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## EU Groups Want Review of Article 13 Claims Process

06/12/2009

BRUSSELS, Belgium—As the July deadline for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to release its first list of health claims evaluated under the new [Article 13 regulation](#) approaches, three European trade associations are asking the European Commission (EC) to head back to the drawing board and reassess the review process.

The European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers (EHPM), the European Responsible Nutrition Alliance (ERNA) and the European Botanical Forum (EBF) issued a joint statement on the situation, pointing out EFSA has sent back about half of the 4,000 claims initially submitted by the EC for clarification, despite several rounds of meetings among the member states and EC.

"We fear that the current process will lead to dismissal of a majority of the article 13 entries, not because of insufficient substantiation but because of a lack of clarity on an important number of issues that should first be addressed," said Gert Krabichler, chairman of ERNA. "Therefore we believe that the EC should take the time to carefully clarify all issues in a formal dialogue with stakeholders."

Peter van Doorn, chairman of EHPM, added: "The nutrition and health claims regulation is of crucial importance for our member companies as food supplement products need to indicate their effect and intended use in order to allow consumers to make an informed choice. These indications are considered as health claims and the vast majority are based on generally accepted scientific evidence, covered by the Article 13 claims list. Many of these have been on the market for decades. We have entered a crucial phase now with the publication of the first EFSA opinions on these claims expected by the end of July, and we are extremely concerned that the process followed is not working."

**Sources:**

EHPM: [Trade associations call for a formal dialogue on article 13 health claims process](#)

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