

IMACE welcomes

the proposed draft EC Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards trans fat, other than trans fat naturally occurring in fat of animal origin

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The European Margarine Association (IMACE) welcomes the proposed legislation by the European Commission (by amending Part B of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006) *setting a legal limit in the content of industrially produced trans fats in food which is intended for the final consumer that shall not exceed 2 grams per 100 grams of fat.*

IMACE members are pleased to see that the EU has finally consolidated the results of the longstanding margarine industry efforts. Over the past 20 years, IMACE members have been supporting the industry's initiatives to reduce trans fatty acids (TFA) in margarines and spreads, via reformulation, optimisation of refining processes in accordance with the IMACE Code of Practice on TFA. IMACE members are confident that with this new regulation all EU citizens will be able to minimize industrial TFA intake.

As a result of the above-mentioned efforts, IMACE members already comply to the requirements of the proposed regulation. Following these numerous industry actions, significant overall reductions in the non-ruminant TFA content of food products sold to the final consumers have been achieved. Consequently, the intake of non-ruminant TFA in the EU has decreased considerably over recent years to an extremely low level.

All IMACE retail margarines and fat spreads contain no more than 2% TFA on a fat basis, according to IMACE Code of Practice on trans fatty acids. This decrease was also highlighted by EFSA in its opinions of 2004 and 2009, based on data analysis at national level.

Due to the steep reduction in production and intake of non-ruminant TFA, in most Western EU Members States, up to 60-70% of the current TFA intake is now coming from ruminant sources.

As both non-ruminant and ruminant sources of TFA have the equal health effects IMACE is of the opinion that specific measures are also needed to reduce the ruminant TFA intake. This would ensure that the public health issue concerning total TFA intake is addressed properly.

Furthermore, IMACE members are encouraged to continue to provide information on the TFA content of all their products provided for the EU food market to their B2B customers to enable them, where appropriate, to meet their obligations.

About the European Margarine Association: IMACE is the voice of the European margarine and spread producers. The association, which represents more than 70% of the European sector, has led the industry's efforts towards nutritional improvements for decades. IMACE focuses on continuous improvement and communication on the areas of nutrition, sustainability, information to consumers and food safety.

For more information, please contact:

Siska Pottie, Managing Director

Email: siska.pottie@imace.org; Phone: +32 2 7723353; Mobile: +32 473867347