

To Sir/Madam,

Hamburg, 22 April 2010

We, Ajinomoto Food Europe SAS, producer of ACTIVA® transglutaminase preparations, would like to react to recent negative German media reports on transglutaminase and its use.

Over the past fifteen years, ACTIVA® transglutaminase preparations have been widely used in Europe by meat, fish, dairy industries, as well as other food industries in full compliance with all regulatory and safety requirements. Like other food enzymes used in bakery or cheese, transglutaminase has been widely accepted by the industry owing to its unique function which brings economical and environmental benefits to food industries and ultimately to the consumers.

Transglutaminase is a naturally occurring and common enzyme and it is well known that this enzyme is widely present in nature. It is found in human beings, animals and plants. The function of transglutaminase is to enable formation of cross-links which result in textural changes of many protein-rich foods. Natural cross-links formed by naturally occurring transglutaminase are widely contained in ordinary foods such as cooked ham, egg white, hamburger and surimi (crab/fish sticks); which indicates that, historically, people have always been in contact with this cross-link food technology. According to EU regulation, transglutaminase is categorized as processing aid, as it has no function in the final product.

Ajinomoto's transglutaminase is produced by microbial methods using conventional production bacteria. It is a food technology embedded in traditional cooking; it is safe and delivers benefits to the final consumer. Moreover, this technology decreases negative environmental impacts since safe and high-quality pieces of meat can be utilized in the food chain.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize that the Ajinomoto group is fully committed to regulatory compliance. If there is any concern, please do not hesitate in contacting us. We are prepared to tackle this issue and keep on contributing to the European food industries and consumers.



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