

2018

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Public consultation: sugars in food

EFSA is seeking feedback on the approach it plans to take for its upcoming assessment of dietary sugars. The aim of the assessment is to establish a cut-off value for intake of “free” sugars that is not associated with adverse health effects.

EFSA's Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) has drafted a protocol to define the methods for:

- collecting data (i.e. which data to use for the assessment and how to identify and select them);
- appraising the relevant evidence; and
- analysing and integrating the evidence to draw conclusions that will form the basis of the scientific opinion.

Dominique Turck, Chair of EFSA's NDA Panel, said: “This is an important and complex piece of work, which is why we want to give our stakeholders and members of the public the opportunity to comment on our approach before we start the assessment.

“We are looking forward to receiving comments and suggestions from across the scientific community that will help us to optimise both the transparency and the methodological rigour of this assessment.”

Interested parties can [submit comments on the protocol](#) until 4 March 2018.

EFSA is also holding a technical meeting in Brussels on 13 February to discuss the methodology that will be used in the assessment. [Registration for the event](#) is now open.

Background

Free sugars comprise monosaccharides (glucose, fructose, galactose) and disaccharides (sucrose, lactose, maltose, trehalose) added to foods by manufacturers or consumers plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices, and fruit juice concentrates.

The health effects under consideration will include micronutrient intake and status, body weight and obesity, glucose homeostasis and type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular risk factors and diseases, liver function and dental caries.

The advice – requested by the national food authorities of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden – will help Member States to establish recommendations on the consumption of free sugars and to plan food-based dietary guidelines.

In 2010, EFSA provided advice on dietary reference values (DRVs) for carbohydrates and dietary fibre, which included sugar. At the time, the available evidence was insufficient to set an upper limit for the daily intake of total or added sugars.

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[EU budget after 2020: new challenges need fresh money as cutting cohesion policy would be a risk to Europe's future](#)

Decisions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) must not ignore how the EU's structural and investment funds improve citizens' lives

□CoR President Lambertz and Commissioner Oettinger

With its [conference on the next MFF](#) on 8-9 January , the European Commission is stepping up work on its proposal for the EU budget after 2020, due to be presented in May. The President of the European Committee of the Regions, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, contributes to the debate, voicing regions' and cities' concerns about possible cuts to cohesion policy – Europe's main investment tool – and warning of the dangers of a centralised, divided and territorially blind European Union.

" Do we really want a Europe with less training for job seekers, less infrastructure for sustainable transport, less energy efficiency for social housing, less broadband for rural areas or less integration opportunities for migrants? ", asks Mr Lambertz. " If this is the solution to squaring the circle from the budget hole that Brexit and the new financial needs for defence, security and migration will leave, then the Union is wandering off in the wrong direction. "

" Thanks to the 2014 reforms, cohesion policy is an innovative policy that delivers results on the key challenges of today: jobs, competitiveness, climate change, energy and broadband ", stresses the CoR president, adding: "Investment in cohesion policy is an investment in citizens. Reducing cohesion policy would put the European construction at risk, broadening divisions between East and West, North and South, urban and rural communities. "

The CoR President also invites EU Member States to provide the financial resources the EU needs to respond to new urgent challenges such as defence, security, social policies and migration. This should include both increasing national contributions and removing current vetoes on the introduction of new own-resources tools such as taxes on polluting emissions, the activities of big web operators and financial transactions.

To those who argue that grant-based policies are no longer needed in Europe, Mr Lambertz points out the persistent fall in public investment in most Member States: *" The recovery of the EU's economies is an opportunity and a risk. If most citizens see the recovery only in media reports and statistics and not in daily life, their frustration will pave the way for a new wave of populism and nationalism. We need to invest to bring the benefit of our recovering economies to all, both in the stronger Member States and in the weaker ones. "*

#CohesionAlliance

To make the case for a stronger cohesion policy after 2020, the CoR, together with leading EU territorial associations, [launched the #CohesionAlliance](#): a grass-roots movement open to anyone who believes that EU cohesion policy must continue to be a pillar of the EU's future. Since its launch in October last year, the Alliance has continued to attract new signatories every day, including regional and local authorities, business associations, academia, trade unions and think tanks.

More information about the #CohesionAlliance initiatives, statements and position papers are available at <http://cohesionalliance.eu> .

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Vacancy notice – HR Officer (deadline: 05/02/2018)

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