**REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Sub-committee on Classification, Labelling and Hygiene**

**Monday 18th March 2024, 2.00 – 3.00 pm CET**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Participants:** Loberant Beth (Supermeat); Eisenhauer Cana (Bluu); Lester Hannah (Gourmey); Baldwin Nigel (Uncommon); Yamurai Zhou (Nestle); Rascault Lucie (Nestle)**;** Teloni Valeria (Mosa Meat)

**Agenda**

* Anti-trust statement
* Where were we? A quick recap
  + [Last meeting minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J_bVej01CKGOEQPsJX6yyvlEHbEO5rMy/edit) - 31.04.2022
* Structure and organization of the sub-committee
* Topics to be prioritized
  + Data gap analysis for EU hygiene law
    - questionnaire on the possible gaps and inconsistencies of the EU’s hygiene rules and the adaptations needed for cellular agriculture, to be circulated to the whole membership
    - Guide on new hygiene practices for cellular agriculture
  + Import/Export
    - Equivalence with US/FSIS
  + Nomenclature
    - Labeling questionnaire results - 31.04.2022
    - Recent spread of bans against using meaty terms
* Feedback needed
  + Proveg C-label ([link to website](https://c-label.com/home/))
    - Latest CAE consolidated comments – 23.02.2024
  + GFI survey
    - [CM nomenclature and descriptors](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PP-x4vGTlWDV9q94dY6rVg753n5Ln6XQb1yX7x7ZXv4/edit) (GFI)
    - [Call for translations – 10.06.22](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w7O8BwRRP_9NJWAh2QG1fT_-D-VFzRtH6JSOg50zwow/edit) (CAE)

1. **Structure and organization of the sub-committee**

There is a lot of overlap between the subcommittees. Slack channels do not always reflect active members and need some cleanup. Zoom not the ideal tool for setting up meetings if you don’t have a work account. The sub-committee agrees that other trustworthy platforms (*i.e.* Google Meet, MS Teams) can be used if it is easier for the organizer. Important information should also be shared by email.

**Action: Valeria T. to follow up with Beth L. in relation to new members who could join this subcommittee.**

1. **Topics to be prioritized**

There are four main projects that the sub-committee could work on: 1) Data gap analysis for EU hygiene law (including questionnaire); 2) Guide on new hygiene practices for cellular agriculture; 3) Import/Export; 4) Nomenclature (with updated questionnaire). The four projects differ in the type of resources and duration, and this should be reflected in the presentation of the RA committee for the other companies.

The sub-committee is recommending giving priority to the data gap analysis for EU hygiene law given that we are expecting dossiers submitted this year, meaning the conversation on this topic with the EC can start and we should be ready. Nomenclature is also very important. Import/export seems to be less relevant at the moment, while drafting a guide on new hygiene practices for cellular agriculture would require additional support (*i.e.* money).

**Action: Valeria T. to prepare slides for the RA meeting taking into account the recommendations of the sub-committee.**

1. **Proveg C-Label**

We first heard that Proveg was planning to launch the C-label at the MEVO Meet Evolution event that was held in Barcelona in February 2024. Hannah and Robert tried to persuade them not to release it, for a couple of reasons. Proveg has not taken into consideration the initial feedback that we have provided (in April 2022), and secondly, because of the declining political situation, it's bad timing to launch a C-label in Europe. Overall, they were receptive, and they agreed to delay that launch of the website until after the EU election. A C-label would be complementary to their V-label, which has been a big success. However, the V-label was launched at the right time when the plant-based market was booming. It is not the case for the C-label.

The sub-committee agrees on several points:

* Even after the EU elections, we're still not ready, particularly because no dossiers have been submitted yet. There is little sense in launching a labelling scheme for a product that's not even going to be on the market in the near future.
* The label is going to be largely ignored because the industry is not mature enough and there is no appetite for this certification scheme at the moment (or the foreseeable future).
* It is not only about the timing, but also the content (*i.e.* the criteria).
* The criteria are based on what consumers want to see, with no regard for the science and regulations. The animal welfare criteria would have implications for halal certification.
* We should try to push back to after the EU election, and ideally just postpone the launch as we are not supporting the angle that was taken with this label.
* The channel of communication with Proveg should be kept open to avoid they move ahead without us.

**Action: Hannah L. to involve Robert and Lucie and follow-up with a call with Proveg to convey our message.**

1. **GFI survey**

The deadline for giving our feedback to GFI is end of March. The sub-committee agrees that this survey, which focuses on consumer differentiation/understandability, and our own nomenclature project should be addressed separately as they need a different level of attention/effort. For the GFI survey, we will follow Caroline’s suggestion to reuse our existing translations with minor tweaks where needed. We do not want to reinvent the wheel. For our own nomenclature project (see point 2 in these notes), we should circulate internally an updated questionnaire given the last one is from 2022. As we need to include labelling suggestions in our EU dossiers, we need to have a name or how we're going to describe cultivated meat and derived products. Also, how we would describe the product. Obviously, there would be key differences because everyone's product is slightly different but just to have some sort of agreement on a high-level structure.

**Action: Valeria T. to follow up with Caroline for our reply to GFI.**