

Dear MEP,

On 12 April 2016, the European Parliament will vote on Mrs Kaufmann's report on the 'Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)'. There will be a split vote on this report, with a separate vote on article 47. From a public health point of view it is crucial that article 47 is DELETED from the report. Article 47 asks for the deletion of nutrition profiles from the nutrition and health claims regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006).

A pillar of this regulation is the condition that foods bearing nutrition and health claims must comply with nutrient profiles. This condition is set out in the regulation's Article 4. The reasons for including this condition are found in several recitals in the regulation, particularly recital 11, which 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.'**

Until now, the European Commission (EC) has failed in its duty to establish these nutrient profiles. But this is not a reason not to develop them now. We note that other bodies, for example the EU Pledge and WHO Regional office for Europe, have been able to develop pan-European nutrient profile models.

The presence of nutrition and health claims may lead consumers to overestimate the healthiness of products bearing such claims – and consequently to overconsume them. This is highly undesirable considering the high prevalence of obesity and chronic diseases in the EU.

Therefore we ask you to vote in favour of the split vote on this report and in favour of deleting article 47 from the report, so that nutrient profiles can remain an essential part of the nutrition and health claims regulation.

With kind regards