



ENSA statement on the opinion issued by Anses in France on drinks of babies

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The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (Anses) has issued an opinion on the risk related to the use of drinks other than mother's milk and the substitutes to mother's milk in the feeding of babies from birth until 1 year.

The Anses study clearly states that none of the 211 drinks identified utilizes the name "infant formula" or "follow-on formula". Anses only states that "some of these products are labelled suggesting a possible use in young children."

Indeed, the European Natural Soyfoods Manufacturers Association (ENSA) wants to reiterate that none of the products put on the market by ENSA members are intended for infants under the age of 1. ENSA members do not market products for infants but foods for normal consumption. The labeling of soy drinks sold by ENSA members does not suggest a possible use in children less than one year old as main milk source. Soy foods sold by ENSA Member Companies include traditional soy foods that are well suited to be part of a varied diet.

In this context, ENSA is surprised that the Anses opinion excludes cow's milks from its findings. The nutritional composition of cow milk is not more suitable for children under the age of one than other milks of animal or plant-based origin. This should be addressed in the Anses opinion and communications.

Infants less than one year old need specifically adapted foods which fulfill their needs. ENSA proactively advocates for accurate communication and nutritional labeling so that consumers are correctly informed about the product they consume and are able to make deliberate choices.

ENSA calls on Anses to ensure that parents are well informed about the need for specifically adapted foods for their infants.

Since the products put on the market by the ENSA members are correctly labelled, focus should be on providing information and education to young parents rather than over-label food products for normal consumption. No more warning on ENSA products is required than on other foods or drinks for normal consumption.

Soy foods fit perfectly in a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle. The members of ENSA manufacture soy and plant-based products such as drinks, desserts, creams and fermented products for normal consumption as part of a healthy varied diet.

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