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To: SANCO C4

Subject: NUTRITION GREEN PAPER

Answers to some of the questions raised in the EU Green Paper:

- Using the "pyramid of foods", establish and demarcate an area in food supermarkets in which all basic foods can be found; this would be an area in which people could buy only those foods that contribute to a healthy diet, therefore avoiding foods for occasional or exceptional use.

- Encourage appropriate, varied and balanced shopping through information provision, training and education, and by means of comparative analyses of foods for daily consumption and foods for exceptional use, contrasting the advantages of good consumption and showing that there is no reason why eating "well" should be difficult or expensive.

- Arrange for the institutions to contribute substantially through subsidies and free distribution of basic foods to the population on the basis of the purchasing power of the members of the family unit.

- Ensure that the labelling of foods is easy to read, in other words, the paper and its colour and the type and its colour should make it easy to read the label; it is also necessary to prevent processes of heat-sealing or closing of containers from affecting the composition of the food or ingredients or from making the label difficult to read.

- Ensure that any substances that can cause an allergy, intolerance or adverse reactions are highlighted on labels, instead of just being included in the list of ingredients — so that a quick glance shows people whether the food concerned contains any of the substances included in the EU labelling rules.

- Stipulate that the first language in which the information on ingredients is provided should be the language of the country to which the product will be sent.

- Promote physical activity of all school children, including weekend activities for children in secondary schools. In many cases, the considerable distance between establishments of education and children's homes and the lack of safety in streets and parks means that school pupils do not go out; however, if all-day events are organised, for example typical games, dances, etc., transport is provided to the centre, the children's safety is guaranteed and hazards are kept to a minimum, this would be an option.

- In canteens, catering facilities, restaurants, etc. ensure that menus include nutritionally balanced dishes from the corresponding geographical area; for this reason, dieticians should be involved, not only in drawing up the menus, but also in altering these dishes to include ingredients and to make them nutritionally balanced.

- Provide areas for physical activity at places of work: recreation areas, gymnasiums, etc.

I hope and trust that all the contributions that the Commission receives will help it to solve the questions raised and that this stage does not last too long.

Regards