



STELLA KYRIAKIDES
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels – Berl 10/380
[redacted] [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[redacted]@ec.europa.eu)

Brussels,

Dear [redacted]

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 4 June in which you express concerns regarding the introduction of mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the EU.

I take good note of the potential shortcomings and risks linked to the use of a colour-coded front-of-pack nutrition labelling scheme like Nutri-Score, which you indicate in your letter.

Nutri-Score is a voluntary national front-of-pack labelling scheme, so far officially adopted by France (2017) and Belgium (2019), while some other Member States have announced its future adoption.

In the context of notifications of national measures, the Commission is assessing the compliance of national front-of-pack labelling schemes with the EU legislation. These requirements include, amongst others, that the information shall not mislead the consumer, not be ambiguous or confusing for the consumer and shall, where appropriate, be based on the relevant scientific data.

The Commission considers that front-of-pack nutrition labelling can be a useful tool to support the Commission's public health objectives by helping consumers make informed and healthy food choices. This is why the Farm to Fork Strategy adopted on 20 May 2020 announces the Commission's ambition to harmonise mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling at EU level.

The Commission's report on front-of-pack labelling was also published on 20 May and builds on a comprehensive literature review, performed by the Joint Research Centre, of scientific publications regarding the development of front-of-pack schemes, consumer understanding and their impact on consumer behaviour and health.

[redacted] Copa and Cogeca
Rue de Trèves 61
B - 1040 Brussels
[redacted] [@copa-cogeca.eu](mailto:[redacted]@copa-cogeca.eu)

As I explained on 11 May in the European Parliament's AGRI Committee, the Farm to Fork Strategy does not provide a compulsory EU-wide front-of-pack nutrition label. The Commission will first launch an impact assessment, with the view to adopt a legislative proposal for EU-wide harmonised and mandatory front-of-pack nutrition label by 2022. The scope of the initiative, meaning which food products would be concerned, has not yet been decided. The preparatory work will involve EFSA and will take the conclusions of the literature review by the Joint Research Centre and the Commission's report on front-of-pack labelling into account. I would like to highlight that the Commission's report acknowledges the specificities of some agricultural food products and the potential consequences for reformulation efforts.

Finally, I fully share your view that front-of-pack nutrition labelling should not be the only tool to guide consumers towards healthier eating habits. The Commission's report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling highlights the importance of awareness and communication campaigns. As you know, education is a Member States' competence. The Commission supports Member States in reaching the targets of the WHO on non-communicable diseases and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by providing financial and administrative support to Member States to implement evaluated best practices. The Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention, the Best Practice Portal and the Health Policy Platform are the major tools to implement this approach.

I thank you for having shared your views on this important issue for consumers and I very much look forward to our close cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy and its action plan.

Yours sincerely,



Stella Kyriakides