

FoodDrinkEurope remains committed to ensuring a dynamic and continuous process for acrylamide mitigation

(Brussels, 4 June 2015) FoodDrinkEurope welcomes the assessment made by EFSA on acrylamide, which is a substance produced naturally in both home cooked and manufactured foods as a result of cooking food products at high temperatures, such as by baking, frying, grilling or roasting.

The levels found in different products are dependent upon a wide-range of factors, including the natural variability amongst individual raw materials.

FoodDrinkEurope recognises the importance of reducing acrylamide wherever possible; it has been leading global mitigation efforts for more than a decade. FoodDrinkEurope's activity includes the development and implementation of an extensive Acrylamide Toolbox1 in collaboration with the European Commission (DG SANTE) and national authorities, as well as through contribution to the Codex Alimentarius Acrylamide Code of Practice. These actions have successfully reduced acrylamide levels in a number of foods. FoodDrinkEurope also publishes regularly updated Acrylamide Pamphlets, available in 24 languages, to help SMEs in particular to mitigate acrylamide2.

Furthermore, FoodDrinkEurope members actively contributed to EFSA's call for data by providing some 40.000 samples from various food products to ensure the broadest possible survey. Europe's food and drink manufacturers continue to invest significant resources to address the issue of acrylamide, particularly through education, participation in crop research programmes and the introduction of new food processing procedures and technologies. Europe's food and drink sector also actively supports smaller producer companies through training, raising awareness, as well as promoting and exchanging best practices to further reduce acrylamide levels.

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¹ http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/S=0/publication/fooddrinkeurope-updates-industry-wide-acrylamide-toolbox/

² http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/S=0/publication/Download-FoodDrinkEurope-Acrylamide-Pamphlets-in-23-languages