



PRESS RELEASE

European insect producers welcome the entry into force of the new EU novel food rules

Brussels, 4 January 2018

IPIFF - the European umbrella Organisation representing the interests of the Insect Production sector for Food and Feed – welcomed today's entry into force of Regulation 2015/2283 on novel foods, which should pave the way for the wider use of insects as food in Europe.

This new EU piece of legislation – together with its implementing Regulations 2017/2468 & 2017/2469 - defines the standards & authorisation procedures for the commercialization of novel products, such as insects and their derived products, on the European market. The text is **fully** applicable since 1st January 2018.

In the wake of this legislative reform, IPIFF President **Antoine Hubert** reacted: 'we are particularly pleased with the introduction of simplified and harmonized rules to regulate what constituted so far a 'grey area' from a legal perspective'. Indeed, the new legislation clarifies the fact that insects and their derived products as food are subject to the 'novel foods' approval procedures, whilst it establishes a centralised authorisation system relying on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as sole assessment body. 'These improvements, compared to the previous system, should lay the foundations for a level playing field between European insect producers added the **IPIFF Chair**.

Looking ahead, the Chair of the IPIFF Novel Food Task Force, **Ms Heidi de Bruin** explained: 'following the official adoption of the EU novel foods implementing Regulations last December, insect producers now have all legislative pieces to prepare & complete their novel

food application. Several applications, notably originating from IPIFF members companies, are now ready for submission’.

We are confident that robust and well documented applications will be processed rapidly enough, as permitted by the introduction of deadlines in the new novel food authorisation procedure’ continued **the IPIFF Task Force Chair**.

The IPIFF novel food Task Force supports insect producers in the preparation of such application dossiers: ‘we are currently compiling available scientific data that are relevant to the safety of insects for human consumption. Furthermore, we are preparing a guidance document which will serve as tool kit for insect producing companies to implement the new EU novel food requirements’ explained **Heidi de Bruin**.

These works are complementary to the IPIFF guidance document on best hygienic practices which IPIFF is currently developing: ‘compliance with EU food safety standards & adherence with risk management procedures along all production operations are indeed a prerequisite to the safety of insect products in food applications’” concluded the **IPIFF Task Force Chair**.

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The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) is a non-profit organisation which represents the interests of the insect production sector towards EU policy makers, European stakeholders & citizens. Composed of more than 42 members, most of which are European insect producing companies, IPIFF promotes the use of insects & insect derived products as top tier source of nutrients for human consumption & animal feed.