



- Press Release -

The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed

Brussels, 16th December 2021

The recent novel food milestones are key to unlocking the potential of the insect food sector

The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF), the focal point of the European insect sector in EU's capital, Brussels, welcomed the recent regulatory milestones^[1] linked to the novel food approvals from 2021 together with relevant agri-food stakeholders active at European level.

In the webinar organised yesterday, **Mr Rafael Perez Berbejal** (Team Leader, novel food – European Commission) provided an analysis of the regulatory context and the implications of the recent and upcoming authorisations, highlighting that *'2021 was, indeed, a year full of positive developments for the insect sector'*. This opinion was shared by the representative of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), **Mr Domenico Azzollini**, (Scientific Officer at NUTRI - Novel Foods) who presented a summary of the challenges and main lessons learnt in the context of the novel food dossiers evaluated by EFSA.

The following discussions on Mr Perez Berbejal's and Mr Azzollini's presentations also shed some light on potential upcoming novel food authorisations which were hailed by the present representatives of the European food industries.

From IPIFF's side, **Mr Christian Baertsch**, (IPIFF Executive Committee representative in charge of communication) saluted the efforts of the sector, mentioning that the recent *'developments represent milestones for our sector that will motivate us to continue developing this young industry further allowing us to provide sustainable food solutions for Europe and beyond'*.

Mr Bastien Rabastens, the Chair of the IPIFF Working Group on Food Safety and Consumers Information, highlighted the business implications of these developments. *'2021 will remain a milestone for our sector – paving the way for numerous opportunities in order to increasing the production capacity of the sector while also educating consumers about the nutritional and health benefits of insects and their derived products'.*

The event ended with an overview on the synergies between insects as food and snacks – presented by **Mr Sebastien Emig** (Director-General of the European Snack Association, ESA), in which he stressed that *'insects as snacks, by having a positive environmental footprint and high-protein content, could be a favourable ingredient to be used in European consumers' diets in the near future.'*

These positive discussions motivate the European insect sector to work harder on providing local and sustainable solutions that are aligned with food producers and consumers' needs.

Note: Registered participants will also receive a link to access the recording of this webinar. This video will be made available on the IPIFF [YouTube channel](#) soon.

[1] The recent regulatory developments include the [first novel food authorisation from June 2021](#) (dried yellow mealworm *Tenebrio molitor* – SAS Agronutris EAP, [the authorisation of migratory locust from December 2021](#) (frozen and dried migratory locust *Locusta migratoria* – Fair Insects B.V.) and the [favourable vote of the EU Member States from December 2021](#) (dried, ground and frozen house cricket *Acheta domesticus* and frozen, dried and powder yellow mealworm *Tenebrio molitor* – Fair Insects B.V.).

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Interested to know what 'insect farming' is about? Check our updated

'Frequently Asked Questions' on the [IPIFF website!](#)

If you wish to hear more regarding the development of the European insect

sector, follow us on our social media platforms!



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 policymakers, European stakeholders and citizens. Composed of 83 members, most of which are European insect producing companies, IPIFF promotes the use of insects and insect-derived products as top tier source of nutrients for human consumption and animal feed.