

Food safety, human health protection: common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings

2006/0143(COD) - 08/07/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution amending the Council's common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings. The recommendation for second reading (under the codecision procedure) had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Asa **WESTLUND** (PES, SE) on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

The amendments were the result of a compromise between the Council and the Parliament. The main amendments - adopted under 2nd reading of the codecision procedure - were as follows:

- transparency in the production and handling of food is absolutely crucial to maintain consumer confidence ;
- the criteria laid down for authorisation under the sectoral food laws should also be fulfilled for authorisation to be granted pursuant to this Regulation.
- where appropriate and under certain circumstances the specific sectoral food law may provide for protection of scientific data and other information submitted by the applicant for a certain period of time. In this case the sectoral food law should lay down the conditions under which these data may not be used for the benefit of another applicant;
- Parliament stressed that the common procedure should contribute to the free movement of food within the Community and to a high level of protection of human health and to a high level of consumer protection, including protection of consumer interests;
- the Authority shall give its opinion within nine months (instead of six months) of receipt of a valid application;
- lastly, in the Regulation updating the Community list, the Commission must explain the considerations on which it is based.