

# **MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**11 JUNE 2014  
10.00 - 16.00**

**CHAIR: John F. Ryan, Acting Director SANCO C**

## **MINUTES**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION BY THE COMMISSION**

The meeting was opened by the **Chair Mr John F. Ryan** who welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda focussing on the selected nutrients framework, on inequalities in health and nutrition and on the Joint Action on Nutrition and Physical Activity.

The draft agenda of the day was adopted. The High Level Group approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **2. SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND NUTRITION: ELEMENTS OF FRENCH SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE**

Mr Michel Chauliac, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, France, presented the French experience with social inequalities and nutrition. The presentation highlighted the growing social disparity associated with healthy diets and regular physical exercise, and showed that a combination of short-term and long-term policy interventions is needed.

As the debate that followed the presentation raised a lot of interest, questions and discussions between Member States representatives, it was agreed to look into this topic regularly at future meetings and in possible future actions. It was also decided to call on the Platform' stakeholders to consider the topic of health inequalities as an orientation for action.

### **3. VOLUNTARY MENU CALORIE LABELLING**

Under this point followed a discussion on voluntary or mandatory menu board calorie labelling. It is an issue that is mentioned in the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity.

Ms Stephanie Bodenbach (Commission) gave a presentation on the legal background (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers) and gave a brief overview of the countries that have such systems. Afterwards, HLG members Ms Jo Newstead (United Kingdom), Ms Ursula O'Dwyer (Ireland) and Ms Katarina Wahlgren (Sweden) shortly explained the functioning of such systems in their respective countries.

### **4. NUTRIENTS FRAMEWORK, INVOLVING THE FOOD CATEGORY DAIRY**

Ms Bodenbach opened the discussion on the Nutrients Framework with a focus on the food category "Dairy". The aim of the presentation was to start a discussion on how to take

forward the reformulation work with regard to saturated fat, starting with dairy products. Ms Bodenbach suggested some possible approaches for implementation in 2014 and beyond. Ms Joyce de Stoppelaar (European Dairy Association) was invited to share examples of successful joint work between their member organisations and national governments in reducing fat content in dairy and/or promoting the low-fat dairy option.

## **5. PROMOTING THE CONSUMPTION OF WATER**

There was a brief discussion on ways to promote the intake of water, including notes on different experiences and views on the possibilities of lowering taxation rates on bottled water. A future meeting may discuss ways to promote the lowest possible price of bottle water.

## **6. DECREE ON THE NUTRITIONAL REGULATIONS OF PUBLIC CATERING IN HUNGARY**

Ms Eva Martos, National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science, presented the recent Hungarian decree on Nutritional Regulations of Public Catering.

## **7. OBESITY AND INEQUITIES**

Dr Belinda Loring, Programme Manager for National Health Policies at the WHO, presented a policy brief on obesity and inequities. The report was not a new research but rather a pooling together and synthesising of the existing evidence on inequalities in Europe. Copies of the report were distributed.

## **8. JOINT ACTION**

The Commission and Mr Michel Chauliac, in the name of France, Leader of the upcoming Joint Action on Nutrition and Physical Activity, updated the participants on the developments on the Joint Action and its different Work Packages. A first Drafting Group meeting between confirmed Joint Action participants took place on 27 May in Luxembourg.

The discussion at the plenary meeting focused on the general objectives, the relation with the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity, the work packages and participants' roles. Work will be taken forward at the second Drafting Group meeting on 11 July in order to progress on the administrative application with the aim to have the Joint Action starting in January 2015. The Chair called upon all Member States to participate in this initiative.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Milan EXPO will run from 1 May to 31 October 2015 under the theme “Feeding the planet, Energy for Life”. The Commission will share a pavilion with the European Parliament and events can be organised outside.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

**The Chair** concluded the following:

- The High Level Group will in the future come back to the issue of social inequalities and calls on the Platform members to consider this as an orientation for action.

- Progress on the Joint Action has been reported and the Member States have demonstrated their willingness to develop work before the next meeting of the Joint Action drafting Group (scheduled for 11 July in Luxembourg).

The next meeting will be in Brussels on 25 November. One of the topics that will be addressed is Health Enhancing Physical Activity.