
The Draft Regulation aims at amending Directive 2007/68/EC\(^1\) as regards the transitional period for the mandatory application of the allergens labelling requirements to wines, which would have ended on 31 December 2010.

As the wine sector conducted new scientific studies on the allergenicity of casein and albumin used as fining agents in the winemaking, two requests for scientific opinions were submitted to EFSA by the Commission on 14 and 30 July 2010.

Consequently, pending the scientific assessment by EFSA, and to avoid unnecessary burdens on economic operators and confusion to consumers due to changes in labelling rules within a relatively short period of time, it is proposed to extend the transitional period foreseen in Directive 2007/68/EC until 30 June 2012 as regards wines as defined in Annex XIb to Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007\(^2\).

As several delegations questioned the duration of the transition period and the absence of studies on lysozyme, it was explained that 18 months will be needed for the scientific assessment to be completed and for the subsequent updating of the list, if necessary. As regards lysozyme, the Standing Committee was informed that a proper scientific dossier is expected very soon.

Finally, some delegations expressed the view that this should be the last extension of the transition period for wines.

The UK delegation made the following statement.

\(^1\) OJ L 310, 28.11.2007, p. 11.
"The UK would like to express its disappointment at the length of time taken by the wine industry to supply the information needed to support a permanent exemption from allergen labelling requirements for these wine treatment agents. The expiry date for the temporary exemptions that were granted initially in 2005 has already been extended on two occasions and it is regrettable that an application has had to be made for a third extension."

The Committee delivered a favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 323 votes; against: 12 votes; abstention: 10 votes).