Minutes Meeting with Unilever on Future Foods commitments and position on FOP nutrition labelling
02 June 2021, 15.00-15.30h, Teams Meeting

Participants
Unilever: [Redacted]
SANTE E1: [Redacted]

The meeting was organized at the request of Unilever. The purpose of the meeting was for Unilever to present their position regarding future food commitments and FOP nutrition labelling, as well as to learn about the European Commission’s plan moving forward.

- Unilever highlighted their commitment and efforts taken to deliver food with better nutritional value, including their ambition to reduce the number of products high in sugar, to increase plant-based product sales for a more sustainable food offer and to halve food waste.
- Regarding FOP nutrition labelling, Unilever welcomes a harmonisation at EU level. Unilever explained that they have introduced Nutri-Score in France and will soon do the same in Germany following an increased pressure from retailers as well as consumers who are calling for FOP nutrition labels on products in more EU countries. Hence, Unilever asked the European Commission to act quickly on a harmonised FOP nutrition labelling scheme to avoid the adoption of more different national schemes.
- Unilever sees Nutri-Score as the best current scheme in terms of visualisation and helping consumers, but they called for a portion-based approach and for more differentiation of the calculation method in terms of product groups.
- As a solution to act quickly, Unilever suggested to consider a step-by-step process for the introduction of an EU FOP nutrition labelling scheme, i.e. to decide on a certain acceptable scheme first and implement it for some product groups, while excluding others to avoid delays (e.g. phase out products from Mediterranean diet), and then later on expand the scheme to more products and include further changes along the way.
- Besides FOP labels, Unilever also stressed the need for education and awareness campaigns.
- Unilever enquired about the European Commission’s timeline and process regarding the adoption of a harmonised FOP nutrition labelling scheme.
- Unilever will share with SANTE any interesting resources and research regarding FOP nutrition labelling that could support the European Commission’s evaluation.