

Basic information

2014/0014(COD)

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

Amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 [2011/0281\(COD\)](#)

Amending Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 [2011/0288\(COD\)](#)

See also [2015/2659\(RSP\)](#)

Subject

3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock

3.10.05.02 Milk and dairy products

3.10.06.01 Fruit, citrus fruits

3.10.06.02 Vegetables

4.40.03 Primary and secondary school, European Schools, early childhood

Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible

AGRI

Agriculture and Rural Development

Rapporteur

TARABELLA Marc (S&D)

Appointed

17/09/2014

Shadow rapporteur

RIBEIRO Sofia (PPE)

NICHOLSON James (ECR)

MÜLLER Ulrike (ALDE)

CARTHY Matt (GUE/NGL)

ROPÉ Bronis (Verts/ALE)

ZULLO Marco (EFDD)

Former committee responsible

AGRI

Agriculture and Rural Development

Former rapporteur

Appointed

Committee for opinion

DEVE

Development

Rapporteur for opinion

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Appointed

BUDG

Budgets

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development		
BUDG Budgets		
CONT Budgetary Control		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		
REGI Regional Development		
CULT Culture and Education		

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3293	2014-02-17
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3402	2015-07-13
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3459	2016-04-11
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3322	2014-06-16
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3425	2015-11-16
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3437	2015-12-14

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Agriculture and Rural Development	HOGAN Phil

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/01/2014	Legislative proposal published	COM(2014)0032 	Summary
06/02/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
17/02/2014	Debate in Council		
16/06/2014	Debate in Council		Summary
20/10/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
14/04/2015	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations prior to the adoption of the report		
21/04/2015	Proposal for a mandate tabled in plenary	B8-0362/2015	
27/05/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/05/2015	Decision by Parliament		
13/07/2015	Debate in Council		
16/11/2015	Debate in Council		
11/01/2016	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
11/01/2016	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE575.110 GEDA/A/(2016)000197	
15/01/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0006/2016	Summary
07/03/2016	Debate in Parliament		
08/03/2016	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0068/2016	Summary
08/03/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/04/2016	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/05/2016	Final act signed		
11/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/05/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/0014(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 2011/0281(COD) Amending Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 2011/0288(COD) See also 2015/2659(RSP)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 42-p1-a1

Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/8/00355

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE544.363	12/12/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE546.876	05/02/2015	
Proposal for a mandate to open interinstitutional negotiations to be examined in plenary		B8-0362/2015	21/04/2015	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0216/2015	27/05/2015	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE575.110	05/01/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0006/2016	15/01/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0068/2016	08/03/2016	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2016)000197	16/12/2015	
Draft final act	00075/2015/LEX	11/05/2016	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2014)0032 	30/01/2014	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2014)0028 	30/01/2014	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2014)0029 	30/01/2014	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)270	19/04/2016	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2014)0032	19/03/2014	
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2014)0032	26/03/2014	

Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2014)0032	28/03/2014	
Contribution	LT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2014)0032	14/04/2014	
Contribution	HR_PARLIAMENT	COM(2014)0032	01/04/2016	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1559/2014	09/07/2014	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR1278/2014	07/10/2014	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

[Regulation 2016/0791](#)
[OJ L 135 24.05.2016, p. 0001](#)

[Summary](#)

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

2014/0014(COD) - 11/05/2016 - Final act

PURPOSE: to promote the consumption of fruit and vegetables in schools.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2016/791 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in educational establishments

CONTENT: the Regulation amends Regulations [\(EU\) No 1308/2013](#) and [\(EU\) No 1306/2013](#) in order to put in place a new framework for **the support of distribution of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk** to children in educational establishments, and includes provisions on the amount of the Union aid, and the method of allocation in Member States.

Promotion of healthy food: experience gained showed that continuation and strengthening of the two school schemes is of great importance, in particular in the current context of declining consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk products, especially among children, and of an increasing incidence of child obesity as a result of unhealthy consumption habits, often high in added sugars, salt, fat or additives.

Accordingly, the Union aid to finance the supply to children in educational establishments of selected agricultural products aims to **promote healthy eating habits and the consumption of local products**.

Participation in the school scheme and eligible products: participation in the school scheme should continue to be voluntary for Member States, taking into account the different consumption patterns across Member States.

Member States wishing to participate in the aid scheme shall **prioritise** the distribution of products of either or both of the following groups:

- **fruit and vegetables and fresh products of the banana sector;**
- **drinking milk and lactose-free versions thereof.**

However, in order to promote the consumption of specific products and/or to respond to particular nutritional needs of children in their territory, Member States may provide for the distribution of:

- processed fruit and vegetable products, in addition to fresh fruit and vegetables;
- cheese, curd, yoghurt and other fermented or acidified milk products without added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa, in addition to milk and lactose-free milk.

