



NUTRI-SCORE

NUTRITION LABELLING

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MAC WG 3

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How did it come about?

Background

- **Food information to Consumers Regulation (EU) 1169/2011** allows for “**additional forms of expression**” (Art.35) if they fulfil certain requirements (criteria – next slide) repeating *mandatory* information provided in the nutrition declaration.
- Policy objectives of FOP labelling are two-fold:
 - > (1) to provide additional information to consumers to inform healthier food choices and
 - > (2) to encourage food business operators to **reformulate** products towards healthier options
- Several joint meeting were organised in 2018 to discuss the evolution of the FoP schemes and the next steps for the Commission

General criteria Art 35

- a) they are based on sound and **scientifically valid consumer research** and do not mislead the consumer;
- b) 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 by the **average consumer**;
- e) in the case of other forms of expression, they are based either on the **harmonised reference intakes** set out in Annex XIII, or in their absence, on **generally accepted scientific advice on intakes for energy or nutrients**;
- f) they are objective and non-discriminatory; and
- g) application does not create obstacles to free movement.

“When the FIC Regulation was adopted in 2011, we left unresolved questions for later debate. This is why we are now in this complex situation, because it was not clarified from the start”

Current situation - European Union

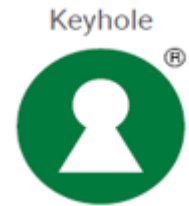
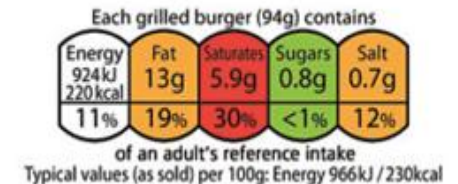
An overview FoP



-  Traffic light system
-  Choices logo
-  Nordic keyhole
-  Finnish Heart
-  Slovenian Heart
-  Croatia Healthy living
-  Nutri-Score
-  Italian scheme (pipeline)
-  Considering the best scheme to adopt
-  No clear position

FOP Nutritional labelling – current situation

- **FRANCE:** In favour of *mandatory Nutri-Score*
- **GERMANY:** Nutri-Score
- **BELGIUM:** Adopted Nutri-Score (claim)
- **SPAIN:** To adopt Nutri-Score
- **NETHERLANDS:** To adopt Nutri-Score
- **Traffic Lights (UK)** – long standing scheme (since 2013)
- **Nutrition Traffic Light (Portugal)** – 2018
- **Scandinavian Keyhole** - since 2009: Common Nordic labelling scheme in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.
- **FINLAND:** Finnish heart
- **ITALY:** Battery scheme; strong opposition to Nutri-Score: It would penalize national delicacies such as fatty cheeses and olive oils.
- **IRELAND:** Developing its own scheme



How is Nutri-Score governed & calculated?

Nutri - score



- Color scale combined with letter codes indicates which **products within a certain product group** are healthier.
- The Nutri-Score label are determined on the basis of the **algorithm** developed by the French Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team.
- Algorithm links **positive properties** (protein, fiber & fruit content, vegetables, nuts) to **negative properties** (energy, sugars, saturated fat, sodium (stating salt)) to arrive at a score between -15 (best) and +40 (worst).
Per 100 gr
- Score reduced to a combination of a letter and a color. Dark green stands for best nutritional value (preferable), red stands for worst nutritional value (intake to be limited).

Nutriscore – Fish

- Smoked salmon: Orange (D)
 - > Due to salt and fat content
- White fish : generally green (A)



Prod	Cat	Brand	KJ	sat fat	sug	fibre	prot ein	salt	fruit	total fat	NS KJ	NS SF	NS Sugar	NS Fibre	NS prot ein	NS Salt	NS Fruit ...	NS Scor e	NS Letter
Salmon	Fish frozen	xxx	821	2,2	0,5	0	20	0,1			2	2	0	0	5	0	0	-1	A
Salmon	Fish canned	xxx	650	1,5	0	0,6	24	0,6			1	1	0	0	5	2	0	-1	A
Salmon	Fish smoked	xxx	888	3,9	0	0	23,5	3			2	3	0	0	5	10	0	15	D

Challenges FoP schemes

- **Create barriers to the single market single:** National schemes officially recommended by a government can create barriers.
- Nutritional recommendations differ across the EU according to **diet** (*controversy among nutrition scientist and sectors*)
- **Setting of criteria:** Adjust to regional food habits? Who decides? Stigmatising certain products and product groups? Conflicting messages health & nutrition? Data accuracy?
- One logo reduces other options to communicate on healthy food? Reduced flexibility for FBOs?
- The scheme likely to evolve in the future as science develops - Transitional periods needed
- How to keep **consumer interest** in relation to other food messages?
- Development in Codex and the EU and further co-existence

Controversy

European Parliament

- Growing scepticism of Italian MEPs over the feasibility of the scheme: several written questions on Nutri-Score stressing that the scheme is misleading consumers, that it is against the ‘Mediterranean diet’ or it is against ‘made in Italy’ products.
- MEP Luisa Regimenti presented a motion for a resolution on ‘Nutri-Score and food labelling schemes’, calling on the Commission to curb the spread of labelling schemes which “is misleading for consumers”.

Other actions



- **Pro Nutri – Score: Citizens initiative: 08/05/2019 – 08/05/2019**
- **Objective:** asking the Commission to impose simplified ‘Nutriscore’ labelling on food products: **111.475 Supporters => petition withdrawn**
- **28 April:** Nearly 40 stakeholders from across the spectrum – incl BEUC, consumer groups, policy makers, academics, food companies and retailers – are calling for the nutrition label **Nutri-Score** to become mandatory in the EU.
- **14 May:** Letter by 12 German (incl. Norbert Lins – chair of EP COMAGRI) and Italian MEPs to **Commissioner Kyriakides on Front of Pack labelling schemes**, calling for a deep evaluation of front of pack schemes and a science-based approach possibly involving EFSA.

