

## **EFFCA statement following the publication of the second batch of EFSA scientific opinions on probiotics**

In connection with Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods, EFFCA members have been actively involved since 2007 in submitting all the information requested by the authorities for evaluating and approving health claims for probiotics under Art. 13(1).

When the first batch of Art. 13(1) opinions was published in October 2009, EFFCA was concerned by the fact that for several of them the presented evidence or information had been too insufficient to allow EFSA to draw any conclusions on the claimed effects. EFFCA thus welcomes the opportunity to allow for missing evidence or data to be provided by the operators and is looking forward to receiving clear guidance on this procedure.

Nonetheless, EFFCA reiterates its general concerns over the lack of guidance regarding the data which must be provided to EFSA for claims based on emerging sciences such as probiotic claims.

EFFCA feels that one solution could be to initiate promptly an open discussion between scientists with core expertise in the field of gut and immune health on the data required to establish the health benefits of probiotics. The objective is to provide a “practical guide” for those involved in the scientific substantiation of probiotic claims under Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006.

EFFCA (the European Food & Feed Cultures Association) represents sixteen manufacturing companies accounting for more than 95% of the microbial food cultures, including probiotics, sold in Europe.

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