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Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Health and Social Services Committee

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Commissioner Markos Kyprianou  
European Commission  
Directorate-General Health and  
consumer Protection  
Unit C4-Health Determinants

14 March 2006

Dear Mr Kyprianou,

**GREEN PAPER: Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases.**

The Health and Social Services Committee of the National Assembly for Wales discussed the green paper when it met on 16 February.

The Committee agreed with much of the green paper and acknowledged that more needs to be done in Wales to promote healthy lifestyles. The Members accept the importance of dissemination of good practice and noted that there are good examples in Wales that have been shared with other European countries.

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The Welsh Assembly Government has introduced a number of major initiatives in recent years:

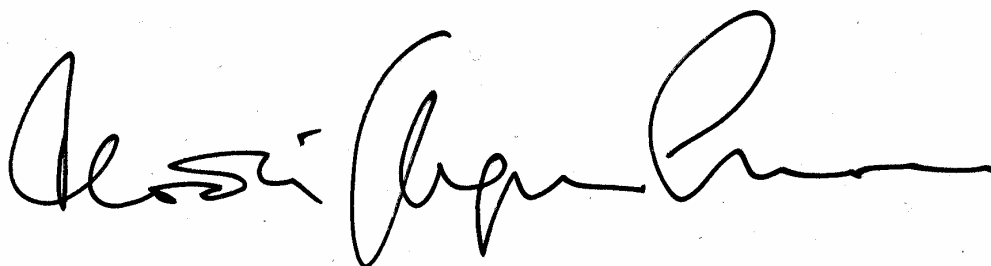
- the healthy schools network, whereby local education and health authorities work together to promote good health for school children; and
- A food and fitness strategy for all ages, as part of Health Challenge Wales.

In addition the Health Inequalities Fund has provided grant for many local projects to address health promotion and prevention in deprived communities. Details of these are contained in the Assembly Government's report "The Inequalities in Health Fund – Making a difference" (insert hyperlink)

There is still concern about the levels of obesity and rising numbers of children and younger people with type 2 diabetes. Members also felt that there should be more control over advertisements for unhealthy food that are aimed at children.

The Committee also took the view that the EU should take a lead in standardising labelling of food to show nutritional content. The UK Food Standards Agency is advocating a traffic light system to show at a glance which foods are good or bad, but the indications are that many of the larger food producers may not use it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhodri Glyn Thomas', written in a cursive style.

**Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM**  
Chair

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