

Health

EU DIET PLATFORM

EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical activity and Health

Objective

To create a forum at European level for stakeholders who can commit themselves and their membership to engage in concrete, self-binding and verifiable actions designed to contain or reverse current trends on overweight and obesity in Europe.

Relevance for the hospitality industry

The Platform is relevant to the sector because it provides a forum for discussion on nutrition and action against obesity. It is one of the main elements of the Commission strategy on nutrition, overweight and obesity, outlined in the White Paper of May 2007.

State of progress

Launched by the Commission in March 2005, under the aegis of DG SANCO. Ongoing.

Content

The setting-up of the Platform represents an experiment and a new trend (as alternative to formal legislation) in the working methods of the Commission.

The Platform, chaired by the Director General of DG SANCO, brings together EU-level representatives of economic operators (food manufacturers, retail, catering and advertising industries), consumers, health professionals and NGOs. In order to become member of the Platform, stakeholders have to subscribe to its funding Charter and commit their organisation:

- to take self-binding actions; and
- to monitor and report on their implementation in a “transparent, participative and accountable way”.

The Platform meets in plenary sessions at regular intervals per year.

HOTREC position

HOTREC shares the concerns of public authorities in relation to the rising levels of obesity, in particular among children, but it has some reservations with regard to the “commitments and monitoring process” proposed by the EU Platform. The procedure may work for European federations having few big corporate members but it appears hardly workable for an umbrella organisation of national associations representing such a wide and diverse sector as the hospitality industry, with over 90% of its enterprises employing less than 10 people. HOTREC considers that the EU Diet Platform should be a platform for the dissemination of best practices within the EU, functioning with simple procedures to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders.

See also:

HOTREC [reply](#) to the Commission Green Paper on Nutrition (January 2006)

Official references

White Paper on a Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues, 30 May 2007 ([COM\(2007\) 279 final](#))

Green Paper on "Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases", 8 December 2005 ([COM\(2005\) 637 final](#))

See also:

European Parliament resolution of 25 September 2008 on the White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues ([P6_TA\(2008\)0461](#))

EU Platform for Action on Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health [website](#)

DG SANCO [website](#) on nutrition policy