

Question for written answer E-004570/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Commission's lack of enforcement of the regulation on nutrient profiles

The idea behind Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods is that consumers should not be misled about the true nature of a product and, in particular, that food should not appear to be healthier than it actually is.

To this end, Article 4 obliges the Commission to, by 19 January 2009, establish specific nutrient profiles, including conditions of use, with which food or certain categories of food must comply in order to be allowed to bear claims.

However, nothing has happened since the entry into force of the regulation. Yet consumer organisations have repeatedly found claims prominently displayed on the front of packs of food high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fat. This is particularly true of food heavily marketed to children, such as breakfast cereals, snacks and cereal bars.

In February 2015, the WHO launched Europe's nutrient profiling model, which establishes EU-wide category-based criteria for restricting marketing to children.

1. What is the Commission's view of the WHO's guidance, and will the Commission propose officially endorsing the model?
2. In view of the WHO's guidance, and given that the nutrient profiles required by Article 4 of Regulation 1924/2006 are already 6 years overdue, what is the timetable for establishing the nutrient profiles, and when should we expect the draft measures?