

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES****EU UPDATE**

This paper provides Members with an update on novel food applications under regulation (EC) No 258/97 and on other EU issues that are relevant to the work of the Committee.

**Novel Food applications**

1. On 13 December 2013, officials from the national Competent Authorities for novel foods met the Commission to discuss a range of novel food issues. The meeting considered issues related to imminent authorisation decisions for a number of novel foods, in preparation for votes at a subsequent standing committee meeting (see below). Member States also discussed the status of insects under the novel food regulation and questions raised by a Member State about the maximum acceptable intake of long-chain omega-3 fatty acids.
2. The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, the decision-making body made up of representatives of the 28 EU Member States, met on 10 February 2014 when it considered the authorisation of four novel food ingredients, all of which had been evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority after Member States failed to reach a consensus view. Three of these were approved: rapeseed protein, coriander seed oil and a new source of folic acid ((6S)-5-methyltetrahydro-folic acid, glucosamine salt). In the case of rapeseed protein, products will carry a labelling statement aimed at people with mustard allergy. This is in line with the ACNFP's advice concerning the potential for cross-reactivity between mustard and rapeseed protein.
3. No decision was reached on citicoline and its conditions of use will be considered further by the Commission and Member States before a vote is taken at a future SCOFCAH meeting.

**Proposal to update the Novel Food Regulation**

4. On 18 December 2013, the Commission published its proposal to update and replace the existing regulation on novel foods (Regulation (EC) 258/97). This proposal is described in more detail in paper ACNFP/114/12. Negotiations will take place over the coming months and, if the proposal is eventually adopted by the Member States and the European Parliament, it will come into force 2 years

later. The current framework for evaluating and authorising novel foods will therefore remain in place at least until late 2016 / early 2017.

**Secretariat  
February 2014**