

## Status of EFSA's work on A1/A2 milk

Visit of the New Zealand Minister on Food Safety  
3 March 2008

### Study Outline

- Review composition of milk with respect to the ratio A1/A2  $\beta$ -casein and human exposure levels with emphasis on the specific fragment BCM7
- Critical assessment of epidemiological evidence of adverse health effects in humans and experimental evidence in animals, including immunological effects and specific vulnerability of sub-populations like infants
- Following this review and depending on its outcome EFSA will decide whether there are sufficient indications to support a full risk assessment of the consumption of milk high in  $\beta$ -casein A1

## Proposed Approach

- Creation of internal working group / recruitment of external experts
- Bibliographic search and contact with interested parties to access relevant data
- Expert review of protein chemistry
- Expert review of experimental data
- Statistical review of epidemiological studies
- Working Group discussion and conclusions

## Identification of critical points

- Data on possible formation of BCM7 from dairy products other than fluid milk, like cheese, yoghurt and other fermented milks, milk powder - **availability of data?**
- Human exposure to milk proteins is high, but also uncertain due to the presence of milk powder or caseinates in a huge range of commercial products - **quantification?**
- Review of epidemiological studies requires the availability of the original data - **access?**
- Literature review requires multiple top level expertise in epidemiology, immunology, protein chemistry, biochemistry, statistics, toxicology, medical expertise etc - **availability of experts?**

- Tentative time frame
  - Project start February 2008
  - Internal working group established early March 2008
  - Literature search start February 2008
  - External experts nominated end March 2008
  - Project finish December 2008