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Dear all

In behalf of VELB we would like to give our comments on the **Green Paper “Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases”**.

- 1) We think that it is very important to raise awareness of the importance of healthy diets and physical activity, to prevent overweight, obesity and chronic diseases and therefore welcome this green paper.
- 2) We refer to page 12 of this paper, point V.11. other issues: “Are there issues not addressed in the present Green paper which need consideration when looking at the European dimension of the promotion of diet, physical activity and health?”
YES: The issue not addressed in your paper is breastfeeding, infant and young child feeding, including nutrition in pregnancy and during the lactational period.
 - The importance of breastfeeding has already been recognised in EU Council. Resolution 14272/00, Brussels, 2000 and public health projects but is missing in the current Green paper
 - EU member states already launched in recent years a number of initiatives to promote breastfeeding (Annex 3 – Reference 9 in the Green paper).
 - The importance of exclusive breastfeeding for at least six month, of maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy, during the lactational period as well as early infant and young child nutrition has been recognised in global strategies fully endorsed by the EU.

We know and are sure, that breastfeeding has a great positive impact on the mentioned issues in the Green paper and supports the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases. Therefore it should be mentioned and be given the importance it's supposed to have.

We also refer to the comments on the EC Green paper made by the EU task force on breastfeeding.

In behalf of VELB

Christa Müller-Aregger, IBCLC
Board Member

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