

Question for written answer E-002644/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ulrike Müller (Renew)

Subject: Nutrient profiles and front-of-pack labelling for specialist foods

Not all consumers have the same nutritional requirements. Specialist foods, such as food intended for people who engage in high-intensity activity, are formulated to meet specific needs. These foods have particular target markets, whose consumers are usually aware of their individual dietary needs and can be expected to have a good understanding of nutrition. Owing to their specific purpose, specialist foods might contain a higher concentration of certain nutrients. As an example, certain sports nutrition products are made with higher levels of nutrients (e.g. sodium, carbohydrates, sugar) in order to cater to the needs of people engaged in high intensity exercise.

Setting nutrient profiles may mean that these products will not be allowed to bear health claims, hindering easy access for consumers to relevant nutritional information and contradicting the aim of improving consumer information. Similarly, a front-of-pack (FOP) labelling scheme would not necessarily improve consumer understanding of their nutritional value.

1. What options is the Commission considering to ensure that science-based FOP labelling obligations appropriately reflect the purposes of specialist foods?
2. How will it ensure that nutrient profiles and FOP labelling will not contradict the aim of giving consumers easy access to information relevant to their specific needs?