Message 201

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2024) 3469

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2024/0351/LV

Forwarding of the response of the Member State notifying a draft (Latvia) to of European Commission.

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1. MSG 201 IND 2024 0351 LV EN 03-01-2025 20-12-2024 LV ANSWER 03-01-2025

2. Latvia

3A. Ekonomikas ministrija

3B. Zemkopības ministrija

4. 2024/0351/LV - C51A - Beverages

5.

6. The Ministry of Health provides a response regarding the actions taken by Latvia concerning the provisions included in the draft law, on which a detailed opinion from the EC, as well as opinions from the Member States were provided.
The Commission, in its detailed opinion and commentary, as well as several Member States (Poland, Romania, Czechia), point to the need to amend Article 4 of the Draft Law, which proposes to supplement the Law on the Circulation of Alcoholic Beverages (hereinafter referred to as the "Law") by adding Article 7.1, establishing additional labelling requirements for alcoholic beverages. These requirements include displaying information on the label regarding not only the composition, energy value, and nutritional value but also a warning pictogram. Both the EC and the Member States are of the opinion that the current wording of Article 4 of the Draft Law (which supplements the Law by adding Article 7.1) is in contradiction with the European regulation, and the establishment of such a national regulation on the labelling of alcoholic beverages also creates obstacles to the free movement of goods.
Ministry of Health, on 15 November this year, notified the Social and Labour Affairs Committee of the Saeima [the Parliament of Latvia] about possible courses of action regarding the clarification of the draft law on establishing additional labelling requirements. On 3 December 2024, a meeting of the Social and Labour Affairs Committee of the Saeima was held, where a decision was taken to exclude the requirements for additional mandatory labelling from the Draft Law (Article 4 of the Draft Law), taking into account the critical situation of alcohol consumption in Latvia and in order not to hinder the implementation of other requirements included in the Draft Law. At the same time, by deleting Article 4 of the Draft Law, all other amendments included in the Draft Law that were related to the regulation in Article 4 of the Draft Law are excluded from it.
Therefore, Latvia has taken into account the objections included in the detailed opinions of the EC and the Member States regarding the additional labelling requirements for alcoholic beverages included in the draft Law and intends to submit the Draft Law, which does not include additional labelling requirements for alcoholic beverages, for approval in its third reading.

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