

**Priority question for written answer P-004461/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Traffic-light labelling penalises products from the Mediterranean diet: what measures does the Commission propose in order to support healthy foods?

Nutri-Score is a food labelling scheme that makes it easier to identify the nutritional values of a food using a colour scale and an alphabetical scale.

Under the Nutri-Score system, Italian traditional products such as Parmigiano Reggiano, Pecorino Romano, Gorgonzola, Parma ham, olive oil and mozzarella are strongly discouraged, while fizzy drinks such as Pepsi Light, Coca Cola Zero and sugar-free Red Bull are encouraged.

If this labelling scheme is applied, it could lead to a trivialisation of food that is irrational and dangerous for the final consumer.

Many products that are part and parcel of the so-called Mediterranean diet would be severely penalised. Coldiretti (Italian national farmers confederation) estimates that this system would result in a loss of around 85 % of the value of PDO 'Made in Italy' products.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

In its view, is Nutri-Score an appropriate instrument for classifying food, with a view to informed consumption and a healthy, balanced diet for consumers, and is it a comprehensive and genuine indication of the wholesomeness of food?

Should it not take action to protect those high-quality agri-food products which are at risk of being discredited by a highly analytical and 'cold' assessment system, which openly conflicts with the culture and eating habits of entire peoples, including those of Italy?