

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate E - Food and feed safety, innovation
E2 - Food processing technologies and novel foods

24. 10. 2016

Brussels,
SANTE/E2/FV/md (2016) 6621163
Ares(2016) 6074606

Dear Mr Ferris,

Thank you for the letter addressed to Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Vice-President Jyrki Katainen on acrylamide in food. Commissioner Andriukaitis asked me to reply on their behalf.

The Commissioner shares your views and the views of the signatories of the petition that it is of major importance that the presence of acrylamide in food is reduced. Therefore a mandatory application of the Codes of practice on acrylamide is envisaged for all concerned food business operators. Information received from the competent authorities from the Member States indicated that several food business operators were indeed not applying mitigation measures to reduce the presence of acrylamide because it was not a legal obligation. This will change with the envisaged draft Commission Regulation and therefore I am convinced that the envisaged measures shall result in an effective reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food.

The codes of practice have been scrutinised by the experts from the competent authorities from the Member States. It is important that the obligation to apply the codes of practice to reduce the presence of acrylamide enters into application as soon as possible. A regular update of the codes of practice is foreseen to take into account the developments in new mitigation measures to further reduce the presence of acrylamide in food. Levels are foreseen to be set by Regulation to serve as benchmark to measure the effectiveness of the measures to reduce the presence of acrylamide in food. These levels will be reviewed at regular intervals, with the aim to set lower levels, reflecting the continuous reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food through the obligatory application of the codes of practice.

Mr Paul Ferris
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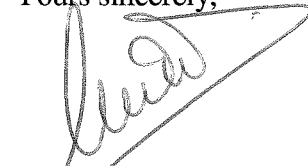
The envisaged regulatory measures have to be strictly enforced by the competent authorities of the Member States by taking sufficient samples of food on the market to control the presence of acrylamide. In case the content of acrylamide is close to or exceeds the level established by Regulation to serve as bench-mark, the concerned food business operator needs to be inspected to control if the codes of practice have been applied, if the food business operator has performed sufficient controls to check the effectiveness of the mitigation measures taken and if the food business operator has taken the necessary measures to remediate the situation.

Furthermore these control data from the competent authorities of the Member States shall be used to verify that the levels of acrylamide in food are effectively decreasing.

To conclude, I wish to confirm that I trust that the envisaged measures shall reduce the presence of acrylamide in food to ensure a high level of human health protection.

I would be grateful if you could publish this reply on the website where the petition is posted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Iglesia', written over a large, light-colored triangular shape.

Maria Iglesia
Head of Unit