

EN

E-000108/2023

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(14.3.2023)

The Commission would like to refer to the reply to written question E-003413/2022. The 2022 Irish draft law, which is an implementing measure of the 2018 Public Health Act, was assessed under the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC)<sup>1</sup> regarding the wording of the mandatory health warnings and under the Single Market Transparency Directive (SMTD)<sup>2</sup> procedure regarding the presentation of the mandatory indications already harmonised at EU level on energy value and alcohol content.

In the context of the analysis under the FIC Regulation, the Commission considered that the Irish authorities demonstrated that the notified measures were justified on public health grounds considering the situation in Ireland and that any resulting restrictions for the internal market that the measures may have were proportionate to the objective pursued.

As far as the SMTD procedure is concerned, the assessment of the provisions is limited to the aspects of the notified ones that are still in a draft form, subject to amendments. Ireland notified the draft requirements to provide information on energy value and alcohol content for alcoholic beverages to the Commission in 2016. The Commission issued comments at that time and Ireland adopted the measures in 2018. Having analysed exclusively the draft measures notified in 2022<sup>3</sup>, the Commission decided not to issue a reaction under the SMTD.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan<sup>4</sup> announced the Commission's intention to work towards health warnings on labels of alcoholic beverages. Currently the preparatory work and evidence-gathering are in progress.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 304 22.11.2011, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the provisions of the Single Market Transparency Directive.

<sup>4</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu\\_cancer-plan\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu_cancer-plan_en_0.pdf)