

Brussels, 14 January 2015

SNE and EDA call for specific rules on Young Child Formula

SPECIALISED NUTRITION EUROPE (SNE), representing EU manufacturers of specialist foods for infants and young children,

And

EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION (EDA), representing EU dairy processors,

call for the EU to adopt specific rules on Young-Child Formula.

SNE and EDA jointly advocate that specific regulatory measures for Young-Child Formula are needed and that they would be appropriately placed within the framework of the Regulation on Foods for Specific Groups.

Young-Child Formula meet the very specific nutritional and safety needs of young children aged 1-3 years. Specialist legislation is needed because:

- Young children aged 1-3 years are a specific group of the population with **specific nutritional needs**
- Young children aged 1-3 years are a vulnerable group of the population with **specific needs for food safety and quality**
- Current Young-Child Formula have been **specifically developed** for young children aged 1-3 years.
- Parents, caregivers and healthcare professionals need **specific information** about Young-Child Formula
- These products are marketed in the EU for more than 20 years. Industry needs a **specific legal framework** for the manufacture and marketing of Young-Child Formula
- The EU as a global manufacturer and exporter of Young-Child Formula would benefit from a **specific regulatory category compatible with Codex** standards.

This is why Young-Child Formula would be appropriately placed under the Regulation on Foods for Specific Groups. More specifically, we support the proposal for Young-Child Formula to be legislated for alongside other formulae for infants.

We are pleased that, of the options outlined by DG SANTE for the possible regulation of Young-Child Formulae, the proposal to extend the definition of Follow-On Formula to include Young-Child Formula is also preferred by the majority of EU stakeholders and Member State representatives.

Taking into account the wide support from stakeholders and Member States alike, SNE and EDA therefore expect that DG SANTE's proposal to include Young-Child Formulae within the Regulation on Foods for Specific Groups will be reflected in the final Commission report, expected to be presented to the European Parliament and Council by 20 July 2015¹.

SNE and EDA thank the Commission for the consultation with stakeholders to date for the drafting of the Commission report on Young-Child Formulae. We look forward to working with the Commission into 2015 and beyond to ensure that young children in Europe receive Young-Child Formulae of the highest safety and quality, specially adapted to their specific needs.

For more information:

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Notes to editors:

- *On 20 July 2016, Directive 2009/39/EC, also known as “PARNUTs” Directive, will be repealed with the entry into force of [Regulation \(EU\) 609/2013](#) on Foods for Specific Groups (FSG).*
- *According to Article 12 of this Regulation, the Commission shall present a report on the necessity, if any, of special provisions for milk-based drinks and similar products intended for young children (by 20 July 2015).*
- *In [its opinion](#) on the nutrient requirements and dietary intakes of infants and young children in October 2013, EFSA concluded that “Fortified formulae, including young-child formula, are one of several means to increase n-3 PUFA, iron, vitamin D and iodine intakes in infants and young children living in Europe with inadequate or at risk of inadequate status of these nutrients.”*
- *In its [recent EFSA opinion](#) (July 2014), EFSA specified that “Young-child formula is the term proposed by the Panel for formulae intended for young children”.*
- *Young-child formula, are designed to meet the needs of young children aged 1-3 years as part of a mixed diet based on family foods. Like follow-on formula, for infants aged 6-12 months, they should not be used as a breast milk substitute before six months.*
- *During the Working Group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal Health and Plant Health on young-child formulae held on 19 September 2014, “the majority of the stakeholders were in favour of option 3b”.*
- *During the Expert Group on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes and total diet replacement for weight control held on 10 October 2014, “the majority of the Member States who intervened supported Option 3b, namely to include young-child formulae in the concept of follow-on formula and to extend a core of requirements applicable to follow-on formulae to them”.*

¹ Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control