

CleanSmoke Coalition Newsletter April 2024



CleanSmoke Coalition - making smoking of food healthier and more sustainable

Dear friends and interested parties - the product and environmentally friendly smoking process (CleanSmoke smoking process) is in the focus of parliamentary and scientific considerations across Europe: With this therefore longer newsletter we would like to bring you up to date on the regular extension of the smoke flavors by the EU Commission.

Uwe Vogel, Präsident der CleanSmoke Coalition

1. The renewal of the smoke approval

Initial situation: EFSA recommends comparing “apples with oranges”.

During its risk assessment, the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) found two substances in an individual substance analysis of complex primary smoke products (smoke flavors) that could pose a genotoxic risk potential. However, both substances have not been detected in the purified CleanSmoke smoke, nor in the smoke chamber filled with it, nor on the foods smoked with CleanSmoke.

Non-renewal: ecological, health and economic damages

Nevertheless, the EU Commission, by the DG Santé, is aiming for a general non-renewal of smoke flavors with its risk management submitted for vote by the European nation-states. This would imply the end of the product and environmentally friendly smoking process and ecological, health and also economic damages through a forced return to conventional, risky smoking processes.

https://cleansmoke-information.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CSC-Renewal-of-smoke-primary-products-CleanSmoke-smoking-process_EN-1.pdf

Draft resolution: discontinuation of risk management without results

On April 24, 2024, the SCoPAFF (Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) meeting will vote on the non-renewal of the smoke flavor approvals. The proposed resolution stipulates that primary smoked flavor products will be banned in the EU from July 1, 2024. A transition period of 5 years until July 1, 2029 should apply to dairy products, meat and fish. For all other food categories, a transition period of 2 years should apply until July 1, 2026. Among other things, this proposed resolution falls short in view of the growing

importance of plant-based meat substitutes - although the EFSA is now obliged to "take sustainability into account" in its risk assessment. Such often smoked products are not taken into account - and are therefore banned from July 1, 2026.

Food Industry: continue qualified risk management

With this draft resolution, the EU Commission aims to complete the process of risk assessment and risk management. The European food industry cannot be satisfied with this. Rather, due to the new situation that emerged from the EFSA's previous risk assessment, further scientific studies should be carried out in order to be able to assess the risks for consumers and the environment in a qualified manner in risk management. With the support of the CleanSmoke Coalition, the EU member states are called upon to vote against the proposed resolution in this form and to oblige the EU Commission to resume work on a scientifically based risk assessment and qualified risk management that takes all aspects into account.

Comparative study: conventional vs contemporary smoking process

The CleanSmoke Coalition - with Europe-wide support from science, politics, business and NGOs - calls on DG Santé not to base the desired non-renewal on the inadmissible comparison of substances (smoke aromas) and processes (smoking). In view of Green Deal, Zero Industry Act and the award of the CleanSmoke smoking process as "Best Available Technique" by the EU's own Joint Research Center (JRC), it seems necessary with suspensive effect to commission the EFSA to examine comparatively the effects of conventional and contemporary smoking processes on nature, people and products.

CleanSmoke Coalition: Europe-wide contacts and information exchange

Given inadequate risk assessment and risk management, a ban on smoke flavors by the EU Commission will not promote health protection and food safety but will achieve the opposite. In an extensive information campaign and with the study "Failure to detect genotoxic hazardous substances in a product and environmentally friendly smoking process", the CleanSmoke Coalition mobilized EU and national parliamentarians in the responsible ministries and committees, European and national food manufacturers, their associations, and NGOs about the ecological and economic damages of non-renewal.

Broad Action Alliance: with CleanSmoke for consumer and climate protection

Exemplary examples of the CleanSmoke Coalition's work include the letter from the Swedish government to Stella Kyriakidis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. Or the BÖLW submission to the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In Sweden, more than 80% of all smoked foods are already processed in the CleanSmoke smoking process. With the support of BÖLW as the leading association of the German organic food industry, the CleanSmoke Organic Campaign, on behalf of the CleanSmoke Coalition, has won national organic farming organizations in key European markets as committed advocates of the product and environmentally friendly smoking process.

<https://cleansmoke-information.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BOeLW-Statement-EN-Feb-2024.pdf>

2. Demeter and the CleanSmoke smoking process

After Naturland, Bioland and Biokreis as the leading organic associations in Germany and many European organic associations have already included the CleanSmoke smoking process in their processing guidelines. Demeter, as the oldest and most demanding organic association, is now moving towards this contemporary, product- and environmentally friendly smoking process. Demeter Switzerland will submit a corresponding application for inclusion in the processing guidelines at the general meeting of Demeter International (BFDI). The CleanSmoke Coalition's information campaign to extend primary smoke products also receives great support from market partners who are committed to health and environmental protection with their organic products.

3. CleanSmoke Coalition Meeting on May 21st, 2024

The CleanSmoke Coalition will meet on May 21, 2024 for a digital general meeting to provide information about current activities and discuss necessary administrative items. The focus is on the necessary adjustment of the CleanSmoke Coalition's statutes. The members of the CleanSmoke Coalition will receive an invitation shortly.

Find out more about the CleanSmoke Coalition at: <https://clean-smoke-coalition.eu/>

More about the CleanSmoke Seal at: <https://cleansmoke.eu/>

More about the CleanSmoke Organic Campaign at: www.cleansmoke-information.eu