

One page briefing note: First Meeting of the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity, 29 November 2007

The High Level Group met for the first time last week, 29 November 2007. All EU27 have nominated a representative, with Switzerland, Norway and the World Health Organization taking part as observers. At the meeting, it was agreed that the Group's mandate should cover:-

1. Ensuring that promising initiatives are swiftly brought to the attention of all countries, and action developed in liaison with other stakeholder forums where relevant
2. Disseminating and promoting actions across their government's Ministries
3. Identifying priority topics for action, and developing a work programme in liaison with other stakeholders (other services of the Commission, the EU Platform)
4. Acting as the focal point of co-ordination of national action to follow up the strategy, for example on salt campaigns and local platforms
5. Reviewing legislative developments in Member States, and at EU level
6. Developing and reporting on implementation of work programme topics within their Member States
7. Sharing approaches to monitoring, such as data collection and indicators

The HLG also considered its work programme for the year ahead. It was agreed that the Group should pursue four action areas in 2008

1. Reformulation (with salt reduction a priority for 2008 for most Member States)
2. Developing effective public-private partnerships – sharing experience on the forms these can take, lessons learnt for setting/coordinating/facilitating these. It is proposed to have a joint HLG/EU Platform meeting during 2008.
3. Physical activity – by developing local level networking such as through the Ecode European Network (EEN)

Fourthly, the Group identified a number of legislative/policy topics on which they would like to exchange information during 2008, with each other and with the Commission. This includes labelling, nutrient profiling, marketing (e.g. the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive), EU agricultural policy developments etc.

3 December, 2007