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### **European Parliament opposes European Commission proposal on nanomaterials in food**

Today, the European Parliament's Environment committee formally opposed the European Commission's draft law on engineered nanomaterials. Their resolution is part of the final touches to the Food Information Regulation and many MEPs are rightly concerned as to the definition of 'nano' and how much qualifies for this Regulation. If backed in plenary, the Commission will have to revise their plans.

BEUC welcomes the Parliament's stance as the Commission proposal falls short in two ways:

- Food additives already on sale and potentially containing nanoparticles would be exempted from nano-labelling. The Commission's plans would deny consumers their right to be informed if their food contains nanomaterials.
- The 50% nano-particles threshold for an ingredient to qualify as 'nano' is much too high. This disregards the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA)'s advice to the Commission of a 10% threshold in light of ongoing uncertainty of nano safety.

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation commented:

"Consumers are unsure of nanomaterials being safe and they do not see clear benefits of foods containing nano. The EU's food labelling law will oblige producers to declare when their foods contain nanoparticles so that consumers can decide for themselves whether or not to buy such products. The European Commission's ill-advised proposal would limit their right to be properly informed. We welcome MEPs' decision to send it back to the drawing board.

"EFSA's recommendation is crystal clear. A food ingredient should be considered an 'engineered nanomaterial' when 10% of its particles are nano-sized. There is no convincing explanation why the Commission would disregard advice from Europe's independent expert food science body."

For more information please do not hesitate to contact the press department via the contact details below.

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