

Parma, 11 November 2016

Management Board
Weekly Media Round-Up

07-11 November 2016

Corporate

- Hungarian daily Magyar Idok (*The Hungarian Times*) published an interview with EFSA ED to mark his visit to Budapest. The piece stressed the importance of scientific cooperation and the need to develop a common risk assessment agenda. When asked about the safety of food in Europe, Bernhard Url stated that food security improved significantly over the past decades, and consumers benefit from the world's highest-quality safety system of food chains. The interview was also picked up by a few Hungarian online dailies.

Acrylamide

- Pan European outlet Euractiv carried a scene-setter article on acrylamide, a highly debated topic in Brussels. A regulation on this matter by the European Commission was expected to be voted by EU Member States last month but, the article said, it seemed any decision has been put off to 2017. Consumer associations and NGOs are criticising the EU executive for having presented a draft regulation which did not provide mandatory limits to food producers. EFSA was mentioned factually various times in the article, including a quote from a DG SANTE's official saying 'the European Commission wants to take measures as soon as possible. Indeed, we want to make this code of practice obligatory and in the meantime, during the regulatory procedure, we will also revise the indicative values downwards taking into account the most recent EFSA database for 2011-2015.'

Xylella

- Spanish daily El Mundo, as well as several local dailies, reported that the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment announced the first official positive case of Xylella in three cherry trees in the Balearic island of Mallorca. The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries, Vincenc Vidal, was quoted as saying that measures were already being taken.

Glyphosate

- Dutch media widely picked up a statement by Health Commissioner Andriukaitis in reply to an EP question on glyphosate-tolerant genetically modified crops and their impact on health, which had been put forward by Greens MEPs Bart Staes, José Bové, Martin Häusling and Maria Heubuch. According to reports, the European Commission mandated EFSA to look into possible risks to animal health even though there was no evidence that residues of the active substance in feed could be harmful to animals. Commissioner was quoted as saying: 'effects on animal health are assessed in relation to possible effects on humans [...]. If residues of the pesticide are dangerous for animals, stronger regulations then can be adopted'.

AMR

- Washington-based political daily The Hill carried an editorial by Dr. James Gaines, an expert in Laboratory Animal medicine also author of books and peer-reviewed publications. In his piece Dr. Gaines claimed that if antibiotic resistance was going to develop, it should

develop in the animals to which the antibiotics are being fed but this does not appear to be what is happening. To prove his thesis he referred to a 2010 survey by the S Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service, which found that only 0.1 per cent (1 out of each 1000 samples) of 4,771 fresh meat samples contained antibiotics. The premise that the meat from food animals fed growth enhancing antibiotics is caused antibiotic resistance in humans is not supported by existing evidence. A 2010 survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service found that only 0.1 per cent (1 out of each 1000 samples) of 4,771 fresh meat samples contained antibiotics. The test samples were from the kidneys by which most antibiotics are concentrated and excreted from the body. There was no data on the concentration of antibiotic in the normal cuts of meat such as steaks and chops and those tissues do not tend to concentrate antibiotics as do the kidneys.

Endocrine Disruptors

- Specialised publication [EU Food Policy](#) reported that the European Commission has submitted an amended proposal on the criteria aimed to define endocrine disruptors for discussion among Member States on 18 November.

Health claims

- Researchers from the German University of Bonn polled food and pharmaceutical industry players and trade groups from 15 EU nations asking what they thought about the EU nutrition and health claims regulation (NHCR) almost 9 years after its implementation. According to the survey, which was picked up by industry magazine [NutraIngredients](#), the main concern for more than 73% of responders was the health claim wording followed by a perception of lack of transparency at EFSA (67.6%) and the European Commission (61.9%).

Document history

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