

THE CONSUMERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS FROM THE GREEN PAPER POINT OF VIEW

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Abstract

Being health in our days could be firstly determinate even by environmental elements, not only by behavioural, biomedical, genetic or demographic data of every each of humans. In this overview we will be trying with our paper to establish the environmental determinants of humans' health, from the European Green Paper point of view. Thus, these subjects – environmental determinants – cover a wide array of topics, and can be split into two broad categories. The first category is given by the social, economic, cultural and political issue, and the other category is given by physical, chemical and biological issue. Our research priorities in this paper will be concentrated on the first category of environmental determinants.

Key words: risk factors, environmental, consumer, foodstuffs, food law

INTRODUCTION

For the European economy, the food sector has a vital importance to it. As a result of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy through the European states, the vast majority of national food legislation has been harmonized at Community level. In the same sense, for many foodstuffs of agricultural origin common quality standards have been laid down. However, over time the European food law has a piecemeal developed. Over the years, but especially in our days, the human's health and wellbeing are affected by many factors. Those that are associated with ill health, some chronic disease, disability and diverse physical and emotional malfunction or morbidity and premature mortality; all of these are known as risk factors. Risk factors are presented in our paper in individual manner, even in practise they do not operate alone. They often interact and coexist with one another. With this subject in our mind, this paper will draw the new European Green Paper and food law approaches to avoid the environmental risk.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In a time when public concerns about food and health are high, the Green Paper coming at provides an opportunity to launch a debate about

new approaches to these issues, both within general food policy and specific legislation.

Therefore, food legislation should cover the entire food production circuit, establishing a high level of consumer (Mehta, 1998) health protection and responsibility equally producers and distributors to produce and distribute food comply with safety standards. It also requires strengthening official inspections at European and national level (Alemanno, 2002).

Traceability of products throughout the entire circuit is a major problem. An important element in this process identified in the Green Paper is the ability to take quick and effective safeguards in response to emergencies that may arise along the foodstuffs circuit.

For improved security of food is important only to enter the proper raw material processing and use of food additives to be controlled more effectively.

Another issue discussed into the Green Paper is the risk associated with food contamination. Therefore measures should be taken to address areas where existing legislation in this area should be improved to ensure the necessary protection.

The results of inspections made by the Commission, the Member States have shown that there are differences in how European legislation is implemented. This means that consumers can be confident that they have the same level of protection and makes the evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken by national authorities to be difficult. The Green Paper proposes that, in cooperation with Member States to set up a framework for the development and operation of national control systems (Vos Ellen, 2002). This will be done taking into account the good practices at European level and experience of inspections carried out by the Commission. These systems will be the starting point predetermined performance criteria and clear guidelines.

In support of inspections at EU level have developed additional procedures faster and easier to implement. Controlling imports from the EU's borders should be extended to include all food, and take measures to coordinate checkpoints.

Food Law Green Paper further discusses the issue of consumer information. European Commission, together with the European Authority, aims to have a dialogue with consumers to encourage their involvement in the new Food Safety Policy (Rao P.V.N. F., 1993). At the same time, consumers should be better informed about issues related to food safety and risks of eating certain food groups (Chalmers, 2003).

Consumers have the right to receive clear and useful to make informed choices (Goodwin Cathy, 2014). Proposals on food labelling and

improving existing legislation will be made public so that all consumers are well informed and able to give their views about these legislative measures. Following the same line of information, consumers should know the importance of a balanced diet and its impact on their health (Singh, 2011).

In the mean time food law constitutes one of the main components of a policy on food and nutrition. It could play a role in increasing the awareness of consumers about their food purchases, diets and meal preparation, and could help encourage them to make healthy choices which would lead to improved health and the reduction of morbidity and premature mortality. In this process, a collaborative effort of the health sector consumers, governments (Lacey, 2011) and industry would benefit all parties.

The success of the measures proposed in the Green Paper food security depends not only on aid provided by the European Parliament and the European Council, and the commitment by Member States to implement these measures (Verma and Afzal Wani, 1991). Furthermore, the Green Paper calls for the active participation of operators have primary responsibility for implementation of these measures in daily life.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSIONS

Production and consumption of food, whether fresh, frozen or dried, animal or vegetable, are key elements of any society, impacting the economic, social and even environmental. For example, in the EU food and drink industry accounts for about 15% of the manufacturing industry and the industry ranks third in terms of jobs offered. And of these jobs, 30% are provided by SMEs.

Therefore, food policy must be built around high food safety standards, which helps to protect consumer health and animal and around the standards of environmental protection.

CONCLUSIONS

Ensuring the highest standards of food safety is one of the priorities of the European Commission. The Green Paper proposes a new approach to this priority and proposes a series of proactive plans for food safety policy: the adoption of transparent and consistent regulations, strengthen controls throughout the food production system, all to ensure greater safety consumers.

The basic goals of food law are (O'Rourke, 2001, Tiongson, 2014):

1. to ensure a high level of protection of public health, safety and other consumer interests;

2. to ensure the free movement of goods within the internal market;
3. to ensure that the legislation is primarily based on scientific evidence and risk assessment;
4. to ensure the competitiveness of European industry and enhance its export prospects;
5. to place the primary responsibility for food safety on industry, producers and suppliers.

Moreover, food law must be coherent, rational and user friendly. With this Green Paper the Commission does not intend to question these objectives; they should be pursued further.

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