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EFSA is spreading false information re: EU 432/2012 health claim reg

1 message

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To: anca.paduraru@ec.europa.eu, EFSA Press <Press.Press@efsa.europa.eu>

Good day Anca Paduraru

First of all I understand the words "EFSA is spreading false information" is very strong statement but it is true and this letter to you will prove it without a shadow of a doubt.

First of all my name is Athan Gadanidis and I have written dozens of articles on oliveoiltimes.com regarding the EU 432/2012 health claim labeling regulation for polyphenols, such as:

<https://www.oliveoiltimes.com/opinion/ioc-seeks-new-method-measure-evoo-phenolics/40858>

I have interviewed the scientists who set the minimum required concentration of polyphenols such as Dr. Isabel Maria Covas and I have forwarded clarifications to EFSA and the Greek EFET (national food safety agency) but to no avail. They are refusing to use available scientific evidence to determine the polyphenol concentration to implement EU 432/2012.

EFSA is falsely claiming in their official document the method used for substantiation of polyphenol concentrations was HPLC. This has delayed the implementation of the health claim and has caused great losses to the olive growers who this health claim regulation was supposed to help.

This is EFSA opinion which falsely claims polyphenols for the EU 432/2012 minimum requirement were measured and established by HPLC method:

With reference to the EFSA published opinion related to "Olive oil polyphenols contribute to the protection of blood lipids from oxidative stress" (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/j.efsa.2011.2033>), please allow us to clarify the following points:

- The scientific substantiation of the claim is based on the evidence (the human intervention studies) provided to EFSA. The conditions of use (CoU) are derived on the basis of the human studies submitted for substantiation by considering the minimum amount of the food/constituent, which consistently exerts an effect on the function that is mentioned in the claim.
- In the context of this claim evaluated by EFSA, as outlined in its opinion, the claimed effect was observed for olive oil which was standardised by its content in hydroxytyrosol, tyrosol, and oleuropein derivatives **(as measured by HPLC)**.

Here is the opinion of Dr Isabel Maria Covas, who was there and oversaw the testing for the EUROLIVE study. (This is the second time I asked Dr Covas to clarify the method used to measure phenolic concentrations for substantiating the minimum requirement of phenolic concentrations for the health claim 432/2012.) See attached documents sent to me by Dr Covas.

Dear Athan,

Sorry to inform you again that **the measurement of phenolic compound in EUROLIVE was by HPLC-MS/MS**.

In the Ann Int Med paper (Covas et al, 2010) the referred values were measured by Folin Cicalteau and expressed as mg/Kg CAE (Caffeic acid equivalents) (2.7 mg/Kg; 164 mg/kg, and 366 mg/Kg). **In the biological samples the measurement was always by HPLC-MS/MS**.

However, in a paper published in 2010, the phenolic content of the high content olive oil used in the EUROLIVE was measured by HPLC-MS/MS. The value of phenolic compounds was 629 mg/Kg, higher than that obtained by Folin. In this paper the individual phenolic compounds in the virgin olive oil are detailed. This paper I sent to the EU Commission at their request when they were dealing with the EFSA Health Claim. I am sending this paper and that of the Annals to you

I think that this issue was commented, at my request, in the Baena Congress we met. I sent a sample to the EUROLIVE oils to Prof. Prokopios. He compared the values and wrote me that the values were comparable. You can contact him in order to know if this comparison can be helpful for your purposes.

Sincerely
Dr. M.I. Covas

Here is the opinion of IOC. Unfortunately IOC is not searching for the most accurate method to determine phenolic content in olive oil they are searching for the most economical so the small laboratories can use it as well and be affordable to be placed in olive mills and they are not searching for a specific method to implement the EU 432/2012 health claim.

Dear Mr Gadanidis,

First of all, we apologize for the delay in answering. Please take note that we are working on the revision of the method (COI or HPLC). Last March we organized a theoretical-practical seminar to work on different proposed methods and a circular test is currently being organized in which 25 laboratories are participating. We are waiting for our work to progress properly and we can have a method validated and agreed by all so that it can be adopted and included in our standard.

Best regards,

r.lopez@internationaloliveoil.org

Olive growers across the MED region are being misinformed by the IOC and EFSA and the national food safety agencies in the EU and threatened with fines if they do not use the HPLC method for the health claim. HPLC devalues the concentration of polyphenols in olive oil by about 50%. How is this being allowed to go on?

Please clarify the European Commission opinion on this matter. EFSA says you are ultimately responsible but in the meantime they continue to spread false information which impedes the olive growers from using this very valuable health claim as a measure of quality. Do you agree with their "scientific opinion?"

Thanking you in advance

Athan Gadanidis

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3 attachments

 **EUROLIVE. Covas MI et al. Ann Int Med 2006.pdf**
252K

 **de la Torre-Carbot. J Nutr 2010.pdf**
518K

 **Scientific opinion-2011-EFSA_Journal.pdf**
391K