

8 May 2019

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
(Forty-fifth Session)
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 13 – 17 May 2019**

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 11:

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON CRITERIA FOR THE DEFINITION OF
'HIGH IN' NUTRITIONAL DESCRIPTORS FOR FATS, SUGARS AND
SODIUM**

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Canada and India for the preparation of the discussion paper on criteria for the definition of 'high in' nutritional descriptors for fats, sugars and sodium.

The EU legislation does not establish threshold levels for high levels of nutrients of public health concern (fats, sugars or sodium). In order to inform consumers on nutritional values, Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 on food information to consumers provides for mandatory nutrition declaration on pre-packed foods. In addition, in order to help consumers identifying the essential nutrition information when purchasing foods, the Regulation allows the repetition on front-of-pack of the most important elements of the nutrition declaration: the energy value alone or the energy value together with the amounts of fat, saturates, sugars and the sodium content expressed as salt. The Regulation also acknowledges that additional forms of expression and presentation of the nutrition declaration (e.g. graphical forms, symbols) may help consumers to better understand the nutrition declaration and allows for different forms to be developed by Member States or food business operators on the basis of criteria established in Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.

The EUMS point to Section 4 of the discussion paper CX/FL 19/45/11 concluding that "*the 'high in' nutritional descriptions are generally associated with front-of-pack labelling with the aim of simplifying nutrition information or highlighting the presence of negative nutrients for consumers.*"

In this context, the EUMS consider that there is potential overlap between work on principles for 'high in' criteria and both the ongoing Codex work on Guidelines on front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FOPNL) and the stock-take and possible future work on nutrient profiles, aiming to complement the work of CCFL on FOPNL, under the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

Therefore, the EUMS consider it necessary to first finalise / further progress on the work on FOPNL and nutrient profiles to allow for the identification of any potential gaps and for taking an informed decision about the need for any further work in this area.