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**FEDIOL Statement
on EFSA Scientific Opinion on "The risks for human health related
to the presence of 2,3-MCPDE and GE in food"**

The opinion released by EFSA today represents a key step in our understanding of consumer exposure in Europe and the risks associated with these substances. Having already actively worked on this, FEDIOL members can show positive results in the prevention and reduction of the substances since 2010. However, the message from EFSA is clear: more work needs to be done.

2, 3-MCPD esters and Glycidyl esters are contaminants found in processed vegetable oils. These contaminants are formed during the deodorisation step of edible oil refining from a reaction with chloride naturally present in oil. The highest occurrence is reported for refined palm oil. Deodorisation is done to achieve quality and safety specifications.

"The EFSA report provides us with important directions for our future work. Based on studies and the available assessments, we have to date focused our efforts on glycidyl esters and palm oil. We are pleased to see that the reduction work done by refiners has been clearly acknowledged and we are committed to continue achieving substantial reductions," said the President of FEDIOL, Henri Rieux. According to EFSA, levels of GE in palm oils and fats halved between 2010 and 2015, due to voluntary measures taken by producers. This has contributed to an important fall in consumer exposure to these substances.

The President added that *"the decision by EFSA to set a group TDI (Tolerable Daily Intake) for 3-MCPD at 0.8 µg/kg (microgram per kilogram) bodyweight per day, is a clear message to us that we have to step up our reduction work plan for 3MCPD esters and put even stronger efforts on prevention and removal of these substances"*.

The vegetable oil sector takes the safety of its products very seriously and operates in a proactive manner. FEDIOL members have carried out extensive research to develop processes that mitigate against the occurrence of MCPD esters and glycidyl esters. Much of this prevention, reduction and removal work is already underway or being implemented.

EFSA estimated for young age groups, including adolescents, that average and high exposure to 3MCPD exceeds the TDI and is of potential health concern. It also found that glycidyl ester is a potential health concern for all younger age groups with average exposures.

FEDIOL will consider in further detail the assessment made by EFSA and follow any risk management decisions that may be taken.

For further information, please contact Nathalie Lecocq at Tel: 32 2 771 53 30