UPDATE ON THE REVISION OF THE REGULATION ON FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS (FIC)

DG SANTE
E1 - Food information and composition

Federation of European Rice Millers (FERM)
Board Meeting
9 September 2022
Food labelling initiatives in the Farm to Fork Strategy and Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

F2F Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly EU food system by 2030

- **Sustainable Food Processing & Distribution**
  - Set nutrient profiles restricting nutrition and health claims to stimulate reformulation

- **Sustainable Food consumption**
  - Harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling
  - Extending mandatory origin indication to certain foods

- **Food Loss & Waste Prevention**
  - Revision of EU rules on date marking

Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

- **Sustainable cancer prevention**
  - Labelling of alcoholic beverages (nutrition declaration and list of ingredients)
  - Harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling

Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC)
Problems – FOPNL and nutrient profiles

- Too few consumers are making healthy food choices.
- Some FBOs make health and nutrition claims on products that are not healthy.
- Some products are labelled with FOPNLs while others are not.
- Some FBOs reformulate their products to make them healthier while others do not.

Lack of consistent and accessible information for consumers inhibits informed consumer choice.

Inconsistency in the rules on food labelling across MS result in single market fragmentation.
Problems – Origin Labelling

Consumers do not receive information on the origin of certain products for which consumers have a particular interest to know where they come from.

Some FBOs are required to provide origin label whilst others do not (national rules).

Lack of consistent and accessible information for consumers inhibits informed consumer choice.

Inconsistency in the rules on food labelling across MS result in single market fragmentation.
What should be achieved?

Ensure a high level of consumer protection (right to information)

**Short-term**
- Allowing consumers to make informed and healthy choices
- Harmonised labels across the EU

**Long-term**
- Public health (FOPNL, nutrient profiles and alcoholic beverage labelling)
- Environmental objectives (date marking / food waste, origin labelling)
Policy Options – FOPNL and nutrient profiles

Current EU FOP label formats form basis of different policy options and their combinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient-specific labels (information on individual nutrients)</th>
<th>Summary labels (information on overall nutritional value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-colour-coded</strong> Option 1.</td>
<td><strong>Endorsement logos</strong> Option 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Nutrient-specific labels" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Endorsement logos" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Numerical information on energy + unfavorable nutrients" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Positive logo that can be applied" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colour-coded</strong> Option 2.</td>
<td><strong>Graded Indicators</strong> Option 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Colour-coded" /></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Graded indicator that can be applied" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Numerical information on energy + unfavorable nutrients and colours classify each nutrient as low/medium/high" /></td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Positive logo that can be applied only on foods that comply with the nutritional criteria" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The setting of a nutrient profiling model separate from the (non-evaluative) FOP label will be assessed.

The nutrient profiling model for restricting claims is based on the nutrient profiling model underpinning the harmonised (evaluative) FOP scheme.
Policy Options – Origin Labelling

Option 1.
- Mandatory origin indication at EU/non-EU level

Option 2.
- Mandatory origin indication at National level (Member State or third country)

Option 3.
- Mandatory origin indication at regional level. Region is defined as any other geographical area within a Member State, a third country or several countries, which is well understood by normally informed consumers or defined under public international law.

Option 4.
- A mix of elements from the three preceding options

Stages of production process for determining the origin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk and milk as an ingredient</th>
<th>Meat as an ingredient</th>
<th>Rabbit and game meat</th>
<th>Durum wheat used in pasta</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Potatoes</th>
<th>Tomato used in certain tomato products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Place of milking</td>
<td>- Place of birth</td>
<td>- Place of rearing</td>
<td>- Place of harvest</td>
<td>- Place of harvest</td>
<td>- Place of harvest</td>
<td>- Place of harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Place of processing</td>
<td>- Place of rearing</td>
<td>(for rabbit only)</td>
<td>- Place of milling</td>
<td>- Place of processing</td>
<td>- Place of processing</td>
<td>- Place of processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Place of packaging</td>
<td>- Place of slaughtering</td>
<td>- Place of slaughtering</td>
<td>- Place of packaging</td>
<td>- Place of packaging</td>
<td>- Place of packaging</td>
<td>- Place of packaging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Steps – IA and Revision of FIC Regulation

Inception Impact Assessments / Roadmaps

External study

Open public consultation (Have Your Say webpage) + targeted surveys (businesses, SMEs, authorities, health/consumer groups) + interviews + case studies + workshops

Additional scientific evidence and studies (EFSA, JRC, Consumer study)

Impact Assessment of various policy options

Proposal for revised Legislation adopted by COM

Revised Legislation adopted by European Parliament and Council

Implementation Legislation

550+ replies (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021)

9 months (Sept 2021 – beg. September 2022)

13 Dec 2021 - 7 March 2022, 3200+ replies

Targeted surveys (Feb - March 2022) and other consultations (Feb - April 2022)

EFSA Scientific Opinion (public consultation Nov 2021 - Jan 2022, 80+ contributions; publication 19 April 2022)

JRC studies (publication 9 Sept 2022) & consumer study

Staff Working Document (Q3/Q4 2022)

Scheduled in coming months

Ordinary legislative procedure (2023 - …)

Transition period
Additional input to Impact Assessment

**FOPNL / NP**

- **EFSA scientific advice** for development of harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods (adoption 24 March; publication 19 April 2022)
- **JRC FOP literature review** (update literature review published in 2020)

**Origin Labelling**

- **JRC literature review** to assess consumers’ understanding of origin information on food packages and its impact on their attitudes, perceptions, consumption and purchase behaviour
- Inventory of standards and legislations in third countries
Thank you

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https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/labelling-and-nutrition_en