

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Publishes Roadmap on Revision of Labeling Rules for Alcoholic Beverages

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Beverages

Prepared By: Sophie Bolla

Approved By: Anthony Gilbert

Report Highlights:

On June 24, 2021, the European Commission published a roadmap outlining its intention to revise the labeling rules on alcoholic beverages as part of its Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The revision will introduce a mandatory list of ingredients and nutrition for all alcoholic beverages placed on the EU market. Stakeholders can comment on the roadmap until July 22, 2021.

General Information:

On June 24, 2021 the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) with the intention to revise the labeling rules on alcoholic beverages as part of its upcoming [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers, or the FIC Regulation¹.

Currently, alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2 percent of alcohol by volume are exempted from the obligation to bear a nutrition declaration and a list of ingredients. In March 2017, the Commission published a report on whether the exemption for alcoholic beverages should be maintained. Following the conclusions of the report, the Commission gave the EU alcoholic beverages industry one year to present a self-regulatory proposal covering all beverages (beer, wines and spirits). In March 2018, the industry presented a [joint self-regulatory proposal](#) outlining general principles of a labeling scheme shared by the alcoholic beverage industry. More information is available in the following GAIN report: [EU Alcohol Industry Labeling Proposal – Labeling Apart Together](#). However, in the *Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan*² the Commission announced that it would propose a mandatory list of ingredients and the nutrition declaration on labels of all alcoholic beverage, as is already the case for other prepacked foods. With this proposal, the Commission wants to increase the level of consumer awareness of the contents and nutritional composition of alcohol beverages to facilitate informed consumer choices and thus help reduce the harms in alcohol consumption.

With this roadmap, the Commission announces that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2021/2022 on alcoholic beverages labeling rules, which will be part of the overall impact assessment of the FIC. A legislative proposal is expected in the fourth quarter of 2022.

The Commission seeks to revoke the current exemption under the FIC Regulation requiring a mandatory list of ingredients and nutrition declaration for all alcoholic beverages. Two companion options are being considered where 1) certain indications could be provided off-label, or 2) all information should be provided on label. If adopted, these upcoming legislative changes will impact all alcoholic beverages placed on the EU market, included imported products from the United States.

Feedback Period:

On June 24, 2021, the European Commission launched a consultative feedback period on the roadmap. Feedback will be taken into account while the Commission is finalizing this initiative. U.S. stakeholders who would like to comment can do so via the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13028-Food-labelling-revision-of-rules-on-information-provided-to-consumers-for-alcoholic-beverages/addFeedback_en?p_id=25970918

The deadline for input is 12:00 a.m. (Central European Summer Time or Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on **July 22, 2021**. Please note that all comments made within the consultative framework may become public information.

¹ For more information, please see GAIN Report: [Commission Publishes Roadmap on the Upcoming Revision of Food Labeling Requirements](#)

² For more information, please see GAIN Report: [Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan Aims to Reduce Harmful Alcohol Consumption and Improve Access to Healthy Diets](#)

Attachments:

No Attachments.