

ITALY New guidance on probiotics

New Guidelines on probiotics have been provided by the Italian Ministry of Health.

Food and food supplements containing probiotics traditionally used for the balance of the intestinal flora, can now use the following indication: "*Favorisce l'equilibrio della flora intestinale*: (In the EFSA Journal 2009; 7 (9): 1232, the NDA Panel states: "*Increasing the number of any groups of bacteria is not in itself considered as beneficial*" – it is from this opinion that the rationale for the new indication mentioned above is derived.)

It is understood that the Ministry of Health has sent the new Guidelines to the European Commission together with a document entitled, "*Expert viewpoint*", which is an analysis of EFSA opinions of probiotics and contains a request from some Italian experts for a new approach in the evaluation of health claims in probiotics.

To view go to:

<http://www.salute.gov.it/alimentiParticolariIntegratori/newsAlimentiParticolariIntegratori.jsp?id=1729&menu=inevidenza&lingua=italiano>

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