



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate E – Safety of the Food Chain
E4 – Food Law, Nutrition and Labelling

Brussels, 30 March 2007

Steering Group on Impact Assessment for the forthcoming review of the EU general and nutrition food labelling policy

2nd Meeting

27 March 2007

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SUMMARY RECORD

Present: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (SANCO, E4), [REDACTED] (SANCO, 02),
[REDACTED], [REDACTED] (AGRI), [REDACTED] (ENTR), [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] (RAND Europe)

The [REDACTED] (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from representatives of RTD, SEC GEN and TRADE.

1. Survey of food business operators

The Chair thanked the Steering Group for their assistance with the finalisation of the questionnaire to food business operators which is intended to provide information on the costs associated with food labelling and those that might arise with the different policy options. The questionnaire had been made available online at <http://www.foodlabelsurvey.eu/index.htm> on 22 March and would remain available for 8 weeks until 16 May 2007. SANCO had informed the members of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal Health that the survey was taking place and had asked the group to inform their members. To maximise the number of responses the members of the Steering Group were asked to inform their contacts that might be affected by changes in the labelling legislation that questionnaire was available.

The contractor explained that the input to the questionnaire would be monitored to see if any of the questions appeared to be problematic. It would be possible for the wording of the questions to be revised or questions could be suppressed but it would difficult to include new questions.

Following a comment from DG ENTR it was agreed that the option to print the questionnaire before completing the survey would be investigated. It was considered that this option would enable respondent to collect all the relevant information prior to completing the survey online.

2. Presentation of progress on impact assessment work

██████████ (RAND Europe) presented the work that had been completed and reported in the interim reports that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The next steps would be structured interviews with a limited number of representatives of government, food industry and academics. The data collected through the survey would be aggregated and the process of the cost consequence analysis of the different policy options would start taking place during April. The final report would be prepared in May.

Members of the group provided input on some of the issues that might be relevant such as the need to consider means of communication other than the label and the effect of cultural differences between different population groups. DG AGRI suggested that the experience of the introduction of mandatory labelling for certain basic produce might be relevant and agreed to seek information that would be relevant to the impact assessment.

3. Next steps

The final report from the contractor will be delivered in May. SANCO intend to present the impact assessment of the different policy option to the Impact Assessment Board in the first half of July. Therefore the draft impact assessment will be finalised before the end of June. The input of the Steering Group would be required in the first half of June.

SANCO E.4
March 2007