

EU: Novel foods update

The European Parliament (EP) Plenary recently voted on the second reading of proposals for revision of the Novel Food Regulation and the EP, the Council of Ministers and the Commission remain opposed on a number of issues.

The dossier will therefore now be subject first to informal and then formal conciliation. As a result, the proposals could still change considerably before the final adoption of the Regulation.

The European supplements industry has welcomed the fact that one particular amendment, strongly opposed by EHPM, was not adopted by the EP – that the European Medicines Agency(EMA) should have a role defining whether a type of food does or does not fall under the scope of the Novel Foods Regulation.

As pointed out by EHPM, this proposed amendment is not in line with the current legal framework, whereby the EMA has no competence over the regulation of foods or their classification.

Although a considerable amount of work and discussion remains, the Commission is aiming for a conclusion on this issue under the Belgian or Hungarian Presidencies, with publication of the Regulation around April 2011.

Recent Novel Foods assessments include favourable opinions on a sardine peptide intended for use in functional foods, and a mushroom extract intended for use in both functional foods and food supplements.

Source: EHPM