

European Chemical Society (EuChemS) response to the European Commission call for feedback on “Industrial trans fats in foods – setting a legal limit”, Draft regulation - Ares (2018)5103401

Considering,

- i) the current scientific literature focused on relationships of Trans Fatty Acids (TFAs) with healthy nutrition, confirming the adverse effects of dietary trans fats on biomarkers of chronic disease;*
- ii) its previous Position Document on this topic, sent to the Commission (first public Consultation about TFAs in Foods);*
- iii) the evidence that the content of TFAs in processed foods has significantly decreased during the last years, even if some foods commercialised in EU contain significant levels of industrial TFAs;*
- iv) that this field fits particularly with nutritional interests, also encompassing the typical food chemistry-related interests,*

the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) supports and welcomes the European Commission’s draft Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, about trans fatty acids, other than trans fatty acids naturally occurring in animal fat, in foods intended for the final consumer.

Moreover, EuChemS agrees that a limit of the content of industrial TFAs, other than trans fats naturally occurring in foods which is intended for the final consumer, shall not exceed 2 grams per 100 grams of fat, should be legislated, hypothesising to further reduce this level in the future. In fact, the 2% limit can still be considered too high when applied to products consumed in large quantities, also depending on the diet composition and the habits of the consumers.

EuChemS proposes that specific harmonised methods of analysis be identified in the Regulation to avoid the uncertainty that can result from the use of unvalidated methods.

Finally, EuChemS would welcome a commitment from the European Commission to support specific programmes/funding for Companies and for the EU’s Research Bodies, to reformulate products, to comply with the Commission’s Regulation.

About EuChemS

EuChemS, the European Chemical Society, coordinates the work of 48 Chemical Societies and other chemistry related organisations, representing more than 160,000 chemists. Through the promotion of chemistry and by providing expert and scientific advice, EuChemS aims to take part in solving today’s major societal challenges.

For more information please contact us:

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