

EHPM Contribution in the context of the Dutch consultation on:

*the amendments to the Dutch regulation on
food supplements and herbal preparations*

21/03/2025

The European Health Products Manufacturers (EHPM) wishes to express its support for the contribution submitted by the Natuur- & gezondheidsProducten Nederland (NPN) regarding the Dutch regulation on food supplements and herbal preparations.

Firstly, it is imperative to underscore that food supplements are classified as foodstuffs and, as such, must adhere to safety standards for consumption. EHPM advocates for the expansion of legislation to encompass substances deemed unsafe, which should be restricted to food products. Furthermore, EHPM recognizes the legal requirement for usage instructions as a valuable mechanism for implementing proportionate measures concerning perceived risks, particularly when these risks are limited and targeted towards specific consumer groups. Consequently, advisory statements can enhance the safe utilization of products by consumers.

Regarding the risk assessment of Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), we wish to convey our concerns regarding the proportionality of the proposed measures, as well as the implications that unilateral Member State actions may have on the EU Single Market in the absence of an imminent risk. EHPM contends that this national initiative could result in significant disruption to the internal market and may have disproportionate effects, given the lack of substantiated risk.

Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) is a traditional botanical that has been utilized globally for an extended period. The summary of data provided by our members does not raise safety concerns regarding the use of Ashwagandha root extracts, provided that the recommended usage directions are followed.

As a registered stakeholder, EHPM actively participates in all relevant consultations concerning food supplement ingredients and is committed to supplying adequate safety data to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Consultation on the pertinent botanical in the forthcoming months. As the European commission asked EFSA to do a safety assessment on Ashwagandha, it is logical to await the European safety assessment and risk management measures.

In light of the aforementioned arguments and the timing of the anticipated decision, we urge the Dutch authorities to refrain from making unilateral decisions and implementing measures. Instead, we recommend awaiting developments at the EU level in this regard.

About EHPM

The European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers (EHPM) was established in 1975. With its 14 National Associations and 15 Member Companies, EHPM represents product manufacturers, distributors, the majority of whom are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in 17 European countries. EHPM is member of FoodDrinkEurope and of the International Alliance of Dietary/Food Supplement Associations (IADSA).

As the EU trade association for the food supplement sector, EHPM proactively and constructively engages with the EU Institutions to contribute to the development of a fair European regulatory framework for the sector. Through our member associations and companies, EHPM aims to provide consumers with safe, science-based, high-quality products as well as accurate and helpful information about their nutritional value and use.