

---

Webex meeting between SANTE C1 and Nestle – 21/09/2020 – 14h30-15h10.

---

*The participants were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the Nestle Company – [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the EC DG SANTE. The aim of this meeting was for both parties to give an update on their situation and where their work was focusing on at the moment.*

[REDACTED] started the meeting stating that Nestle feels that they can have an impact in society, on the nutrition and more generally on the health side of the communities. Being a big employer, with 80 000 employees in Europe, they wish to focus on what they can do to help communities and the planet, from transportation emissions, water sourcing, to climate neutrality.

The three focus points of Nestlé were on: the existing commitments that are taking place, the farm to fork strategy, and health and nutrition.

A special attention was given to the nutrition aspect and how they could improve it, which is linked in to reformulation, meaning removing the saturated fat and sugar, as well as, adding positive ingredients, like vegetal fibers and moving towards a plant based moving portfolio. A second point was made on labelling, and the use of “nutri-scores”, mostly used in western European countries, consumers prefer and understand the nutri-score scheme. They would like it to be the scheme that the European Commission will adapt and harmonize. Another point was made on their action in term of education, in partnerships with governments and schools. Supporting, in an unbranded way, by informing and communicating on nutrition.

After that short briefing, [REDACTED] pointed out the changes in the organisation of the Directorate, in order to facilitate future interactions. In particular that the C2 Unit has been renamed to cover “health in all policies” in addition to health information. Which means that we are becoming the interlocutor of a number of stakeholders. The Farm to Fork strategy will be led by SANTE D1, as well as some units from other Directorates such as E. In relation to the nutrition element, this is something where the thinking is not mature yet, to be able to determine which will be the priorities and how they will be implemented.

Unit C.2 has been asked to follow a number of activities that are part of the green deal, in particular food reformulation and marketing, it will contribute on what was launched by colleagues in SANTE E. Discussion will take place with D1 and E1, in order to determine the way forward.

[REDACTED] explained that the goal of the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP) is to work with Member States to find out there priorities, focus on the collection of best practices and transfer of those. Each year a discussion is held with the Member States, there is as well a portal where everybody can submit best practices. Independent parties evaluate those against predefined criteria's; winners are published and submitted under a new format, in a “market place”. Moreover, those who interest the MS can be transferred and implemented.

*A question was asked on how to envision the stakeholder collaboration?*

A number of changes have occurred. There is a new tool that is important for the cooperation with stakeholders - the Health Policy Platform - where we can follow discussions and interactions with stakeholders.

The “vision” is at the moment being formed, and there is a wish to reduce the number of priorities activities in order to increase efficiency. One element that is in development is the cancer action plan, which may include nutrition part, but it is too early to tell which concrete action will be proposed.

There are a number of intentions in the works, where Nestle will be able to play a role, but it is too early to know how it will work out. Indeed, since a number of colleagues are managing the current public health crisis, the capacity to handle the different elements and decide which are the follow up action points is reduced.

While at the moment everything is dominated by the crisis of COVID, it is also clear that some diseases are importantly linked with co-morbidity, and increase the mortality, like diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases. There is a strong link with nutrition, thus, it will be a main topic for further topics and will come back to the political attention.

DG SANTE take notes on the effort of Nestle, that go in the direction of the farm to fork strategy. We need to see in the near future on how that will translate in potential cooperation, continuation of the exchange of information, vice versa.