



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 November 2007

15612/07

**SAN 227
DENLEG 118**

NOTE

from: Permanent Representatives Committee
to: Council

No. prev. doc.: 15410/07 SAN 214 DENLEG 111
No. Cion. doc.: 9838/07 SAN 110 DENLEG 44

Subject: EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
COUNCIL MEETING ON 5 AND 6 DECEMBER 2007

Commission White Paper on a **strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity related issues**

- *Exchange of views / Adoption of Council Conclusions*
(Public debate, pursuant to Article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])

1. At its meeting on 28 November 2007, the Permanent Representatives Committee examined the above-mentioned text proposed by the Presidency and agreed to transmit the draft conclusions as set out in the Annex to the Council.
2. The Council is invited to adopt the proposed draft conclusions.

**Draft Council Conclusions on Putting an EU strategy on Nutrition,
Overweight and Obesity related Health Issues into operation**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. RECALLS that Article 152 of the Treaty states that a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities, and that Article 153 of the Treaty states that consumer protection requirements shall be taken into account in defining and implementing other Community policies and activities.
2. Further RECALLS the Badenweiler conference in February 2007 and its memorandum under the German Presidency, the Obesity Charter agreed by Member States at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity in November 2006 and the WHO European Second Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy, endorsed in 2007.
3. WELCOMES the recent White Paper, "A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues" (hereinafter White Paper), adopted on 30 May 2007, which sets out the Commission's vision for how it can best assist actions taken by the Member States and thereby optimise an EU response to the issue of unhealthy dietary habits and low levels of physical activity.
4. WELCOMES the inter-sectoral focus adopted in the White Paper, and the partnership approach it seeks to encourage and develop across the EU.
5. Furthermore WELCOMES the emphasis placed in the White Paper on the promotion of physical activity opportunities which, in addition to nutrition, have an important impact on a healthy lifestyle.

6. SUPPORTS the creation of a High-Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity comprising Member States' representatives, designed to promote the sharing of best practice and strengthen the link between the initiatives of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (herein after "the EU Platform") and activities at national level.
7. WELCOMES the proposal contained in the White Paper for Member States to consider salt reduction as a first priority for discussion within the High-Level Group, bearing in mind that promising national initiatives already exist.
8. WELCOMES the challenge set out in the White Paper to the food, retail and advertising sectors to take actions in areas such as the marketing to children and adolescents of energy-dense foods, high in fat, salt and sugar, and product reformulation in the framework of the EU Platform.
9. CALLS UPON Member States to:
 - work together to develop joint actions with relevant stakeholders and with the Commission as needed and as appropriate to Member States, including supporting the development of relevant core messages as part of comprehensive actions for key population groups in order to achieve the positive change in health behaviour;
 - support activities aimed at the reformulation of foods to reduce levels of salt, saturated fat, "trans" fatty acids, added sugar and energy density given the role these elements play in the development of chronic diseases, overweight and obesity;
 - engage actively in the development of age appropriate information initiatives on alcohol, such as raising awareness about the calorific content of alcoholic products, given the role that harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption, alone or together with poor eating and physical activity habits, can play in the development of chronic diseases;

- review the use of Community funds to develop regional and local infrastructure to encourage physical activity and healthy eating at school;
- support the WHO and the European Commission in developing a common surveillance system that can monitor actions put in place and their impact on eating habits and physical activity issues of different population groups, namely children and adolescents, particularly in relation to obesity and overweight, and facilitates the dissemination of best practices, by providing relevant data concerning national actions;
- encourage schools and parents to prioritise the promotion of healthy nutrition, by making healthier food choices easier, accessible and desired, and increased physical activity for children including participation in recreational activities, exercise and sports;
- work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to actively promote healthy nutrition, sporting and leisure opportunities that support active living;
- work with relevant stakeholders, including employers, to encourage the provision of an environment that empowers individuals to make healthier food choices, such as the availability of healthy foods and opportunities to be more physically active, namely in the context of health promotion in the workplace and in the schools.

10. CALLS UPON the European Commission to:

- press ahead with the meetings of the High-Level Group, taking into account the work of relevant international organisations, especially the WHO and to follow up the work of the EU Platform;
- come forward with its foreseen proposals for nutrition labelling, in line with the approach set out in the White Paper, that will strengthen nutrition labelling as a channel for clear, consistent, evidence-based information for consumers, thereby better enabling consumers to make healthier choices;

- put forward its planned proposal for the promotion of fruit and vegetables co-financed by the European Union as part of the reform of the Common Market Organisation (CMO);
 - support the Member States in the effort to use Community funds for the development of infrastructure to encourage physical activity;
 - develop research in the fields of nutrition, consumer behaviours and physical activity, in particular operational research linked with the evaluation of intervention strategies;
 - publish a progress report in 2010 analysing the situation and actions taken in the EU and giving recommendations about the future priorities and approaches at European level.
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REFERENCES

1. Council Resolution on Health and Nutrition (OJ C 20, 23.1.2001, p. 1)
2. Conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Health of the Member States on Nutrition and Health (OJ C 148, 12.6.1992, p. 2)
3. Resolution concerning an Action Programme on Nutrition and Health (OJ C 329, 31.12.1990, p. 1)
4. Council Conclusions on Obesity (OJ C 11, 17.1.2003, p. 3)
5. Council Conclusions on Healthy Lifestyles (OJ C 22, 27.01.04, p. 1)
6. Council Conclusions on Promoting Heart Health (doc. 9507/04 (Presse 163) of 02.06.2004)
7. Council Conclusions on Obesity, Nutrition and Physical Activity (doc. 8980/05 (Presse 117) of 03.06.2005)
8. Council Conclusions on Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles and Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes (OJ C 147, 23.6.2006, p. 1)
9. Council Conclusions on strengthening of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention by means of balanced Nutrition and sufficient physical Activity (doc. 10026/07 of 31 May 2007)

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