

June 2010

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to you regarding the outcome of the vote on the European Commission proposal for a *Regulation on the Provision of Food Information to Consumers* (COM (2008) 40) in the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee which took place on 16 March. The Environment Committee adopted an amendment deleting the requirement for the establishment of Nutrient Profiles found in article 4 of *Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Food* (Claims Regulation).

Nutrient profiles define which products can bear claims. They are a key element of the Claims Regulation where Article 4 makes them a condition for bearing a claim and Recital 11 states “*The application of nutrient profiles as a criterion would aim to avoid a situation where nutrition or health claims mask the overall nutritional status of a food product, which could mislead consumers when trying to make healthy choices in the context of a balanced diet*”.

Without nutrient profiles, products that are high in fat, sugar or salt may be able to bear claims and this misleads people as to the true nature of the product. Considering the crushing burden of chronic diseases in Europe, it is vital that only products that are overall healthy should be allowed to bear claims. **Nutrient profiles play a vital role in guiding people towards the healthier option. The absence of nutrient profiles undermines the provision of proper information on product benefits to consumers.**

We would like to emphasise that nutrient profiles are perfectly recognised in the scientific literature. Articles on how to establish and validate nutrient profile models have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. They show that nutrient profiling models that are based on both positive and negative nutrients provide a realistic picture of the nutrition quality of a product. Nutrient profiling systems are already used for a range of different purposes in several European countries, Australia and the USA, and procedures for developing and validating nutrient profiling models are currently being discussed by the World Health Organization.

With this letter we call on you to vote against amendments that seek to delete nutrient profiles. We are happy to provide you with more information.

Yours sincerely,



Susanne Løgstrup
Director, European Heart Network