



**Paper for Discussion and Comment: EC Directive –
Processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and
young children**

Agenda Item: 5

EC directive on Cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children

The European Commission is considering a review of the current weaning foods Directive (2006/125/EC) on cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children. It is proposed that the review will address the need for amendments to reflect any recent scientific developments with regard to the nutrition of infants and young children. The Commission requested written comments from Member States about the types of amendments, which they would discuss further. After receiving views from Member States, the Commission will evaluate whether a new EFSA Opinion on weaning foods should be sought.

Members are requested to comment and identify potential amendments. Members may wish to focus on the following issues:

- **Para 23:** The current directive does not specifically address the issue of health claims on foods meant for children. Under the latest EC regulation on Nutrition and Health claims, all claims should be scientifically substantiated but there is no specific requirement that claims made on infant's or children's foods should be validated by scientific evidence based on studies conducted in target group.

Should health claims be permitted on foods for infants and children?

If so, should health claims on foods targeted at infants be specifically substantiated by evidence from studies in the target groups?

- **Article 4:** Use of ingredients whose suitability for particular nutritional use by infants and young children established by generally accepted scientific data.

Should this article clarify that the evidence provided for assessment should be valid scientific data from studies conducted in the target group – infants and young children?

- **Article 8a and b:** Labelling of the products with the recommended age for weaning. Current labelling recommends weaning or introduction of solids from 4 – 6 months.

Should the label be amended to reflect current policy to introduce solid foods around the age of 6 months?

- **Annex 1:** Essential Composition – The amount of added carbohydrates – sucrose, fructose, glucose syrups or honey. Levels allowed in the current directive equate approximately to 30% of energy intake from complementary foods.

Should this be amended in line with the recommended population intake of 10% of energy from NMES in complementary foods?