

CleanSmoke Special Newsletter for Biofach 2025

Impulse for a more sustainable Food Industry

Dear interested parties and supporters of a product- and environmentally friendly smoking process,

At Biofach 2019, the CleanSmoke Coalition presented the product and environmentally friendly smoking process to the organic industry for the first time. Since then, many manufacturers have replaced conventional smoking processes with the CleanSmoke smoking process. Large organic farming associations such as Bioland, Naturland and Biokreis have included this smoking process in their processing guidelines.

At the national level, the BÖLW, as the leading organic association of agricultural producers, processors and traders, supports this process. In many European markets, the product and environmentally friendly smoking process has now also been established as an alternative to conventional smoking. And what's more - since its use in the organic sector, the conventional food industry has also increasingly turned to the sustainable smoking process with pre-purified smoke.

The non-extension – technically, ecologically and health-wise is not tenable

In our last newsletter you received in-depth information on the non-extension of smoke flavors recommended by the EFSA in the middle of last year and implemented by DG Santé at the end of last year with the known follow-up periods. You can find further details documented at www.cleansmoke-information.eu. The CleanSmoke Coalition has promised users and interested parties, but also concerned consumers, that it will use professional, legal and political means to preserve the CleanSmoke smoking process as a modern, contemporary smoking process.

Legal and parliamentary action against non-renewal

While one of the leading manufacturers of smoke flavors, the Kerry Group, has already filed a lawsuit against the EU for non-renewal, the CleanSmoke Coalition and its members are currently taking the “parliamentary” route. An important goal is to achieve what has now been promised by the EU Commission, revision to revise the entire EU smoking regulations that have “grown, been supplemented and are no longer coherent over many years”.

As a first step, after appropriate technical documentation from the CleanSmoke Coalition to Commission President Ms. von der Leyen, the EU Commission expects the EFSA to provide a new, comparative analysis of conventional and sustainable smoking processes. The CleanSmoke Coalition is already providing relevant data to the EFSA, as requested by the EU Commission.

Necessary revision of smoking law at EU level

The revision of the entire EU smoking regulations, which is absolutely necessary from a technical point of view, was promised by Christophe Hansen, the new EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food. This approach receives support from Poland, which currently holds the EU Council Presidency - and whose meat industry is one of the major users of the product and environmentally friendly smoking process. These activities are also supported by Members of the European Parliament from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

EFSA specialist conference on conventionally smoked foods

A specialist conference with stakeholders on the safety of conventionally smoked foods organized by the EFSA will take place on March 27, 2025.

The event aims to:

- Present the mandate newly received from the European Commission, requesting a scientific opinion on the safety of smoked meat and smoked meat products, smoked fish and smoked fishery products and smoked cheese and smoked dairy products following the use of conventional smoking processes ([M-2024-00091/ EFSA-Q-2024-00692](#)),
- Exchange about the experiences from stakeholders on conventionally smoked food, and discuss a call for data.

The event will take place Online the 27 March 2025 in the afternoon – exact time TBC.

Initiative application from the IHK Nord for the CleanSmoke smoking process

At the beginning of August 2024, the mayoral meeting of NaGeB, the association for the food and beverage industry in Bremen, took place in Bremen. A central issue was the non-renewal of the approval of smoke flavors by the EU. The Bremen Chamber of Commerce has agreed to take on this issue. The chambers of commerce and industry of the northern German federal states maintain a joint presence in Brussels in order to serve the northern Germans federal states to work on important issues within the EU.

In a meeting in January 2025, it was agreed that the IHK Nord (Association of North German Chambers of Commerce and Industry) would prepare an initiative application for CleanSmoke together with affected CleanSmoke users and members in Brussels. The IHK Nord will inform its members about this and contact the MEPs (members of the European Parliament) involved.

Confusion in the market and among consumers about “smoked products”

The EFSA's lack of analytical and methodological distinction between the direct use of smoke flavors and the product and environmentally friendly smoking process with smoke flavors leads to confusion and uncertainty among consumers in the media. The SWR program Marktcheck*, under the title “EU ban on smoke aroma: Beware of the risk of cancer”, ultimately contributes to recommending conventionally smoked foods to consumers again instead of a more sustainable, healthier alternative. This information ignores the fact that more than 95% of the harmful PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) produced during smoking are removed during the smoking process with pre-purified smoke.

*SWR <https://search.app/KrvdkjnWC9Hvwb7A9>

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