

Press release

Brussels November 24th, 2004

Good food doesn't need irradiation!

With the occasion of the international week of action against food irradiation, we, organisations defending the consumers' right and public health, struggling in favour of the environment and advocating for responsible and fair trade system reiterate our opposition to food irradiation. We support the international food irradiation campaign and the actions that have or will take place in Australia, Brazil, the United States, the Philippines and Canada to oppose the generalisation of irradiated food.

Irradiated food is of no interest for the consumers. On the contrary, several problems and threat are linked to food irradiation:

- According to recent studies, irradiation produces new compounds in food that have been linked to cancer and genetic damage in rats and human cells;
- Irradiation destroys vitamins. As the shelf life increases, even more nutrients are lost;
- Food irradiation is often used as a substitute for good sanitary practices;
- Irradiations, by increasing the shelf life of food encourage wasteful and costly transportation of food and delocalisation of production.

Thus we ask:

- The European council to consider the list of food that can be irradiated voted by the European parliament in December 2002 as closed;
- The European commission to allocate more research funding on the toxicity of alkylcyclobutanone, as recommended by SCFS;
- The European commission to give no new accreditation for irradiation facilities until food irradiation is not scientifically proved to be safe; the commission should neither accept new accreditation for facilities within the European union (for example it should not give an agreement for the facility in Hungary) nor in third countries (as in Turkey);
- WHO to withdraw its endorsement of food irradiation at any dose and to proceed to new research independently from the International Agency on Atomic Energy. The 1959 agreement between WHO and IAEA should be cancelled.

Contact:

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For more information, please look at our website: www.irradiation.info

The organisations taking part to the European Food Irradiation Campaign are:

European level organisations: Public Citizen Europe, ASECO - Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organisations (ASECO).

United Kingdom: The Food Commission

Denmark: Aktive Consumers Danemark.

Italy: Federconsumatori, Legambiente, AIAB, Movimento dei Consumatori.

Organisations taking part to the french campaign: Confédération Paysanne, MDRGF, Amis de la Terre, Fédération Nature et Progrès, Réseau Sortir du Nucléaire, CRiiRAD, Biocoop, Action Consommation.