EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Brussels,
SANTE/___(2021)8814007

Dear [Name],

Subject: Your message of 1 December 2021 on ‘Initiative for an effective - based on nutritional education - food labelling system’

Thank you for your message and discussion paper of 1 December 2021 on the above-mentioned subject which was sent to the European Commission Representative Office in Athens.

Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating the shift to healthy, sustainable diets are important objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy. As one of the actions helping to achieve these objectives, the Commission has announced that it will prepare by the end of 2022 a proposal for harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling at EU level to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices. This initiative is also one of the actions in the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan for improving health promotion through access to healthy diets.

The Farm to Fork Strategy and the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, however, do not recommend any specific type of front-of-pack nutrition labelling scheme on which no choice has been made at this stage. This choice will be based on the results of an impact assessment and consultation of Member States and stakeholders, as well as scientific advice.

In this context, the European Commission has mandated the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to provide scientific advice to inform harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling. On 15 November 2021, EFSA has published its draft Scientific Opinion¹ for comments. EFSA’s public consultation runs until 9 January, after which EFSA will finalise its scientific opinion in early 2022.

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The Commission also invites citizens and stakeholders to contribute to different consultations organised in the context of its impact assessment related to a proposal for a revision of Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers as regards front-of-pack nutrition labelling and other food information areas.

The Commission has launched a 12-week open public consultation, open until 7 March 2022, to get feedback from citizens and stakeholders on the proposed food labelling initiatives via its ‘Have your say’ portal. In addition, targeted stakeholder surveys will be launched in the beginning of 2022. You are invited to contribute to these different consultation activities.

I can assure you that your discussion paper ‘Initiative for an effective - based on nutritional education - food labelling system’ as well as any other input to the Commission’s consultation activities will be duly considered during the process towards a proposal for harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the EU.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]
Sabine Jülicher

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