1. **Presentation by the Commission services of an interpretative note concerning the implementation of Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey**


In general Member States welcomed the document, however some remarks were made:

- Hungary requested the amending of the provisions of the Directive regulating the labelling of the country or countries of origin of honey. In particular of Article 2.4(a), giving the possibility, if the honey originates in more than one Member State or third country, to label it as "blend of EC honeys", "blend of non-EC honeys" or "blend of EC and non-EC honeys" was contested. The Czech Republic and Finland supported Hungary on this point.

The Commission representative explained that the aim of the presented draft note was to clarify the application of some provisions of Directive 2001/110/EC and that there was no intention to make any proposal for the amendment of the Directive.

Several Member States made remarks on point 2 of the draft documents concerning the use of the term “honey flavoured”. These remarks will be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the document.

France requested a stricter interpretation of the "specific quality criteria" and asked if reference on the label to more than two floral origins can be made. The Commission representative engaged himself in taking into account the remarks made by France when drafting the final vision of the interpretative note.

A final version of the note will be presented to the Committee in a future meeting.


The Committee unanimously delivered a favourable opinion on the draft proposal as presented by the Commission (one Member State absent).

3. **Exchange of views and possible opinion concerning the Draft Decision of [...] refusing the placing on the market of betaine as a novel food or novel food ingredient under Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council**
The Committee unanimously delivered a favourable opinion on the draft proposal as presented by the Commission (one Member State absent).

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion concerning the draft Decision of […] authorising the placing on the market of vegetable diacylglycerol oil as a novel food under Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Following a presentation of the draft Commission Decision, some Member States raised concerns regarding the trans fatty acid content of the novel oil and considered that the oil could be nutritionally disadvantageous when it replaces vegetable oil in the diet. However, it was agreed that the saturated fatty acid and trans fatty acid content of the diacylglycerol oil added together would be lower than the corresponding content of other vegetable oil that could be replaced in the diet. It was considered necessary to seek information on this point before finalising any decision. Furthermore, some concern was expressed about the high level of tocopherols present in the final product. Consideration was also given to the designation of the product. Further clarification is needed and the draft is to be revised before the Standing Committee will be in position to deliver its opinion.

5. Exchange of views and possible approval on the guidelines on implementation of Article 6 Paragraph 10 of Directive 2000/13/EC (indication of allergenic ingredients on the labelling), and statement by the Standing Committee on the date of implementation of these provisions

The Standing Committee discussed draft informal guidelines regarding the provisions set out in Article 6, paragraph 10 of Directive 2000/13/EC as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC, that have been developed by the Commission services and representatives of Member States in order to clarify some questions relating to the indication of the ingredients listed in Annex IIIa of the Directive (ingredients likely to trigger adverse reaction). Subject to minor modification, these guidelines were approved by a wide majority of Delegations at the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee also discussed the issue of the full implementation of the above-mentioned provisions on 25 November 2005. It noted that because the adoption of the list of allergen derivatives provisionally exempted from labelling has been delayed (list published on 22 March 2005), foodstuffs manufacturers may face technical difficulties in meeting the deadline scheduled for implementing the new labelling requirements of those allergens derivatives which are not included in that list.

6. Exchange of views on derogations for vitamins and mineral substances added to food supplements

The following two lists had been circulated prior to the meeting:
- details of the contact points in the Member States for derogations for the use of vitamin and mineral substances not listed in the Annexes of Directive 2002/46/EC on food supplements; and,
- list of substances for which dossiers had been submitted by Member States under the provisions of Directive 2002/46/EC that permits MS to provide derogations for vitamin or mineral substances under certain conditions.

The Commission asked Member States to update the lists, if necessary. The Committee was informed that the lists would be made available on the Commission
website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/labellingnutrition/supplements/index_en.htm).

The Chairman reminded the Committee that Member States had sole responsibility for granting derogations.

7. Information on the setting up of the expert working group on Natural Mineral Waters treatment

Member States have been informed of the setting up of an ad hoc working group of experts to provide expertise on the technological aspects of natural mineral water treatments. This working group, to be chaired by the Commission, will examine the dossiers from industry related to these treatments and draft a report on the assessment of their technological aspects in relation to the requirements of Directive 80/777/EEC.

Member States were invited to propose one expert plus the name of a substitute who could in the expert's absence. No observations have been made by Member State representatives.

8. Any other business (Lycopene)

Through discussions in the Novel Food Working Group the Commission noted that Lycopene had been used in the EU as an additive and in food supplements, but not in other foods, before 15 May 1997. In the absence of evidence that lycopene had been used to a significant degree for other purpose prior to 15 May 1997 it would be considered that other uses would require authorisation under Regulation (EC) No. 258/97 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients. It was agreed that Member States would report, by 15 July 2005 at the latest, if there was evidence that this conclusion was not correct.