

EFA is a non-profit network of allergy, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients organisations, representing 35 national associations in 22 European countries and over 400,000 patients.

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**

EFA'S EFFORTS

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

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



MAY CONTAIN/CONTAINS **FOOD ALLERGEN LABELLING**

European Parliament, Brussels Jòzsef Antall (JAN) building, 6Q1 room **19th of September 2012** 18:00-20:30



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



HOSTING MEP

Mrs. Renate SOMMER MEP

hosts EFA (European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations) event "May Contain/Contains – Food Allergen Labelling"

KEY SPEAKERS

Djoeke KUNNEN Patient with severe food allergy, The Netherlands

Alexandra NIKOLAKOUPOLOU Unit E4, Nutrition, food composition and information, Directorate General Health and Consumers (DG SANCO)

Silvia VALTUENA MARTINEZ European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Stephen PUIGH Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK

EAAC n collaboration with



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)

Roberta Savli, EU Policy and Project Officer, EFA, 35, rue du Congrès – B-1000, Brussels Tel.: +32 (0)2 227 2712 - Fax: +32 (0)2 218 3141 E-mail: info@efanet.org – www.efanet.org