

## PRESS RELEASE

**The use of Methyloxolane, a 100% plant-based solvent, has been authorized in Europe for the production of food ingredients, as a substitute for hexane, which is derived from petroleum.**

**The Minafin Group is pleased to announce that the European Parliament and the Council have amended Directive 2009/32/EC to add the methyloxolane to the list of permitted processing aids for the manufacture of food ingredients**

**Dunkerque – February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – Methyloxolane is supplied by the Minafin Group under the EcoXtract® brand and is an innovative 100% plant-based solvent for the extraction of oils, vegetable proteins and natural ingredients. **It is produced from agricultural co-products such as sugarcane bagasse and does not compete with food production.** Natural oils, proteins and flavors are used in many consumer products from food and feed to medicines and cosmetics. **The current reference extraction method is based on the use of hexane, which is a petroleum-based solvent that has recently been reclassified by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as a proven human neurotoxicant.** The authorization for the use of hexane is long-standing and based on studies dating back more than 30 years, which are far below the current level of requirements of EFSA (European Food Safety Agency)

**On the contrary, the authorized dossier for methyloxolane is based on recent studies and has been subject to a complete review** by EFSA which concluded in March 2022 that methyloxolane can be used safely for food production.

**Methyloxolane is the first alternative to hexane made from 100% plant carbon.**

The inclusion of this new solution in the European legislation will allow all players in the oilseeds crush and plant extract industry to develop safer and more environmentally friendly ingredients for their customers.

***"We are delighted with this change. Methyloxolane offers a new alternative solution to hexane, complementary to existing solutions, supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> and hot ethanol extraction. Its advantage is that it allows the reuse of production facilities initially designed to extract with hexane, with minor modifications. Our goal is now to support the producers of food oils and natural ingredients to progressively abandon the use of hexane in favour of methyloxolane and thus reduce the exposure of the general population to this toxic product. "Together, we will help preserve our health and our planet" says Laurence Jacques, EcoXtract® Managing Director.***

### **About EcoXtract**

EcoXtract® is a technological solution based on an extraction solvent made of 100% plant-based carbon, recyclable and whose safety has been proven and verified by EFSA in 2022 - methyloxolane. It respects health, environment and performances. EcoXtract® has a high potential in the extraction of oils, proteins of plant origin and natural lipophilic molecules, replacing hexane, a petrochemical neurotoxic for humans, which is still today the reference solution for food and cosmetic extraction. For more information, visit <https://ecoxtract.com/>.

### **About the EcoXtract® project**

The EcoXtract® project - Delivering a new, efficient, bio-based vegetable oil and protein extraction solution - is receiving funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement number 970931. Visit <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/970931/fr>

### **About the EcoXtract® Proteins project**

Developed in collaboration with INRAE and Avignon University, the EcoXtract®- Proteines project has been selected by the ADEME's Investissements d'Avenir program (France) for a total funding of €4.8M. It aims to offer a safe and 100% plant-based extraction solution for the production of defatted proteins for food and feed.

### **About Minafin Group**

The Minafin Group is a leading developer and manufacturer of fine chemicals with three main areas of expertise: health chemistry, green chemistry, and challenging chemistry. Minafin operates six industrial manufacturing sites across Europe and North America. It provides customers in the pharmaceutical, personal care, and agri-food sectors with a range of proprietary products, custom manufacturing, industrial process development and services, and multi-purpose green chemistry formulations. Minafin invests significantly in research into eco-friendly solutions that bring a competitive edge and create value for customers. Minafin's strong industrial capabilities are consolidated through seven business units: Minakem CDMO, Minakem Generics, Pennakem, Minasolve, EcoXtract, Minascent et Pressure Chemicals. These together generated over €290 million in revenue in 2022. Founded in 2004 as a privately held industrial company, Minafin is headquartered in Belgium and employs 900+ staff. For more information, visit <http://minafin.com/>.

### **Contact media**

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