

## European Union Position

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

#### Definition for nutrient reference values (NRVs)

##### Reply to CL 2010/21-FL

##### *European Union competence*

##### *European Union vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes the opportunity to respond to CL 2010/21-FL regarding the definition of nutrient reference values (NRVs) for use with respect to the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling CAC/ GL 2-1985.

The European Union (EU) notes the discussion that took place during the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and the decision of the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to seek approval of new work on the development of a definition for "Nutrient Reference Values" for inclusion in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling. The EU can agree to the proposal to include a definition in the Guidelines.

The EU considers that the following short definition that was proposed by the CCNFSDU is sufficient: "*Nutrient reference values are a set of numerical values established and used for purposes of nutrition labelling*". This definition clearly indicates what nutrient reference values consist of and their main purpose.

Taking into consideration the definition of "nutrition labelling" in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, which covers not only the nutrition declaration but also supplementary nutrition information, the EU considers that the reference to "nutrition labelling" would include the reference to the nutrient reference values for protein and vitamins and minerals in the criteria for nutrition claims in the Codex Guideline for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997).

The EU does not consider that it is necessary to extend the definition with the statements "*and are based on scientific data on nutrient requirements*" and "*and/or nutrient levels associated with risk of diet-related noncommunicable diseases*" to further explain basic principles that might underlie the identification of the nutrient reference values themselves.

The EU considers that the extension of the definition would make it unnecessarily complicated and potentially restrictive. The ongoing work on the principles for establishing NRVs for labelling purposes with respect to vitamins and minerals and nutrients related to the risk of noncommunicable diseases provides recommendations on the how the values should be derived. These recommendations are to be taken into account when such work is undertaken within the Codex Alimentarius process and they provide a framework that member countries can take into account if they derive specific values for their own population or population groups.