

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
(Forty-fourth Session)
Asunción, Paraguay, 16 – 20 October 2017**

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 7:

**Discussion Paper on Consideration of Issues Regarding Front-of-Pack
Nutrition Labelling (CX/FL 17/44/7)**

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Costa Rica and New Zealand for the preparation of the discussion paper and its attached Draft Project Document on the Development of Guidance on Use of Simplified Nutrition Information on the Front of Pack.

The EUMS consider that the Codex *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* allow for the use of front of pack nutrition labelling. However, the content of the related section being limited, the EUMS support further development in this area via the inclusion of general principles for the development and implementation of front of pack labelling systems within Section 5 of the existing *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*. A clear definition of FOPL should also be included.

The EU Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 on foods information to consumers allows, Member States to recommend or food business operators to use additional forms of expression and presentation of the mandatory nutrition declaration on the front of pack, provided that the following requirements are met:

- (a) they are based on sound and scientifically valid consumer research and do not mislead the consumer;
- (b) their development is the result of consultation with a wide range of stakeholder groups;
- (c) they aim to facilitate consumer understanding of the contribution or importance of the food to the energy and nutrient content of a diet;
- (d) they are supported by scientifically valid evidence of understanding of such forms of expression or presentation by the average consumer;
- (e) in the case of other forms of expression, they are based either on the harmonised reference intakes, or in their absence, on generally accepted scientific advice on intakes for energy or nutrients;
- (f) they are objective and non-discriminatory; and
- (g) their application does not create obstacles to the free movement of goods.

Regarding nutritional front-of-pack system referring to the overall beneficial nutritional quality of a food as a whole, the EU Regulation (EC) 1924/2006 on nutrition and health

claims made on foods also allows Member States to develop and adopt such systems provided that the general requirements of the legislation are met. However, no specific criteria have been developed at this stage for this kind of system.

To conclude, the EUMS support further development at Codex level in the area of front of pack nutrition labelling through the elaboration of a definition of FOPL and of general principles within the existing *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*. In case of agreement to pursue this work, further considerations will need to be given on the respective roles of CCFL and CCNFSU in the revision of these guidelines.