

EU: Probiotic scientists take action on health claims

Leading European scientists on gut health have started a campaign to try to make the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)'s interpretation of the EU Health Claims Regulation clearer and scientifically acceptable. The Dutch scientist Ger Rijkers has started an initiative with colleagues Stephan Bischoff and Bruno Pot to send an open letter to the EC and EFSA relating to the claims process and probiotics.

From the results of the current work programme and mandate of the EC and EFSA, the scientists believe that the gap between science and regulatory affairs harms only innovative research but also, in the final outcome, the consumer.

They therefore have drafted a statement to that effect and now are requesting other scientists who agree with their views to sign the statement via www.gut-health.eu/. The list of scientists who have already signed the letter is available on this website and supplement associations are being encouraged to circulate the statement to their own scientific networks, for further signatures from independent academics and scientists.

This initiative, an autonomous signal from scientists about the problems with the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, is seen as a strong complement to the supplement industry's claims lobby, which is also focused on EFSA's scientific approach.

Source: NPN