



Towards a proposal for EU harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling: state of play and next steps

*AREPO online event “EU Geographical Indications and Nutrition Labelling:
Can a score provide meaningful information to consumers?”*

27 October 2021

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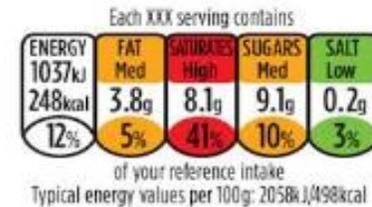
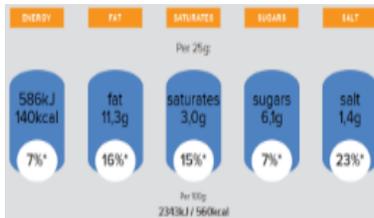
DG SANTE

Context

Front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the EU: current situation

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers

- Mandatory nutrition declaration since December 2016 (often **back-of-pack**)
- Indication of nutrition information on **front-of-pack** possible on voluntary basis
- Different formats / public & private schemes



Commission announcements for EU harmonised mandatory FOPNL

- **Report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

- Building on literature review Joint Research Centre

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC113586>

- Concludes that FOP schemes have the potential to help consumers make health-conscious food choices and that it seems appropriate to introduce harmonised mandatory FOP labelling

- **Farm to Fork Strategy**

Proposal for a **harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling** to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices (Q4 2022)

Set nutrient profiles to restrict the promotion - via nutrition and health claims - of foods high in e.g. salt, sugars and/or salt



- **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** (COM(2021) 44 of February 2021)

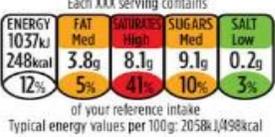
Objectives

- To **facilitate consumers' healthier food choices** and at same time **incentivise food producers to place healthier food** on the EU market.
 - Harmonised and mandatory FOP nutrition information will **help consumers to see at a glance the essential nutrition information** when purchasing foods, while avoiding confusion and costs linked to different schemes. At the same time, it would stimulate food reformulation.
 - Setting nutrient profiles will **avoid a situation where nutrition and health claims would mask** the overall nutritional status of a food. In addition, it would incentive food producers to produce healthier foods, ensuring a level playing field for food business operators within internal market.
- Develop **comprehensive options exploring in a coherent manner harmonised FOP labelling and setting of nutrient profiles** (interplay)

Inception Impact Assessment

Policy Options

Current types of FOP labels form basis of different options

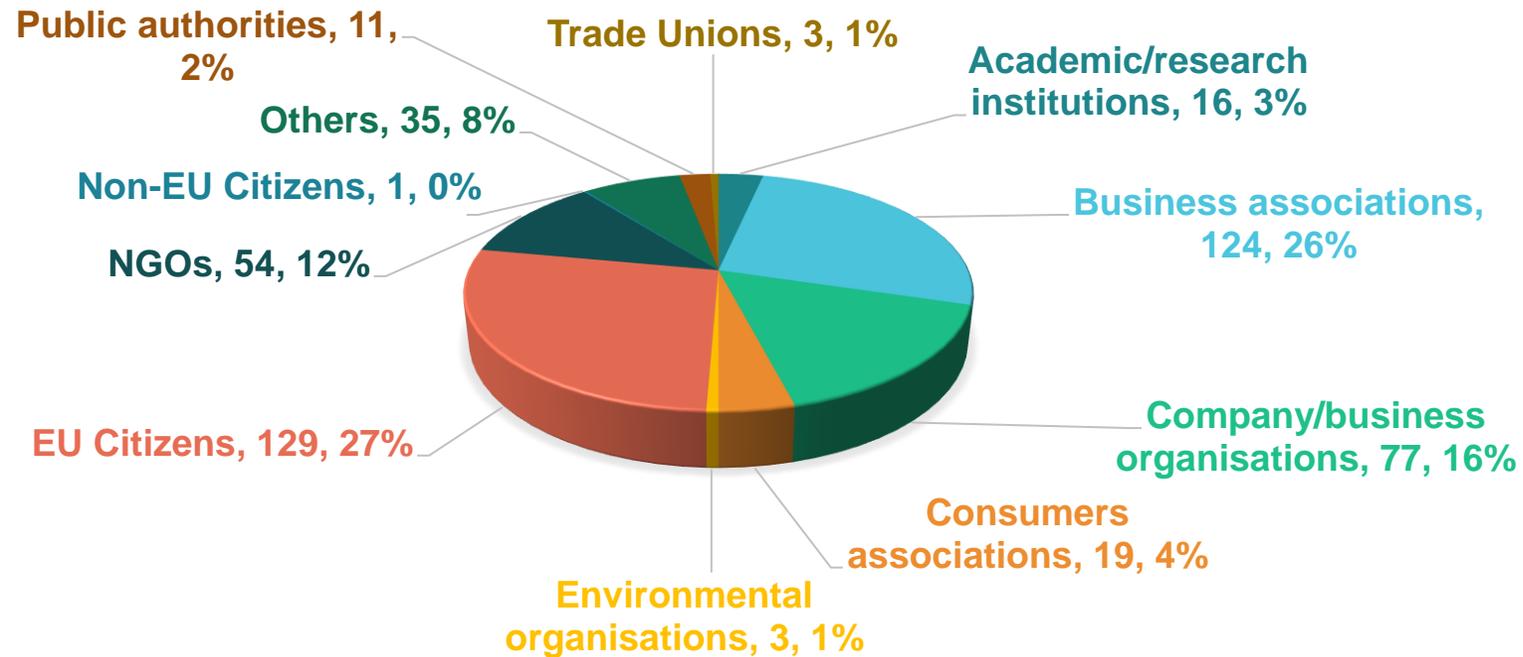
| <i>Nutrient-specific labels - examples</i> | | <i>Summary labels - examples</i> | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <i>Numerical (Option 1)</i> | <i>Colour-coded (Option 2)</i> | <i>Endorsement logos (Option 3)</i> | <i>Graded indicators (Option 4)</i> |
|   |  |  |  |

