MEETING WITH

Mr Francesco LOLLOBRIGIDA,
Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests

21 November 2022
10:30

Contents

SCENE SETTER .................................................................................................................. 2

out of scope
out of scope

Topic 5: The front-of-pack nutrition labelling of foods and beverages .......... 17
ANNEX ............................................................................................................................... 18
The meeting (information exchange) with the AGRI Minister of Italy, Mr Lollobrigida, will be held at the margins of the AGRIFISH Council of 21 November, between 10h30 and 11h00.

Mr Lollobrigida is a member of the new Italian government that was sworn in on 22 October 2022 (his CV is attached).

5 topics on the agenda:

out of scope

5. The front-of-pack nutrition labelling of foods and beverages (FOPNL) (Contact: Art.4(1)b - privacy AGRI/B/3).
Topic 5: The front-of-pack nutrition labelling of foods and beverages

KEY MESSAGES

- FOPNL is part of the proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC) which is under DG SANTE responsibility.
- The Commission committed to propose a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make informed and health-conscious food choices in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.
- FOPNL is not meant to replace dietary recommendations. Awareness, communication, and education remain key in encouraging healthy diets.
- No decision has been made yet on the nutrition labelling approach:
  - The impact assessment (IA) with the different policy options is being finalized.
  - The IA is supported by scientific contributions of the JRC and an EFSA opinion which are all in the public domain.
  - The Commission’s proposal will be based on science, evidence and objective grounds.
- We are aware of the Italian concerns on “Nutriscore” and attentive about the possible impact of such scheme on products which cannot be easily reformulated such as Geographical indications, single ingredient products olive oil, cheeses, etc.
- We are closely following this initiative. The legislative proposal is foreseen for adoption in early 2023.
Our objectives:
- to listen to Italy’s concerns about the initiative;
- to inform that DG AGRI is closely following this initiative which is under DG SANTE responsibility.

The interlocutor’s objectives:
- to strongly lobby against an EU scheme with a colour coded front of pack nutrition labelling system (FOPNL) similar to Nutri-Score. Italy has already confirmed their preference for a descriptive (non-evaluative) label;
- to stress that an EU scheme system similar to Nutri-Score will have a negative impact on health, consumer choice, sustainability and competitiveness and will distort the market and the security of the supply (see in the annex the document provided by the interlocutors for this meeting);
- To seek the support of the Commissioner against a “Nutriscore” type system.

For details:
- the note of 4 November 2022 from the AGRI HoC to the SANTE HoC (Ares(2022)7626667); and
- the minutes of the meeting between Cabinet Wojciechowski, DG AGRI and the Italian Permanent Representation and Federalimentary of 27 October 2022 (Ares(2022)7759192)

ANNEX

Attached to this briefing you will find the CV of the Italian Minister Francesco Lollobrigida.