

UEAPME¹ Position Paper on the draft Commission Regulation on the establishment of mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of Acrylamide in food.

Brussels, June 29th, 2017
Prot n° 201/2017/BMD

UEAPME, the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, regrets the introduction of a regulation on the reduction of Acrylamide even though different mitigation measures and benchmark levels are there to help the sector to adapt their products and methods of production. However, UEAPME fears that traditional methods of production and certain products could fall out of the range of acceptable levels. These need to be appropriately safeguarded and the current statement of acceptability in recital 10 needs to be appropriately applied by all Member States to avoid the elimination of traditional products from the market, which cannot be the objective of the regulation.

Therefore, UEAPME welcomes

- The acceptance that certain products may exceed benchmark levels

Recital (10) (...) It is acknowledged that the specified food categories are in certain cases broad and that for specific foods within such a broad food category there may be specific production, geographic or seasonal conditions or product characteristics for which it is not possible to achieve the benchmark levels despite the application of all mitigation measures. In such situations, the food business operator should be able to show the evidence that he applied the relevant mitigation measures.

UEAPME fears that otherwise certain products and methods of production could be eliminated from the market. It is important that all member states apply the regulation in the light of this recital.

- The derogation from Article 2(1)

Food business operators producing foodstuffs listed in Article 1 (2), which perform retail activities, and/ or directly supply only local retail establishments shall apply mitigation measures provided for in Part A of Annexe II.

¹ UEAPME subscribes to the European Commission's Register of Interest Representatives and to the related code of conduct as requested by the European Transparency Initiative. Our ID number is [55820581197-35](#).

In light of the means available to small craft producers and the large variety of products produced by these, this measure allows these businesses to comply with the regulation without threatening their continued existence.

However, UEAPME disagrees

- With the integration of culinary processes such as the blanching of potatoes in a regulation as culinary processes and recipes evolve frequently and should not be frozen in a regulation;
- With the provision on the mandatory selection of the potato varieties (i.e. potatoes which contain less sugars). The food business operator needs to be able to choose the variety of the potatoes according to the needs of the recipe. The obligation to select potatoes based on sugar (content needs to be limited to what is reasonable achievable in light of the recipe). The obligation in annex II part A (1) to use potato varieties with lower sugar content can only be enforced where the information on sugar content of potatoes is available.
- With the obligation to display color tables to the staff to check that bread for sandwiches is not over-toasted, where these colour guides are not provided with the regulation. UEAPME is of the opinion, that where such tables are not set by the regulation, the values of such tables would be meaningless and would likely differ widely.
- With the benchmarks as set in the latest draft. These were drastically reduced after the regulation draft version 6 without any sensible explanation. As such these levels are now too low to allow for all producers to be able to comply with them.

To conclude, UEAPME would like to thank the European Commission for its consultation.