Other developments

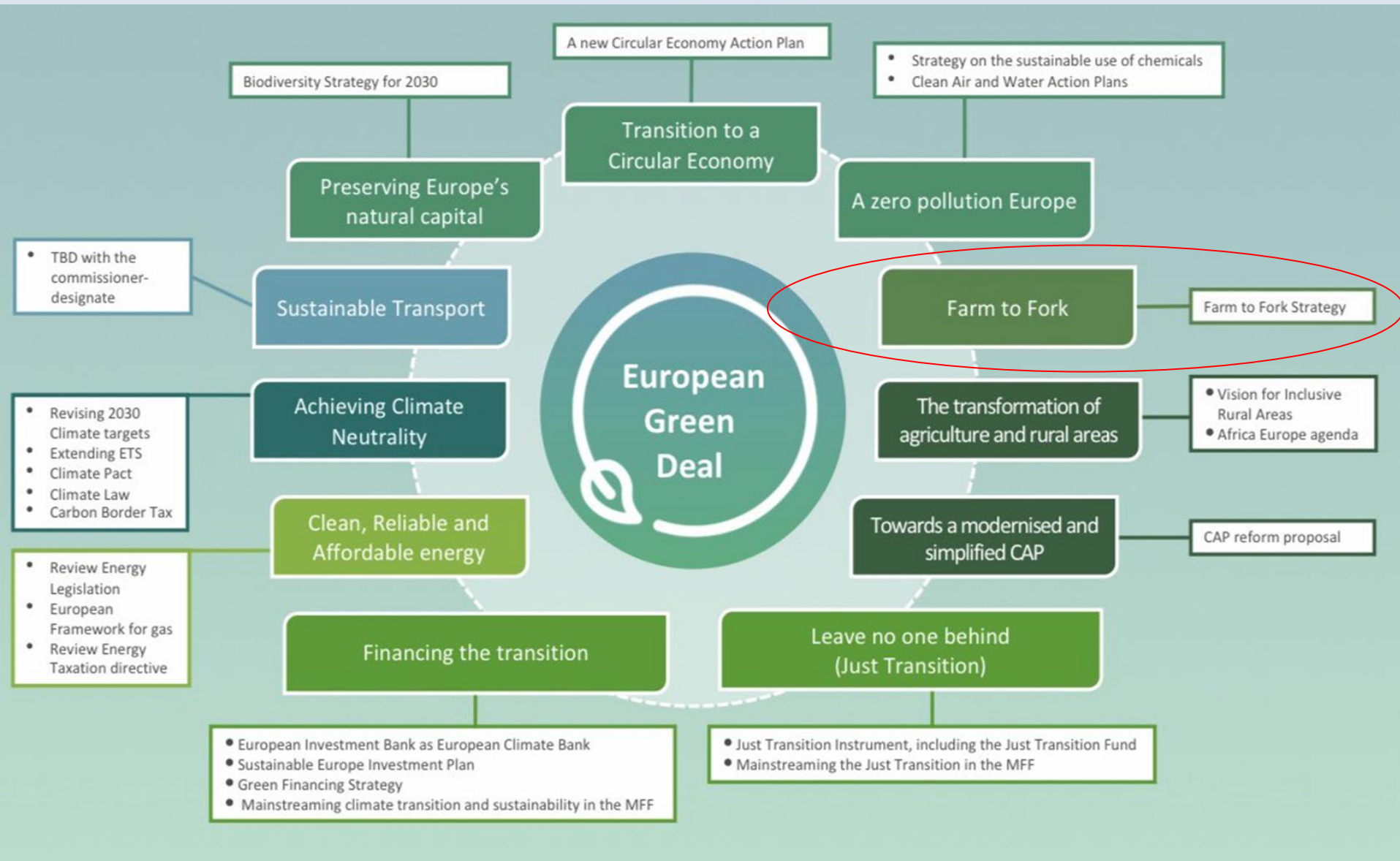
On the Nutriscore, the French assembly voted in favour of mandatory nutri-score on **advertising materials** (mandatory on pack would go against EU law).

It will enter into force on 1 Janvier 2021.

However, manufacturers can be exempted from mandatory display of nutri-score in ads if they pay a contribution to the French Health Agency.

EU institutions – Looking forward

Commission: Green Deal



Commission: What can we expect?

Ms Stella KYRIAKIDES Commissioner-designate for Health:

- **Health:** requires a holistic, whole-of-society approach, promoting **healthy food and a healthy lifestyle**, in a healthy social and institutional setting.
- **Consumer information:** address demands for **more visible and complete information**, especially on health & sustainability.
- **'Farm to Fork'** strategy for sustainable food (pesticides, sourcing etc.): adopt a systemic and holistic approach to sustainable change, addressing each step of the food chain. Greater alignment on the sustainability axis between food production, processing, distribution and consumption



The Commission will be harmonizing front of pack labelling but not mandating the type of labelling.....

Farm to Fork

- Given this political priority, the above elements and the potential of FOP schemes to help consumers make health-conscious food choices, it seems appropriate to introduce a harmonised mandatory FOP nutrition labelling at EU-level. The Commission will in due course prepare a legislative proposal in line with the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy and with better regulation principles.

Farm to Fork

- On 20 May, the JRC report (*initially due in Dec 2017*) on those voluntary schemes on their **effect on the internal market** and on the **advisability of further harmonisation** was published.
 - On the same day, the Commission published its report regarding the use of additional forms of expression and presentation of the nutrition declaration, accompanying the Farm to Fork strategy.
- => **Commission will present proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices by Q4 2022.**