

# Gobierno de Colombia

*stakeholder group:* Competent Authority (CA)

## **2.1 Adjusted safety assessment and management for traditional food from 3rd countries**

Opt 1: No changes 'One size fits all'

Opt 2: Adjusted safety assessment for traditional food from 3rd countries

Opt 3: Adjusted safety assessment and management for traditional food from 3rd countries

*Opt 4: No pre-market safety assessment and authorisation for traditional food from 3rd countries*

Impact on consumer rights Very beneficial

Impact on innovation and research Very beneficial

Impact on employment and jobs Very beneficial

*2.1.5 Preference:* Option 4: No pre-market safety assessment and authorisation for traditional food from 3rd countries

*2.1.6 Explanation of choice:* This option coincides with the position held by Colombia in the WTO. In addition, the requirement of a minimum risk level (almost zero) does not tally with the requirements to be met by traditional foodstuffs from third countries which have a long tradition of consumption, maintaining a high level of harmlessness. Colombia acknowledges the need to protect European consumers, but maintains its position that the requirements made must be consistent with the tradition of consumption in the third countries and with the size of the market niches for traditional exotic products.

## **2.2 Safety assessment and Authorization procedure?**

Opt 1: No changes (decentralised assessment and authorisation procedure)

*Opt 2: Centralised risk assessment and authorisation procedure*

Impact on consumer rights Very beneficial

Impact on innovation and research Very beneficial

Impact on employment and jobs Very beneficial

*2.2.3 Preference:* Option 2: Centralised risk assessment and authorisation procedure

*2.2.4 Explanation of choice:* It is important that the risk assessment and the authorisation procedures are standardised and Community-wide, i.e. that they are accepted by all EC Member States. This change will prevent any discretionary powers in granting authorisation and make access to the European market transparent and fair.

## **2.3 Authorisation decision?**

Opt 1: No changes: Authorisation linked to the applicant (only applicant able to market)

*Opt 2: Generic authorisation (all companies able to market in EU and abolishment of simplified procedure)*

Impact on consumer rights Very beneficial

Impact on innovation and research Neutral

Impact on employment and jobs Very beneficial

Opt 3: Generic authorisation + data protection for certain foods

Opt 4: Different types of authorisations (generic and for certain foods, applicant linked)

*2.3.5 Preference:* Option 2: Generic authorisation (all companies able to market in EU and abolishment of simplified procedure)

*2.3.6 Explanation of choice:* Generic authorisation enables access to the European market for all enterprises of third countries interested in exporting new products, thus preventing monopolies. Colombia also feels that this practice will benefit European consumers by allowing an extension to the portfolio of new imported products.

## **2.4 Submission of application for several food uses**

Opt 1: No changes: Separate applications for different food uses

### **Opt 2: One application for all new foods for different uses**

Impact on consumer rights Very beneficial

Impact on innovation and research Very beneficial

Impact on employment and jobs Very beneficial

### **2.4.3 Preference:** Option 2: One application for all new foods for different uses

2.4.4 Explanation of choice: It enables a reduction in the costs of applying for authorisation for exporters of new foodstuffs, since these costs will only be incurred once. Similarly, this change stimulates an increase in the competitiveness of new traditional foodstuffs and contributes towards the generation of added value and towards an increase in the range of foodstuffs for European consumers.

## **2.5 Legal act**

### **2.5.1 What would be the impact of the revision for your organisation?**

Impact on consumer rights Very beneficial

Impact on innovation and research Very beneficial

Impact on employment and jobs Very beneficial

2.5.2 Explanation: The revision of Regulation 258/97 enables third countries, such as Colombia, which have a wide biodiversity of products, to gain access to the EU market and introduce it to many of the exotic products which have traditionally been consumed without causing damage to human health. Many of these new products form part of Colombia's export portfolio and are linked to policies promoting green markets, organic production, replacement of illegal crops and agricultural sustainability in conflict zones – policies which in many cases are funded by EC Member States – with the consequent social repercussions that this represents for the country with respect to the generation of employment, the recovery of farmland and improvements to the quality of life of the rural population