

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF REGULATION 258/97 ON NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS**

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, received on 6 June 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

1. In a separate "Communication from the European Communities"<sup>1</sup>, the European Communities provide a response to Peru's communication G/SPS/GEN/681 (5 April 2006) which raises concerns about the application of the Novel Foods Regulation 258/97.<sup>2</sup>
2. Further to this, the European Commission informs hereby that it has taken the initiative of opening a public consultation, in the form of a questionnaire, to collect information to enable the Commission to assess the impact of this legislation, with a view to elaborating a proposal introducing changes.
3. A consolidated version of Regulation (EC) No 258/97 (date of consolidation: 18 March 2004) is available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/1997/R/01997R0258-20040418-en.pdf>
4. The European Commission expects that the answers to the questionnaire will allow identification of the positive and negative impacts of the proposed policy options, enabling the Commission to design its legal proposal based on an informed judgement.
5. This questionnaire and an explanatory note (in English only) are accessible at [http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/index_en.htm)  
  
Click on "Consultations" and then on "Food safety". You will be directed to page [http://ec.europa.eu/food/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/consultations/index_en.htm)
6. Once comments are received the Commission services will elaborate a Commission "*proposal for a Regulation on novel foods*" in consultation with EC member States, and once there is a majority view, a formal notification under the SPS Agreement will be made.

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<sup>1</sup> G/SPS/GEN/699.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 1997 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients (Official Journal L43, 14 February 1997, p. 1 – 6).

7. The European Commission invites trade partners to answer the questionnaire before 1 August 2006. Comments may be sent to the EC Enquiry Point, although they should preferably be sent to the internet address indicated above. The responses to this questionnaire will be made available to the public.

8. In case of difficulties to access the questionnaire via Internet, it can be obtained - in pdf format - together with an explanatory note, from the EC Enquiry Point.

9. Please return the questionnaire no later than 1 August 2006 to:  
[SANCO-FEED-CONSULTATION@cec.eu.int](mailto:SANCO-FEED-CONSULTATION@cec.eu.int)

or by post to the following address:

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