Message 103

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2025) 0067

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2024/0394/HU

Forwarding of the observations of a Member State (Denmark) (article 5, paragraph 2, of Directive (EU) 2015/1535). These observations do not have the effect of extending the standstill period.

MSG: 20250067.EN

1. MSG 103 IND 2024 0394 HU EN 12-01-2025 09-01-2025 DK COMMS 5.2 12-01-2025

2. Denmark

3A. Erhvervsstyrelsen
Langelinie allé 17
2100 København Ø
Danmark
+45 35 29 10 00
notifikationer@erst.dk

3B. Fødevarestyrelsen
Stationsparken 31-33
2600 Glostrup
Danmark
+45 72 27 69 00
email@fvst.dk

4. 2024/0394/HU - C50A - Foodstuffs

5. article 5, paragraph 2, of Directive (EU) 2015/1535

6. Denmark objects to the Hungarian proposal to ban the production and marketing of laboratory-grown meat.

If a food business operator wishes to place laboratory-grown meat on the market in the European Union, the product must be authorised before placing it on the market in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on novel foods. Authorisation may only be granted if the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), after a thorough assessment, has found that the product is as safe as existing foods on the market, is not nutritionally disadvantageous compared to the foods it is intended to replace, and its intended use is not misleading to consumers. Authorised novel foods are included in the Union list of novel foods set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/24703 and may be placed on the market within the Union.

Laboratory-grown meat products have not yet been authorised, and therefore the placing on the market of those products within the Union is not permitted in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. A prohibition is therefore unnecessary, as it is currently not legal to place it on the market under Union law, and this prohibition applies to the entire territory of the Union.

However, if in the future laboratory-grown meat is authorised as a novel food to be placed on the market throughout the European Union, the proposed ban would constitute an obstacle to the free movement of goods within the EU internal

market and would be contrary to the principles of free trade.

Denmark generally supports the development of innovative products within food technology, including new bio-based products. New bio-based foods, including laboratory-grown meat, have significant potential to contribute to the green transition by providing sustainable alternatives to traditional meat and other animal products. The existing EU legal framework sets clear rules for the marketing of novel foods, and the authorisation is based on a thorough scientific assessment of their safety. Products complying with those safety requirements should be allowed to be placed on the Union internal market under the conditions laid down in the authorisation.

Denmark considers Hungary's proposal as a measure that could unduly restrict the free market and negatively affect the development of innovative technologies in Europe. It is important that any action at Union level respects existing legislation and allows for the free movement of goods in accordance with the principles of the internal market.

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European Commission
Contact point Directive (EU) 2015/1535
email: grow-dir2015-1535-central@ec.europa.eu