

EN

E-000937/2021

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.5.2021)

In 2019, Member States considered that no history of human consumption before 15 May 1997 could be demonstrated for cannabidiol (CBD), and that it should thus be subject to Novel Food Regulation<sup>1</sup>. This position was entered into the Novel Foods catalogue, a non-binding instrument that lists various food products as regards their ‘novel’ status.

In order to meet the citizens’ expectations for a high level of health protection, the co-legislators have put in place a novel food legislation that requires extensive safety data for all novel foods. Recognising the need to enable and support European small economic operators to put safe and innovative products on the market, the Commission has adopted a number of measures to create a business friendly environment<sup>2</sup>, facilitate access to finance<sup>3</sup>, improve access to markets and internationalisation<sup>4</sup>, and foster competitiveness<sup>5</sup> and innovation<sup>6</sup> for small and medium enterprises.

Horizon Europe<sup>7</sup> maintains the broad approach taken in Horizon 2020 of not focusing on specific diseases to the exception of the planned mission on cancer and some partnerships. Horizon Europe will continue to provide funding in a flexible manner, providing opportunities for research on the therapeutic effects of cannabinoids.

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001, OJ L 327, 11.12.2015, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entrepreneurship 2020 action plan reigniting the entrepreneurial spirit in Europe, COM/2012/0795 final.

<sup>3</sup> [https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-funding/getting-funding/access-finance/index\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-funding/getting-funding/access-finance/index_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/access-to-markets/internationalisation/support-tools\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/access-to-markets/internationalisation/support-tools_en)

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry\\_en#competitiveness](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry_en#competitiveness)

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/innovation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/innovation_en)

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/what-shapes-next-framework-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/what-shapes-next-framework-programme_en)