

## **MEPs join scientists' call to implement the nutrition label Nutri-Score in the EU**

**Brussels, April 29, 2021**

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), join the call<sup>1</sup> of 269 individual European scientists and 21 expert associations demanding the European Commission to **adopt Nutri-Score as a harmonized and mandatory front-of-pack nutrition label (FOPNL) across Europe.**

In order to help consumers make health-conscious food choices, the European Commission has announced in its Farm to Fork Strategy the intended adoption of a mandatory FOPNL before the end of 2022. Today, the most discussed label is the Nutri-Score, which has been yet adopted by several member states: France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg and Netherlands.

Nevertheless, the discussion on having a system adopted on the basis of its scientific background is disrupted by commercial interests. Powerful lobbies, supported by some member states, have used misleading statements in order to discredit and offset the choice of Nutri-Score. These lobbies either assert that the information provided by current labelling with back-of-pack nutrition facts is sufficient, or support an alternative, monochrome number-based label supposed to be «neutral» (the « NutrInform battery labelling system » which is not supported by any scientific evidence).

With one in two European adults overweight or obese, strong action is required to help stem the tide of this public health crisis. Only scientific evidence must guide political decisions in the field of public health. The statement published by scientists on 16 March 2021 stresses that Nutri-Score is developed by academic researchers without any conflicts of interest. Nutri-score is the only front-of-pack nutrition label in Europe that has been the subject of more than 40 scientific studies published in peer-reviewed international scientific journals, demonstrating its effectiveness, relevance, and utility to consumers and to public health, as well as its ability to outperform other existing labels or labels supported by lobbyist groups.

In the interest of both consumers and public health, we call for **a label based on solid, independent and transparent scientific evidence and be free from commercial interests like the Nutri-score.**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nutricio.urv.cat/ca/divulgacio/etiquetatge-frontal/>

Signed and endorsed by the following Members of the European Parliament:

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Anja Hazekamp (Netherlands, The Left)

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