

PRESS RELEASE



9th September 2019

Session: “THE GLOBAL VOICE OF PROBIOTICS IPA/IPA EUROPE”: How to define a comprehensive approach for the definition of the probiotic category (nutrition relevance and scientific requirements).

There is evidence on how good bacteria can respond to some of world’s biggest challenges within the food and health sector. The panel session explored some scenarios on the requirement for probiotic food and food supplements within the EU and the global scenario.

The discussion was initiated during the IPA Europe roundtable held on September 8, where we had the opportunity to learn more about EFSA’s role in the Dietary Reference Values (DRV) and claims area, and on the necessity to set a reference criterion to provide a clear and not misleading information to the consumers.

We live in a time when a simple Google search for ‘probiotics’ produces over 56.8 million hits; a time when almost everyone has heard about probiotics through various channels, and when an ever-increasing variety of probiotic and prebiotic products is available in different regions of the world.

However, these numbers also show that consumers are exposed to any kind of product bearing the term “probiotic”.

Now, it is timely to consider appropriate definitions and to provide useful guidance for stakeholders and for consumers as well. Yesterday we had the possibility to discuss the 4 criteria that probiotics must meet to be recognized as such. The compliance with these principles, which applies to the probiotic strain, are also relevant for the final products containing probiotics.

“We do not have the ambition to find today all the answer to the complexity of this sector”, said Mr Esben Laulund, President of IPA EU, during the session, “with the help of the experts, we will gather to discuss issues pertaining to the interplay between science, nutrition and regulatory aspects for probiotic food and food supplements, and the challenges which the probiotics manufactures industry is facing”.

Clearly there is enough interesting material for discussion!

ABOUT IPA EU

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, Yakult and Wellingo. The IPA Europe mission is: to gain acceptance of the term “probiotic” throughout Europe as a defined category and to create a favorable environment for probiotics in Europe. For additional information on IPA Europe’s activities see: <http://ipaeurope.org>

IPA Europe

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