

ENSA position on Danish recommendation on rice products for children

Brussels – 16 May 2013: The European Natural Soyfoods Manufacturers Association (ENSA) takes note of the recommendation by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries on rice products for children. ENSA believes that maximum levels for harmful substances should not be surpassed and consumers should be accurately informed about the products they consume.

ENSA takes note of the recommendation and recognizes the importance of this topic because it shares the position that maximum levels of harmful substances should not be surpassed. ENSA would like to state the following remarks:

- Arsenic naturally occurs in rice. There are no EU-wide regulations for arsenic levels in food. In the UK, there is a general limit of 1mg/kg for arsenic in food. Separate limits apply to certain food categories. For instance, non-alcoholic beverages have a limit of 0,1mg/kg (=100ppb).
- ENSA proactively advocates for accurate communication and labeling so that consumers are correctly informed about the content of the foods they consume and are able to make deliberate choices, also making clear distinction between foods for normal consumption and foods intended for young children.
- We note that the Danish authorities are conducting more analyses on different rice products. These analyses will only be available in July 2013.

Plant-based foods and rice drinks fit perfectly in a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle. The members of ENSA manufacture soy and plant-based products such as soy and rice drinks, soy desserts and fermented soy products.

For any questions, please contact the ENSA Secretariat.

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