

REVISION OF THE REGULATION ON FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS (FIC)

DHoU A1 - Antimicrobial resistance, human nutrition
DG SANTE

CDG MILK
03 October 2022



Food labelling initiatives in the Farm to Fork Strategy and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

F2F Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly EU food system by 2030

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Sustainable Food Processing & Distribution



Set **nutrient profiles** restricting nutrition and health claims to stimulate reformulation

Sustainable Food consumption



Harmonized, mandatory **front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

Extending mandatory **origin indication** to certain foods

Food Loss & Waste Prevention



Revision of EU rules on **date marking**

Sustainable cancer prevention



Labelling of **alcoholic beverages** (nutrition declaration and list of ingredients)

Harmonized, mandatory **front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC)

Problems – FOPNL and nutrient profiles



Too few consumers are making **healthy food choices**.



Some FBOs make health and nutrition **claims on products that are not healthy**.



Some products are labelled with FOPNLs while others are not.



Some **FBOs reformulate** their products to make them healthier while others do not.

▶ Lack of consistent and accessible information for consumers inhibits informed consumer choice.

▶ Inconsistency in the rules on food labelling across MS result in single market fragmentation.

Problems – Origin Labelling



Consumers do **not receive information on the origin** of certain products for which consumers have a **particular interest** to know where they come from.



Some FBOs are required to provide origin label whilst others do not (national rules).



▶ Lack of consistent and accessible information for consumers inhibits informed consumer choice.

▶ Inconsistency in the rules on food labelling across MS result in single market fragmentation.

Problems – Date Marking



Consumers **treat 'best before' (BB) date as a 'use by' (UB) date**, even when they understand what best before' means.



Current date marking information (esp. 'best before') is **not read and/or understood** by most consumers.



There is **inconsistent / inappropriate application of date marking** between MS and in products groups within individual MS.

▶ Lack of consistent and accessible information for consumers inhibits informed consumer choice.

▶ Inconsistency in the rules on food labelling across MS result in single market fragmentation.

What should be achieved?

► Ensure a high level of consumer protection (right to information)

Short-term

- ✓ Allowing consumers to make informed choices
- ✓ Harmonised labels across the EU

Long-term

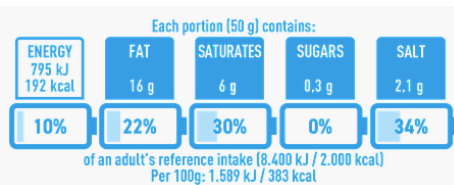
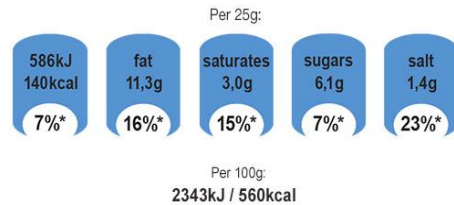
- ✓ Public health (FOPNL, nutrient profiles and alcoholic beverage labelling)
- ✓ Environmental objectives (date marking / food waste, origin labelling)

Policy Options – FOPNL and nutrient profiles

Current EU FOP label formats form **basis of different policy options and their combinations:**

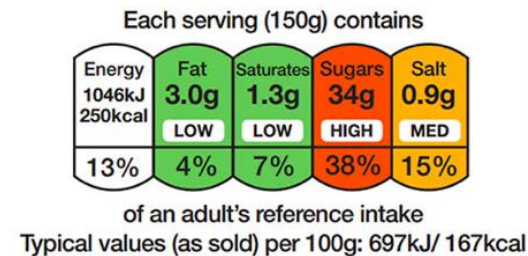
Nutrient-specific labels (information on individual nutrients)

Non-colour-coded Option 1.



Numerical information on energy + unfavorable nutrients

Colour-coded Option 2.



Numerical information on energy + unfavorable nutrients and colours classify each nutrient as low/medium/high

Summary labels (information on overall nutritional value)

Endorsement logos Option 3.



Positive logo that can be applied only on foods that comply with the nutritional criteria

Graded indicators Option 4.



Graded indicator that can be applied on all foods

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.

Policy Options – Origin Labelling

Option 1.	Mandatory origin indication at EU/non-EU level
Option 2.	Mandatory origin indication at National level (Member State or third country)
Option 3.	Mandatory origin indication at regional level . Region is defined as any other geographical area within a Member State, a third country or several countries, which is well understood by normally informed consumers or defined under public international law.
Option 4.	A mix of elements from the three preceding options

Modalities:

Milk and milk as an ingredient	Meat as an ingredient	Rabbit and game meat	Durum wheat used in pasta	Rice	Potatoes	Tomato used in certain tomato products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of milking - Place of processing - Place of packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of birth - Place of rearing - Place of slaughtering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of rearing (for rabbit only) - Place of hunting/ Place of slaughtering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of harvest - Place of milling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of harvest - Place of processing - Place of packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of harvest - Place of processing - Place of packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place of harvest - Place of processing

Policy Options – Date Marking

Option 1.

Extend the list of foods not requiring a ‘best before’ date. Add more products to the list of foods for which the ‘best before’ date is not required.

Option 2a.

Abolish the ‘best before’ date. ‘Best before’ dates to be removed from all food products.

Option 2b.

Abolish the ‘best before’ date and replace it by a ‘production date’. This would apply to all products currently displaying a ‘best before’ date.

Option 3.

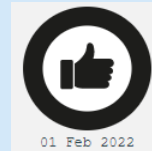
Improve expression and presentation of date marking

Improve the expression and presentation of date marking through the application of a ‘best before’ and a ‘use by’ symbol, an extended wording, or a fixed location on the packaging for date marking.

A. Use different symbols for the ‘use by’ and the ‘best before’ dates for example:



[to represent ‘use by’]



[to represent ‘best before’]

B. Extend the wording to clarify meaning of ‘use by’ and ‘best before’ dates, for example ‘best before, often good after’.

C. Define a fixed positioning for date marking on the pack, making it easier for consumers to locate date markings.

Key Steps – IA and Revision of FIC Regulation



Inception Impact Assessments / Roadmaps



External study



Open public consultation (Have Your Say webpage)
+ targeted surveys (businesses, SMEs, authorities, health/consumer groups) + interviews + case studies + workshops



Additional scientific evidence and studies (EFSA, JRC, Consumer study)



Impact Assessment of various policy options



Proposal for revised Legislation
adopted by COM



Revised Legislation
adopted by European Parliament and Council



Implementation Legislation

550+ replies (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021)

9 months (Sept 2021 – beg. September 2022)

13 Dec 2021 - 7 March 2022, 3200+ replies

Targeted surveys (Feb - March 2022) and other consultations (Feb - April 2022)

EFSA Scientific Opinion (public consultation Nov 2021 - Jan 2022, 80+ contributions; publication 19 April 2022)
JRC studies (publication 9 Sept 2022) & consumer study

Staff Working Document (Q3/Q4 2022)

Scheduled in coming months

Ordinary legislative procedure (2023 - ...)

Transition period

Additional input to the Impact Assessment

- 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
 - Published on 19 April 2022: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/nutrient-profiling-scientific-advice-eu-farm-fork-initiative>
- JRC literature review on FOPNL, JRC literature review on the indication of origin on food labels
 - Published on 9 September 2022: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/evidence-food-information-empowering-consumers-make-healthy-and-sustainable-choices-2022-09-09_en
- EFSA Guidance on date marking (April 2021) and consumer research study to explore, test, and validate possible new ways of expressing date marking

Thank you

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



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