

STATEMENT

4 December 2018

The 40th meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) discussed the proposal on “Harmonized Probiotic Guidelines for Use in Foods and Dietary Supplements”.

On 28 November, during the 40th meeting of the CCNFSDU in Berlin, the Argentinian delegation introduced the Discussion Paper. IPA joined the group of National delegations supporting starting new work.

For IPA the purpose is to establish a definition with minimum characterization requirements as well as quality and labelling parameters for probiotics for use as an ingredient in food and dietary supplements on aspects not framed by existing Codex standards. The Committee agreed that Argentina should redraft the discussion paper, for consideration at its next session, elaborating further on the sections regarding scope and definition, as well as on health and trade concerns in particular.

Probiotics are live microorganisms increasingly used in a wide variety of food applications. The term “probiotics” is used more and more in several different products, with little adherence to the commonly referenced FAO/WHO definition. In addition to that, there seems to exist confusion between the identification of probiotics (factual nature/what probiotics are) and the specific benefits of probiotics (what probiotics do).

This taken into consideration, the development of harmonized guidelines will undoubtedly ensure and sustain the quality of probiotic products, facilitate international trade and enable fair and transparent practices.

Rosanna Pecere, executive Director of IPA Europe, commented as follows: “We are committed to contributing to this new work, as part of our continued efforts to improve the environment for probiotic food and food supplements, both in Europe and globally, and we will seek to do so in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders”.

Rosanna Pecere
Executive Director IPA Europe

ABOUT IPA EUROPE

IPA Europe is the European chapter of IPA, the International Probiotics Association; it was established in Brussels in 2015. The members of IPA Europe are companies directly engaged in the manufacture of probiotic cultures or probiotic foods, supplements, nutritionals or therapeutic products: BioGaia, Chr. Hansen, Danone, DuPont, IPA, Lallemand, Lesaffre, Probi and Yakult. The IPA Europe mission is: to gain acceptance of the term “probiotic” throughout Europe as a defined category and to create a favourable environment for probiotics in Europe. For additional information on IPA Europe’s activities see: <http://ipaeurope.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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