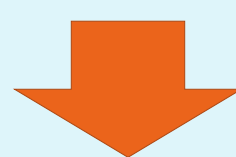


Better labelling is necessary to empower people with food allergy in Europe

BACKGROUND

- Up to **25%** of European population reacts to food (allergy, hypersensitivity, intolerance)
- About **17 million** Europeans suffer from food allergies, with **3.5%** million of them less than 25 years of age
- Over the past ten years, the number of allergic children younger than 5 years has **redoubled** and the emergency room visits for anaphylactic reactions have increased **seven-fold***

Underestimated problem that results in poor quality of life, fear, restrictions, social isolation, poor nutrition, and sometimes even death



Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers a positive step to enhance the protection of the health of people with food allergy

* Source:

http://www.eaaci.net/images/files/Pdf_MsWord/2011/Press_Release/17%20million%20Europeans%20allergic%20to%20food;%20allergies%20in%20children%20doubled%20in%20the%20last%2010%20years.pdf (accessed on 21 August 2012)



EFA event at the European Parliament in collaboration with EAACI (19 September 2012)

“May Contain/Contains Food Allergen Labelling” hosted by MEP Renate Sommer

- How to comply with the new Regulation?
- What are the best practices?
- And what can we learn from people with food allergy?

EFA'S EFFORTS

Adequate, patient-centred implementation of the new provision regarding **mandatory information on allergen in non pre-packed foods**

7 out of 10 severe reactions happen when people eat out**



- According to EFA's Food Allergy Working Group, written information is the most reliable mean of ensuring the provision of detailed information and clear recommendations
Exception: verbal information if you can talk directly to the one who prepared the food
- Sharing **best practices** amongst EU Member States national rules
- Drafting and implementing EU-wide guideline

Giving input and key policy recommendations to the Commission from patient perspective that has the powers of deciding on the **voluntary measures** adopted in relation to so-called **“precautionary labelling”**

Serious reactions, and even deaths, have been caused by foods with “may contain” labeling



- **Long-term:** abolish precautionary labeling (thresholds)
- **Short-term:** ultimate solution after the implementation of best practices to avoid cross-contamination (allergen management as part of hygiene/safety manual, awareness and practical workplace training on food allergy for workers, responsibility of food business operators at each step of the distribution chain)



**Source: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/foodlabelling/publications/labelling_citizens_summary_310108_final_cab.pdf (accessed on 21 August 2012)

