

# EU Open Health Forum 2010

"Together for Health – a Strategy for the EU 2020"



Brussels,  
29-30 June 2010



Directorate-General for  
Health & Consumers



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## Integrating public health in the Common Agriculture Policy

Conclusions

Robert Pederson

European Public Health and  
Agriculture Consortium



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- Chronic Non-communicable disease is a major barrier to sustainable economic growth
- CVD alone costs the EU €192 billion and increasing rates of overweight and obesity are likely to increase
- Approx. 80 % of heart disease can be prevented



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- The Common Agriculture Policy is one of the EU's most important policy areas both historically and in budgetary terms.
- Public Health needs to engage in the debate on the future of CAP
- Common Sustainable Food Policy and health is at the center of a sustainable food policy



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- How food is produced, distributed and what we consume has an impact on chronic disease, food security and climate change
- European farmers play a key role in providing sufficient, safe, healthy, high - quality food for a growing population



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## What we agreed on

- Room for improvement – CAP can do more to promote healthy diet
- The need for defining sustainability where health is a key component
- Increase the budget for the EU School Fruit Scheme allowing it to consolidate and expand



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## We debated:

- CAP's role in prevention and promotion
- No short term solutions endangering long term objectives
- New instruments need to be developed to meet challenges
- Research and innovation – science based approach to food chain





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## We debated:

- How CAP must increasingly provide public goods
- The role promotion funds
- Farming systems (conventional, organic, integrated pest management)
- Cross compliance and increased administrative burden on farmers



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## We debated:

- Food labelling, not just nutrition but carbon and water labelling



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## We did not agree on:

- Nutrient profiles
- Impact of alcohol and tobacco (to be phased out in 2012) subsidies on consumption



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## We welcomed:

- the outstretched hand of farmers to help meet the challenges of nutrition, environment and health



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## Recommendation:

- Public health should be included as one of the objectives of the post – 2013 CAP

*“ We are on the first step – with our foot resting on the second”*



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