

Public results of the meeting of the User Forum Nutri-Score

Date: October 2nd 2024

Time: 10.00-12.00

Chair: Belgium

Attendees:

Steering committee members from all COEN (BE, CH, DE, ES, FR, LU and NL)

Representatives from food industry and retailers in each COEN:

Aldi Suisse AG (CH)

Holiroots GmbH (DE)

Aldi Süd (DE)

Idilia Foods (ES)

AME (Multisectorial Association of Food and Beverage Companies, ES)

Jumbo (NL)

ANFACO (canned fish association, ES)

Lebensmittelverband Deutschland (DE)

ANGED (Spanish Association of Medium and Large Distribution Companies, ES)

Lidl Schweiz AG (CH)

ANIA (FR)

Liprobél (oils sector, BE)

BCZ-CBL (milk products, BE)

Nestlé Netherlands (NL)

Berief Food GmbH (DE)

Nestlé Spain (ES)

Carrefour (BE)

Nestlé Suisse S.A. (CH)

Carrefour (ES)

Pact'Alim (FR)

CBL (federation of retailers, NL)

Rezeptrechner (DE)

Chambre des métiers (LU)

Smarter Choices GmbH (DE)

Colruyt (BE)

Synabio (FR)

Danone Schweiz (CH)

Representatives from consumers organisations in each COEN:

Delhaize (BE)

BEUC (EU)

Eroski (ES)

Consumentenbond (NL)

Federation of Dutch food industry (NL)

CCU (Consumer and User's Council, ES)

FENIL (dairy products association, ES)

Stiftung für Konsumentenschutz Schweiz (CH)

FGBB (bread industry, BE)

Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband (DE)

FIAB (Spanish Federation of Food Industries, ES)

UFC Que Choisir (FR)

FIEB (water and soft drinks association, BE)

ULC Union Luxembourgeoise des Consommateurs (LU)

Appendix: Agenda
 Presentation

Results

- After a short welcoming and introduction, DE presents information about the transnational governance and FR about the updated algorithm (see attached presentation).
- In particular the following questions were asked/answered in the first round of questions (summary):

Questions	Answers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timeline for the next update of the algorithm? ○ Topics of the next update (fruit and vegetable (FVL) component, portion size) of the algorithm? ○ First results of the revision of the FVL component? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No timeline set yet. Probably in several years. ➤ Basis of the system is to calculate with 100 g or ml, there will be no change to portion size. ➤ ScC is working on evaluation of the FVL component, can't share results yet, but this will be part of the next revision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation of the Scientific Committee (ScC) with the EU? ○ Activities to promote the Nutri-Score at EU level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At this moment there is no progress on EU level. We are waiting for the next EU Commission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Priority of the COEN should be to find more FBOs to support the Nutri-Score, not to optimize the algorithm. ○ Stability is important. Frequent changes of the algorithm lead to increased costs for packaging updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We agree that it is preferred that many FBOs use Nutri-Score, but at the same time it is also important to better align Nutri-Score with the dietary guidelines. ➤ We understand that changes are a lot of work for FBOs. That is why it will probably last some years before the next update will be implemented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List of all FBO that participate in Nutri-Score? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ List of FBOs from Germany and France on SpF Nutri-Score ➤ List of FBOs from Switzerland on www.nutri-score.ch ➤ List of FBOs from Luxembourg on Sécurité Alimentaire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separation between original and updated algorithm in the FAQ document would be helpful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With regard to the FAQ document we are open for suggestions for improvement

- FR presents information about the transition period and all COEN present responses to questions from stakeholders (see attached presentation).
- In an open question and answer session at the end, the following questions in particular were asked/answered (summary):

Questions

- COEN have to advocate stronger for a EU FOPNL on mandatory level.

- Consumer communication to keep on explaining the logo is needed.
- A campaign could be financially be co-funded by the companies?
- Is it possible for countries to share communication tools to ensure that everyone can benefit, especially those with limited resources or budgets?
- Are there plans for educational material targeted at children about the Nutri-Score?

- With regard to the delay in France of the decree and of the transition period, raising the question of whether a modification or extension could be granted.
- Can France be more flexible and for example allow new product to use the updated algorithm?
- Are there plans to organize more forums to allow companies to engage and collaborate?
- Are there intentions of an in person meeting?

- Are there plans for a single point of contact for FBOs in all COENs?

Answers

- At this moment there is no progress on EU level. We are waiting for the next EU Commission. Nevertheless, the COEN are still committed to the introduction of the Nutri-Score in the EU and favor the Nutri-Score as currently the most effective FOPNL for Europe. The strategy of engaged countries to Nutri-Score regarding the EU harmonization is discussed within the Steering committee.

- There are numerous information materials available in the individual COENs. The COENs will examine how these can best be linked, an exchange is already taking place where required.
- The COENs are happy to receive information on any special needs and welcome information campaigns by FBOs as well.
- For example, in France, FBOs will have access to the material developed by Sante publique France.
Addendum: In Germany, free materials for teachers and students are available at this link: <https://www.ble-medienservice.de/nutri-score.html>

- In France the transition period has not started yet. France is finding out what is possible.

- As part of the preparations for the next User Forum, COEN will check further opportunities for collaboration and whether an in-person meeting is possible.

- Answering the FBOs' questions is very time-consuming, which is why there is an address in each COEN to ensure that answers are provided as promptly as possible.
- If necessary, the COENs forward questions from FBOs to each other or consult the Steering or Technical Committee before providing feedback to ensure a harmonised response.