

Mrs Stella Kyriakides
European Commission
Commissioner on Health and Food Safety
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 14 May 2020

Front-of-pack labelling schemes

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

the Farm to Fork strategy, due to be presented by the European Commission on 20th May as part of the Green Deal, will have as one of its announced objectives answering citizens' requests on food transparency, notably on nutrition value and quality, through clear, harmonized and accessible information.

Today, we are facing an uncoordinated action toward the objectives of food safety, transparency and consumer protection that has resulted in the proliferation of front-of-pack labelling schemes, and has fragmented the EU single market. These systems, which often do not take due account of the importance of balanced and varied food, are implemented by several Member States (or imposed by retailers) with the risk to affect and mislead consumers' choices, as they are not provided with exhaustive, nutrient-specific information based on the reference intakes of the average consumer.

Moreover, such schemes could contravene Regulation (EU) 1169/2011, which states that the energy value and the amount of nutrients may be presented using graphical forms or symbols,

provided that they are objective, non-discriminatory, based on sound and scientifically valid consumer research and do not mislead the consumer.

Given the above considerations, we ask for your commitment to deeply evaluate all the front-of-pack labelling schemes carried out by Member States through a scientific-based approach, possibly involving EFSA. We have well taken note of your comment that it will be a voluntary approach that the Commission will work on at EU level. We agree with you that it should be harmonized at EU level, transparent and non-discriminatory, in order to properly and equally inform, without misleading, EU consumers.

We trust that you will take into due consideration our request and look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Paolo De Castro (S&D, IT)

Andreas Schwab (EPP, DE)

Brando Benifei (S&D, IT)

Simona Bonafè (S&D, IT)

Salvatore De Meo (EPP, IT)

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