







Procedure file

Basic information	
RPS - Implementing acts	2020/2735(RPS)
Resolution on the draft Commission regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of acrylamide in certain foodstuffs for infants and young children	
Subject 3.10.10 Foodstuffs, foodstuffs legislation 4.60.04.04 Food safety	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		22/09/2020
		 PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa	22/09/2020
		 SCHALDEMOSE Christel	22/09/2020
		 HOJSÍK Martin	22/09/2020
		 PAULUS Jutta	22/09/2020
		 WALLACE Mick	22/09/2020
		NI EVI Eleonora	

Key events			
22/07/2020	Non-legislative basic document published	D067815/03	
16/09/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/10/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/10/2020	Decision by committee, without report		
08/10/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0256/2020	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2020/2735(RPS)

Procedure type	RPS - Implementing acts
Procedure subtype	Comitology with scrutiny
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/03556

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	D067815/03	22/07/2020	EC	
Motion for a resolution	B9-0311/2020	06/10/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0256/2020	08/10/2020	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2020)686	03/03/2021	EC	

Resolution on the draft Commission regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of acrylamide in certain foodstuffs for infants and young children

The European Parliament adopted by 439 votes to 137, with 90 abstentions, a resolution objecting to the Commission regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of acrylamide in certain foodstuffs for infants and young children.

Parliament opposed the adoption of the draft Commission Regulation on the grounds that it was not compatible with the aim and content of Regulation (EEC) No 315/93 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food.

Acrylamide is a chemical compound that is present in industrially produced foods such as crisps, bread, biscuits and coffee, but also from home cooking, for example when toasting bread or cooking fries. According to the harmonised classification and labelling (CLP00) approved by the EU, acrylamide is toxic if ingested, with the possibility of toxicity being increased in infants and young children.

Acrylamide has been classified as a probable human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and as a probable human carcinogen by the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Draft Commission Regulation

The draft Commission Regulation proposes to set maximum levels for only two very specific categories of foodstuffs, namely:

- biscuits and rusks for infants and young children (150 µg/kg, which corresponds to the current benchmark level) and;
- baby foods, processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children, excluding biscuits and rusks (50 µg/kg, even 10 µg/kg more than the current benchmark level of 40 µg/kg).

Lower acrylamide contents

Members stated that continuing to allow high levels of acrylamide in food may have adverse health effects on European consumers. They consider it extremely important to lower acrylamide levels in foodstuffs and called on the Commission to:

- set the proposed maximum level for acrylamide in the category Baby foods, processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children, excluding biscuits and rusks below, and certainly not above, the current benchmark level of 40 µg/kg;
- set the proposed maximum level for acrylamide in the category Biscuits and rusks for infants and young children below, and certainly not above, the current reference level of 150 µg/kg;
- set strict maximum levels not only for the two categories of products proposed in the draft Commission Regulation, but also for other categories of products, such as biscuits and rusks, which are often consumed by children under three years of age.

Parliament called on the Commission to withdraw its draft regulation and submit a new one to the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. It looks forward to the revision of the benchmark levels by April 2021, with a view to lowering them.

Encouraging research, strengthening monitoring and informing the public

The Commission and the Member States were also invited to:

- intensify research on the formation of acrylamide in foods with a view to identifying strategies aiming at minimising the formation of acrylamide;
- stimulate research on possible endocrine disrupting properties of acrylamide and glycidamide;
- step up their food control capacities with a view to monitoring the effectiveness of the rules regarding acrylamide and collect, publish and pass data on acrylamide occurrence to EFSA;
- inform the public about product categories with potentially higher acrylamide contents and about strategies on how to limit acrylamide exposure when cooking.