

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE NEXT EU HARMONIZED FOOD LABELLING SYSTEM.

1. “challenges and opportunities”

We understand the need of a more simplified and informative labelling system, that could successfully overcome the complexity of the existant detailed regulations. An harmonised FOP labelling system should be based on the **real nutrition value of every food product**, taking in consideration 2 main parameters: the **nutrient profile** and the **place of the product in the usual dietary habits** of the Eu populations. That kind of labelling system could be a challenge for food producers and an opportunity for consumers' healthier choices.

2. “best practices in Member States”

There are some good practices in Scandinavian countries labelling systems, as well as in USA and Australia. However the ideal labelling system has not be found yet.

Some Eu countries have demonstrated good results during the last years, implementing **focused nutritional policies and dietary recommendations**, by improving the constitution of some food categories in cooperation with food producers, for ex by decreasing the sel amount in bread, or sugar in confectionery products for children. Recently, in the context of the Eu public consultation on food labelling system modification and EFSA's scientific opinion, it seems that a new algorithmic system has been proposed (volontarily implemented by some Member States and big food industry), called Nutri Score, being in serious concern and giving rise to much controversial reactions among Member States, food producers and consumers.

3. “added value of a single system”

A single mandatory system could provide added value to the internal unified European market of food products, as well as to food products exported in third countries. However, it depends upon the “quality” of the labelling system and its potential to incorporate in a balanced way the benefits of different European diets and the ability to provide objective information for healthier consumers' choices.

4. “endanger traditional products and diets”

An hyper simplified system, such as Nutri Score, could compromise the value of many traditional food products and diets, leading to choicies of yperprocessed food (or higly reformulated products). In addition it could have consequences on the healthy market competition, on primary production sector and on many medium size food enterprises.

5. “main components of a food label”

The food label should be part of a broader nutritional strategy and Public health policy, focusing to inform and properly educate consumers for healthier choises on dietary habits, taking in account the recommendations and the general nutritional needs of the European populations.

So, the ideal food label should contain the **nutrient profile** of the product (main nutritional components like fatty acids, sugars, energy, dietary fibres, sodium etc), **conservatives, additives** and the eventual reformulation of the product. The quantitave expression should be based on the **daily recommended intake of the ptduct** and not calculated “per 100 mg or ml”, representing the **real place of each food product in the usual dietary habits and avoiding the “condemnation” of some traditional or unreformulated food products.**

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