IDACE Perspective on the PARNUTS Review

EU Food Law Conference
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Where is IDACE?

✓ The European Dietetic Industry Association is the trade association representing the interests of the dietetic food producers across the European Union.

✓ Our members are the National Associations of 17 countries and their members are the local companies producing foods for particular nutritional needs.

✓ IDACE represents these Member States and the specialised nutrition industry on PARNUTs, but also ‘general food issues’
About IDACE

Facts and figures
✓ The annual turnover of the European dietetic food sector including exports is around €24bn.

✓ About 5% of turnover is invested in research (the food industry average is 1%), and each year exports total around €8bn.

✓ We employ a high number of Food scientists, Dietitians, Nutritionists and HCP’s.

Which consumers rely on us
✓ Our members serve a variety of consumers including infants, hospital patients, those suffering from coeliac disease, and the obese and overweight, and professional and amateur athletes.

✓ 90% of Europeans will need to use dietetic products at some point in their lives.
**Some IDACE activities**

**Press releases**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT’S PLENARY VOTE ON SPECIALISED NUTRITION SHOWS NEED FOR A STRONG LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR VULNERABLE CONSUMERS**

**Brussels, 14 June 2012:** The European Parliament’s plenary vote on the revision of the EU dietetic foods framework (also known as PARNUTs) has demonstrated that the EU must continue to guarantee a strong legislative framework in order to protect vulnerable consumers, argues IDACE – the association representing the specialised nutrition industry in Europe.

Today, the European Parliament’s plenary session voted in favour of the Report - authored by Rapporteur Frédérique Ries and voted unanimously by the European Parliament’s Environment Public Health and Food Safety Committee – without any amendments. IDACE supports the report, which will provide appropriate legal solutions to ensure the continued protection of consumers, enabling them to properly manage their dietary requirements with products specially designed to suit their needs.

**Position papers & explanatory notes**

**NEW EU RULES ON SPECIALISED FOOD PRODUCTS**

**IDACE POSITION ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON FOOD INTENDED FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN AND ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL PURPOSES**

IDACE, the association representing the dietetic food industries of the European Union, welcomes the European Commission’s initiative to update, harmonise, and simplify the rules on specialised food products. IDACE is particularly supportive of the Commission’s proposal to retain specific provisions for foods intended for infants and young children, as well as foods for special medical purposes.

**Factsheets**

**Dietetic foods**

*The right nutrition and the right support, throughout the circle of life*

- **Breast milk** is best for babies, as it contains the right balance of nutrients, hormones and antibodies.
  - Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula is the only suitable alternative for babies whose mothers are unable to, or choose not to breastfeed. It provides essential nutrients, but not all the protective factors found in breast milk.

- **Dietetic foods** provide nutrition during the gradual change to a more varied diet. They help infants to learn about new tastes and textures, and are specially-formulated to be low in sugar and salt.

- **Complementary foods** provide nutrition during the gradual change to a more varied diet. They help infants to learn about new tastes and textures, and are specially-formulated to be low in sugar and salt.

- **Dietetic foods** for people with gluten intolerance help people to manage their condition under medical guidance.

- **Complementary foods** for people with diabetes help people to manage their condition under medical guidance.

- **Dietetic foods** for people with lactose intolerance help people to manage their condition under medical guidance.

**And more...**
IDACE and the PARNUTs Review

IDACE and the PARNUTs Review
✓ Our members understood that there was a need to update the PARNUTs rules.
✓ We welcome the recent agreement reached by the EU institutions, which acknowledges that vulnerable consumers require specific legal protection.
✓ Today’s presentation will not go into the details of our past activities, but will focus instead on our members’ concerns moving forward.

IDACE key priorities during the review:

The protection of vulnerable consumers with specific dietary needs
✓ Raising awareness on adequate and specific legal solutions for category specific issues, ie Gluten-Free, sports foods, Total Diet Replacement for Weight Control, Milk-based drinks for Young Children, Foods for Special Medical Purposes, Foods for preterm infants.
✓ Ensure adequate solutions for horizontal issues (communication, innovation...)

A feasible review for both public authorities and industry
✓ The revision process will have a massive impact on industry, but also on public authorities who will also need to adapt to the complex new rules.
✓ Transition periods are crucial, and also related to our key outstanding concerns.
✓ Concerns to be discussed on the following slides.
IDACE concerns moving forward

Delegated and Implementing Acts

- There are a number of categories where delegated and/or implementing acts will need to further provide legal clarification (such as Foods for Special Medical Purposes, Gluten-Free, Union List of Substances).

EFSA Mandates and/or Commission Reports

- There are a number of food categories on which further impact assessment reports are awaited by industry to have full legal clarity (e.g. Milk Based Drink for Young Children, Total Diet Replacement for Weight Control, Sports’ foods).
IDACE concerns moving forward

Soft Landing

✓ For categories falling out of the scope of the revised Regulation in the future, such as certain types of slimming foods, sports foods and gluten-free foods, there will be a need to ensure a ‘soft landing’ for these products in the context of their move to general food law.

✓ By ‘soft landing’, we refer to the need to appropriately incorporate these categories of food into the various pieces of general food law, (i.e. Food Information to Consumers, Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation, the Addition of Vitamins and Minerals, etc.).

✓ These regulations were not designed for these specific food products, and therefore it will be necessary to adapt or amend certain provisions in order to take the specificities of these product categories into account.

IDACE looks forward to a rapid delivery of all follow-up legislative activities in order to finalise the revision process and ensure that vulnerable consumers continue to get the protection they need!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Questions?

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