

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

TRADITIONAL FOODS

Issue

To update the Committee on the work to improve the consistency of applications under the traditional food notifications in the European Union.

Background

1. The European Commission has received 18 notifications for traditional foods since the process became available in January 2018. 3 traditional foods have been assessed, these are Fonio, Haskap berries and Sorghum syrup. These 3 foods have been assessed by the ACNFP and the Committee's advice has informed the FSA's response to the Commission. 15 notifications are pending validation.
2. No duly reasoned safety objections were received by the Commission for the three dossiers to date. If no duly reasoned safety objections are received there is no further role for Member States in the authorisation procedure. This being the case with the three notifications the Commission has indicated the three traditional foods will be authorised in line with Article 14 of 2015/2283 EU.
3. The Commission has noted comments from the UK and other Member States around the level of information required to support an appropriate assessment of the food and the need for consistency in the approach. As a result, the Commission has reviewed its traditional food authorisation procedures and is seeking to learn from Member States' experience in reviewing the traditional food dossiers. An outcome of this review is the Commission is consulting Member States on the quality and quantity of information in the notification for some applications before validating them.
4. It is hoped that this approach will support getting the right balance between having sufficient information to assess the data and learn from the experience of the traditional use in third countries and not setting overly burdensome requirements for foods commonly used elsewhere in the world. This topic is likely to be discussed further between Member States to further improve the traditional foods process as it becomes established.

Committee Action Required

- To note the update on the work to further develop the traditional foods process and a consistent level of information for assessment at EU level.
- To comment on the current procedure for assessing traditional foods and improvements which could be made.

**Secretariat
November 2018**