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

Options will cover pre-packed foods required to bear a nutrition declaration.

IIA: public feedback (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)



Reactions on FOP

- **Business associations and companies**
 - Support for harmonisation, but voluntary; portion-based
 - Divergent views between choice for non-evaluative versus evaluative schemes
 - Request to assess combination of options
- **Public health and consumer NGOs**
 - Support for harmonised mandatory FOP; based on 100 g/ml
 - Exemptions on scientific and not commercial grounds
 - Support for evaluative colour-coded schemes
- **Academia - Nutritionists**
 - Generally favour the introduction of harmonised mandatory FOPNL and express preference for evaluative colour-coded schemes
- **Citizens**
 - Support for harmonised mandatory FOP
 - Different views on the type of scheme

Reactions on nutrient profiles (NP)

- **Business associations and companies**

- Explicit support from only a few; most stress need for specific conditions
- Farmer associations call not to penalise traditional foods; some call for exemptions
- Divergent views regarding NP model for FOP & claims: some could agree, while others express opposition/doubts

- **Public health and consumer NGOs**

- Support for setting of NP; exemptions to be based on science
- Consistency between NP model for FOP & claims

- **Academia – Nutritionists**

- Support for setting NP;
- Consistency between NP model for FOP & claims

Additional evidence

Additional input to the Impact Assessment

- JRC FOP literature review
 - Update with scientific publications since March 2018
 - In addition, focus on specific aspects
 - e.g. combined presence FOP & claims, highly processed food & traditional products, impact on lower socio-economic groups...
- EFSA Scientific advice for development of harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods
 - <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/efsas-scientific-advice-inform-harmonised-front-pack-labelling-and-restriction>
 - EFSA will consult publicly on the draft by the end of 2021
 - Scientific opinion by March 2022

Next steps

Study to support the Impact Assessment

- **Purpose and scope**

- Identify and collect evidence and carry-out a detailed and data-driven analysis
- Gather evidence, views, opinions from all relevant stakeholders and consult them on the various policy options (stakeholder consultations, surveys, case studies)
- Analyse and compare the economic, social and environmental impacts of the proposed policy options, including on the preservation of cultural heritage
- Explore the possibility to apply specific conditions to certain categories of food

- **Stakeholder consultations**

- **Public consultation**

- In all EU languages, open for 12 weeks

- **Targeted consultations**

- Stakeholders (workshops, interviews, targeted surveys)
- Member States' competent authorities (meetings, targeted surveys)

Overview next steps

- **Study** to support the Impact Assessment
- (In parallel) JRC study and EFSA advice
- Finalisation **impact assessment**
- Drafting **legislative proposal**
- Adoption of the proposal by the Commission
- Adoption by co-legislators

Thank you

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



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