

JOINT MEETING

OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND THE EU PLATFORM FOR ACTION ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

**10 JUNE 2014
14.00- 17.00**

**CENTRE DE CONFÉRENCE ALBERT BORSCHETTE (CCAB)
(ROOM 2D)**

CHAIR: PAOLA TESTORI COGGI¹

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTION BY THE COMMISSION

The meeting was chaired by Director-General of SANCO, Ms Paola Testori Coggi, who welcomed the members to the sixth Joint Meeting of the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity and the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The meeting was mostly dedicated to discussion on the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity and on Public Private Partnership initiatives. The draft agenda was accepted.

The Chair Ms mentioned that she is pleased to see that nutrition and physical activity are getting increasingly political support. She referred to the fact that the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on nutrition and physical activity on 20 June. In addition, the colleagues from the Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture have a conference on 11 June 2014 to launch the preparatory work toward the European Sport Week in 2015.

2. KEY ADDRESS BY COMMISSIONER TONIO BORG

Commissioner Tonio Borg reaffirmed the importance of the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity and of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Their valuable contributions to the promotion of healthy diets and of adequate physical activity were highlighted. The Commissioner stressed how the size of the problem requires more action from all stakeholders.

The importance of the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity was emphasized, as was the need to follow through with its implementation and monitoring. The Commissioner called for better and wider action on the determinants of chronic diseases and for all stakeholders to be more demanding with themselves.

¹ From agenda point 3 Mr John F. Ryan was the Chair of the meeting.

Following the Commissioner's key address, FoodDrinkEurope reiterated its ongoing support to the EU Platform as well as the importance of partnerships with other stakeholders in the fight against obesity and diet related non-communicable diseases.

3. ACTION PLAN ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY – UPDATE AND WAY FORWARD, presentation by the Commission

The Commission recalled the main points of the Action Plan and of the Council Conclusions that are expected for 20 June. Mr Philippe Roux added that one of the implementing instruments of the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity will be a 2 ½ years Joint Action running from 2015, with France as leader. Member States can thus share good practices and develop tools on childhood overweight and obesity. Two meetings were scheduled (27 May and 11 July) for participating Member States to define the goals and tasks of the Joint Action.

4. MONITORING OF THE ACTION PLAN ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY, presentation by WHO

The Action Plan on Childhood Obesity supports Member States in developing their own policies to tackle childhood obesity according to local needs. A monitoring mechanism is being devised with the collaboration of the WHO. Dr João Breda presented ways in which the monitoring may be undertaken, based on the actions and indicators chosen by the Member States. The importance of updated indicators for good policy-making was underlined by all participants. The Member States will be sent the revised list of indicators for comments and selection of an operational short list.

Following the presentation, FoodDrinkEurope asked whether and how voluntary Platform commitments would be reflected in the monitoring mechanism. In addition, FoodDrinkEurope raised attention to the fact that Platform members did not have a chance to review the presentation in advance and provide input. The Chair invited Platform members to send concrete comments on the indicators.

5. REPORTING OF THE ACTIONS OF THE EU PLATFORM, presentation by the Commission

Mr Liam Durack, DG SANCO, provided an update on the Platform commitments. There are currently 278 commitments in the database, of which 121 are active and 157 are non-active. So far, 10 new commitments (of which 2 are Joint initiatives) have been submitted in 2014. Of the new actions submitted, six are for "Advocacy and Information Exchange", three for "Physical Activity" and one for "Reformulation". New commitments for the current year can be submitted up to **30 November 2014**.

6. WHAT IS NEW, presentation by JRC

Ms Sandra Caldeira from the Joint Research Centre provided an overview of scientific news and developments in the fields of nutrition and physical activity. Ms Caldeira focused on recent publications and articles in scientific (peer-reviewed) journals with a focus on

childhood obesity and activities on school children, such as the recent JRC school food policy mapping activity.

7. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) – EXPERIENCES FROM MEMBER STATES AND STAKEHOLDERS

Denmark has some very successful PPPs in the area of nutrition, such as 6 A Day, Whole Grain Partnership and the Green Keyhole. Ms Else Molander (Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, and High Level Group member) and Ms Winnie Pauli (Danish Agriculture and Food Council) presented the topic from both the government and the industry points of view.

The European FOOD Programme was launched in 2009, co-funded by DG SANCO. The objective was to promote healthy eating habits among companies' employees during their working days. It also targeted restaurants in an effort to broaden their offer of healthier meals. The project started with 15 partners and has grown to 24 partners, both private and public, and is now being fully implemented in eight Member States. The European FOOD Programme, was presented by Mr Olivier Christiaens (FPS Public Health, Belgium) and Mr Pedro Graça (National Programme for the Promotion of Healthy Eating, Portugal).

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to add.

9. CONCLUSION

The Chair concluded the following:

- The Chair underlined Commissioner Borg's contribution to the debate.
- The members of both the High Level Group as well as the EU Platform will be kept informed and involved in the monitoring phase of the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity.
- The examples of Public Private Partnerships showed that cooperation between public and private actors can lead to successful outcomes.

The next High Level Group meeting will be on 25 November, focusing on the Action Plan and on Health Enhancing Physical Activity. The Platform will meet on 25 September and 24 November to discuss reformulation and marketing, respectively. The next joint meeting will take place in 2015 (date to be announced).