

France's suspension of E171 is not supported by science

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) announced on 13 May 2019 that the French National Agency for Food Safety, Environment and Labour's (ANSES) opinion on E171 does not present new evidence to overrule its conclusions in 2016 and 2018 that E171 is safe.
- This underlines that France's suspension of E171 in foodstuff on the French market from 1 January 2020 is not supported by science.
- TDMA calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to stand behind the opinion of EFSA and the integrity of the EU's internal market by opposing the French measure.

The suspension of E171 in foodstuff in France goes against continuous confirmations by EU Authorities of its safety.

The European Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, recently [addressed](#) the concerns about E171, underlining that: "the Commission considers that there are currently no grounds to apply precautionary measures regarding the authorisation of E171 as a food additive". Mr. Andriukaitis reiterated that EFSA [confirmed](#) in 2016 that data on E171 in food showed no health concerns for consumers. EFSA [reaffirmed](#) its conclusion in June 2018, following a request for review of new data by the European Commission.

ANSES published its [report](#) on E171 on 12 April 2019 to obtain the necessary legal conditions to implement the suspension under the EU's General Food Law as a unilateral emergency safeguard measure. On 13 May 2019, EFSA presented their [review](#), concluding that the ANSES opinion does not provide new evidence to overrule their previous conclusions that E171 is safe.

TDMA strives to continually renew scientific knowledge on E171's safety to ensure the responsible use of our product. We are currently undertaking a comprehensive science programme, in consultation with EFSA and ANSES, to answer questions raised by the Authorities. We are concerned that if Member States can proceed with a suspension after EFSA has just reasserted the safety of E171, it raises questions about the EU harmonised regulatory framework and the internal market.

The Member States and the European Commission are currently considering whether to accept the French ban as an emergency safeguard measure under the EU's General Food Law. TDMA calls on them to stand behind the scientific authority of EFSA and to ensure the integrity of the EU's internal market.

Background to the French Suspension of E171

The French Government [decreed](#) on 25 April 2019 the suspension of placing E171 in foodstuff on the French market from 1 January 2020. The suspension was adopted in October 2018 by the French National Assembly under the food-agri (EGALIM) [law](#). The French Government, on 11 January 2019 [asked](#) ANSES to provide a report to obtain the necessary legal conditions to implement the ban under the EU's General Food Law as a unilateral emergency safeguard measure. ANSES published its E171 [report](#) on 12 April 2019.

Background on E171

E171 adds value to our societies and to consumers in our everyday lives. E171 is the most effective white colorant in use with important applications not only in food and cosmetics but also in the pharmaceuticals



sector where it enhances patient safety through its use as one of the only colourants that lives up to stringent standards for safety.

About titanium dioxide

Titanium dioxide is by far the world's highest volume and most versatile white pigment and is used in the manufacture of a wide range of products including paints, coatings, plastics, paper and as a food colorant. In non-pigmentary form TiO₂ is used as a UV-filter in sunscreens and in many depollution technologies. Across the EU, the industry directly supports close to 23,000 jobs and hundreds of billions of Euros in added value. Titanium dioxide has been repeatedly examined and found safe by authorities around the world.

About TDMA

The Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association (TDMA) is a sector group of Cefic (the European Chemical Industry Council) and it represents the major producers of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) and has acted as their responsible voice in Europe since 1974. TDMA promotes and defends the merits of titanium dioxide in all suitable applications by bringing forward evidence of its safety and efficacy. TDMA is a non-profit organisation and it has no commercial role. For all commercial enquiries, please refer to our members' websites.

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