that should allow the introduction of products such as fungi, algae, new colorants or insects, subject to proper safety measures.

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety backed a compromise agreement with the Council of Ministers on the final shape of the legislation in June 2015. This seminar will give MEPs, institutional representatives, stakeholders, researchers and experts in the field opportunity to go over Parliament's demands, including the need for safety precautions, the definition of nanomaterials, and the practice of animal testing.

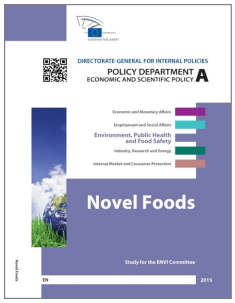
Inside

This leaflet contains extracts from supporting analyses prepared by Parliament's policy department Economic and Scientific Policy for the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Scan the QR code or click on the publication title for direct access.

Publications

Novel foods: workshop proceedings - February 2015



This report summarises the presentations delivered and debates held during the workshop on novel foods, held in the European Parliament in October 2014. Starting with outline of the current state of play, the status of new regulations as proposed by the European Commission and the experiences of Member States and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) regarding the implementation of current EU novel foods legislation were presented. There was general agreement among speakers that amending the Novel Foods regulation is necessary to reflect scientific and technological advances. Concerns about a number of issues were raised. The need for clarification about the definition of novel food was highlighted. Questions were raised about the ability of EFSA to cope with the increased workload of the streamlined application procedure. The proposed regulation does not resolve the potential for overlap and duplication with other legislation, in particular that for new vitamins and minerals, which it was suggested should be removed from the novel food regulation. The potential for conflict with the separate proposed regulation on cloned animals and their offspring was also raised. Benefits were envisaged for small and medium enterprises by the removal of fees and by generic applications. Member States also envisage benefits in the reduction in administrative burden. Consumer acceptability and the demonstration of clear benefits for the consumer need to be considered. **(Available in EN)**

DG IPOL Policy Departments
European Parliament
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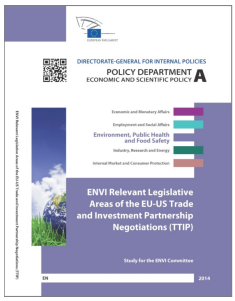
Food safety policy and regulation in the United States - February 2015

This study reviews and updates the 2013 report on food safety policies and regulation in the United States. It addresses the structure of the existing food safety policy, the food safety organisation and key indicators for food safety development in the country. The review considers the basic relevant legislative acts and the organisation of various branches of government. Key changes in approach or implementation have been identified. A list of the legislative food safety requirements in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is presented. With respect to novel foods (including GMOs, cloned animals, nanomaterials), the study finds that there is an apparently opposite attitude and method of approach to regulation between the EU and the US. A brief description of current food safety emergencies in the United States is also given. **(Available in EN)**

ENVI relevant legislative areas of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations - November 2014



The stated objective of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations, launched in July 2013, is to facilitate commercial exchanges of goods and services between both sides of the Atlantic and to enhance investments. There are however substantial regulatory differences between the EU and the US. The negotiations have therefore raised concerns, notably among members of civil society, that potential harmonisation may undermine the levels of protection of public health and safety, and the environment. This study compares and highlights the main differences in key EU and US legislation in eight TTIP-relevant areas: medicinal products for human use and medical devices; cosmetics; food and nutrition; sanitary and phyto-sanitary; nanomaterials; cloning; raw materials and energy; and motor vehicles. In each of these areas, the study focuses on two key issues identified as demonstrating important differences between EU and US legislation and their relevance for the TTIP. **(Available in EN)**

Policy departments

There are five policy departments within DG IPOL and DG EXPO, They are responsible for providing - both in-house and external- high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Outputs: Most frequently prepared at the request of a Parliamentary committee or delegation, the written output of the policy departments comprises a wide range of products, including studies, in-depth country- or issue-specific analyses, briefings examining issues of strategic importance, as well as notes containing short EU-oriented analyses of recent events or developments. They serve a variety of purposes: they can feed directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serve as a briefing for delegations of members.

The policy departments also draft the Fact Sheets on the EU, which provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process.

Events: The policy departments organise events that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues. Public workshops bringing together groups of experts are organised to provide independent expertise via written and oral presentations. Expert panels are set up to provide members with regular written contributions or to feed into the parliamentary debate during meetings. Publications are generally presented during committee meetings.

Scrutiny: Policy departments provide research support to enhance the European Parliament's capacity to monitor EU negotiations and the implementation of international agreements. They have also developed an in-house methodology to scrutinise EU-funded projects.

Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process in 23 languages. They cover six main themes: how the EU works; a citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and the EU's external relations.

The online version is reviewed and updated regularly.
www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

All Fact Sheets:

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