

23 October 2014

Statement prepared by the Health Food Manufacturers' Association (HFMA) in relation to the Case before the General Court - Case T-296/12 (The Health Food Manufacturer's Association a.o. v. European Commission) 22 October 2014

"We are obviously very pleased to have finally got to have our day in Court, and a chance to help defend our industry, members and consumers against this hugely flawed and badly implemented Regulation. We initiated this legal action back in July of 2012 as a 'last resort' when our serious concerns about many aspects of the implementation of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation were falling on deaf ears." said Graham Keen, Executive Director of the HFMA.

"Once again, the HFMA has shown the will to take difficult but important actions necessary to protect our industry. We are grateful for the support in this action of our partners from the Dutch trade association Natuur-en Gezondheidsproducten Nederland (NPN), along with our Co-Applicant member companies Natures Aid and Quest Vitamins from the UK and New Care Supplements from the Netherlands. We also thank the Italian trade association Federsalus, which intervened into the action in our support and last, but certainly not least, our lawyer Brian Kelly and the excellent legal team from Covington & Burling."

"We now await the judgment of the Court, and hope that they will come to the right decision. We obviously hope that the Court will find in our favour, but whatever the outcome it will be important to have clarity from the Court on this vital issue for industry."

ENDS

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The HFMA

The Health Food Manufacturers' Association (HFMA) is the voice of the UK's natural health industry and represents more than 125 manufacturers and suppliers of natural health products.

Founded in 1965, the HFMA is a not-for-profit organisation which operates long-standing codes of practice to ensure that member companies adhere to high standards and offer good quality, safe products supported by responsible, lawful information.

For further information about the HFMA, visit www.hfma.co.uk.