As a condition for its participation in the school scheme, a Member State shall draw up, prior to its participation in the school scheme, and subsequently every six years, at national or regional level, **a strategy for the implementation of the scheme.**

Elements excluded from products distributed: the amending Regulation specifies that products distributed under the school scheme shall not contain **added sugars, added salt, added fat, added sweeteners, or added artificial flavour enhancers** E 620 to E 650.

Funding: the new scheme will have an overall yearly budget of **EUR 250 million** (milk products: EUR 100 million; fruit and vegetables: EUR 150 million). The EU contribution is allocated to Member States for the supply of these products in educational establishments. Union aid shall not replace funding for those existing national schemes, except for free distribution of meals to children in educational establishments.

The aid should be allocated to each Member State **taking into account the number of six- to ten-year-old children** in that Member State and the degree of development of the regions within that Member State. Higher aid should be allocated to **less developed regions**, to the smaller Aegean Islands and to the outermost regions.

Accompanying educational measures: Member States shall determine in their strategies the list of all the products to be supplied under the school scheme either through regular distribution or under accompanying educational measures.

These measures may be:

- include, inter alia, measures **aimed at reconnecting children with agriculture** through activities, such as farm visits, and the distribution of a wider variety of agricultural products with the help, for example, of nutrition experts and farmers;
- be designed to **educate children about related issues, such as healthy eating habits**, local food chains, organic farming, sustainable production or combating food waste.

Visibility of aid: the Commission may adopt delegated acts to clearly publicise Union support for implementing the scheme, including in relation to publicity tools and the common identifier or **graphic elements.**

Member States participating in the school scheme shall **publicise**, at school premises or other relevant places, their involvement in the scheme and the fact that it is subsidised by the Union. They may use any suitable publicity tools, which may include posters, dedicated websites, informative graphic material, and information and awareness-raising campaigns

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 13.6.2016.

APPLICATION: from 1.8.2017.

DELEGATED ACTS: the Commission may adopt delegated acts in respect of supplementing the list of excluded flavour enhancers set out in the Regulation and defining the maximum levels for added sugar, added salt and added fat in processed products, to ensure the efficient and targeted use of Union funds, the drawing up of the national or regional strategies and on the accompanying educational measures, the identification of costs and measures that are eligible for Union aid, and to promote awareness of the school scheme and to increase the visibility of Union aid.

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

2014/0014(COD) - 30/01/2014 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a common legal and financial framework for the distribution of fruit and vegetables and milk to children in schools.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the **School Milk Scheme** and the **School Fruit Scheme** have developed independently and in different time periods: the School Milk Scheme has been implemented since 1977, and the School Fruit Scheme came out of a political commitment in the context of the 2007 reform of the Common Market Organisation for fruit and vegetables. The current schemes operate within different legal and financial frameworks, and have some important differences in their design and functioning. The Commission proposes changes to the programmes in order to make them more efficient, and better respond to the overarching problems of declining fruit and vegetable and milk consumption and rising obesity.

Furthermore, the Commission made a commitment in the context of the adoption of Council Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 to review the financing arrangements of the current schemes, namely aid for the distribution of milk as well as the co-financing of the school fruit scheme costs.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: of the three options considered, the option chosen is **the "new framework" scenario** that entails a considerable policy change in the form of a common legal and financing framework for the distribution of a restricted number of products, complemented by an orientation towards the long-term objectives through a strengthened educational dimension of the scheme.

CONTENT: it is proposed to establish a **common legal and financial framework** for the distribution of fruit and vegetables and milk to children in schools, **supported by strengthened educational measures** to reaffirm the link with agriculture, as well as wider issues such as public health and environmental matters.

The proposal sets out the key elements of the new scheme.

1) Distribution: it is proposed to focus the distribution of products in schools to two "core products": **fresh fruit and vegetables (including bananas) and drinking milk only**, with the fat content of drinking milk to be decided upon by national health authorities. The distribution will take place **within a fixed budget**, and will help reverse the declining consumption trends for these two groups of products.

2) Unify the financial provisions and improve financing conditions: in view of the differences between the products and their supply chains, as well as different consumption situation across the Member States, separate "envelopes" would be allocated to Member States for fruit and vegetables (including bananas) and milk. **The envelope for fruit and vegetables is EUR 150 million** and the **envelope for milk is EUR 80 million**. Certain flexibility is provided for, where Member States can transfer limited shares of their allocations between the envelopes based on their needs.

Accordingly, without exceeding the global ceiling of EUR 230 million Member States may **transfer up to 15% of their indicative allocations** for fruit and vegetables including bananas or for milk to the other sector under conditions to be specified by the Commission by means of delegated acts

Within the envelopes, thresholds are established for supporting measures and other eligible measures, such as evaluation, monitoring and communication.

Based on experience gained so far, the level of EU contribution towards the price of products is limited through **a maximum EU aid per portion for fruit and vegetables and for milk**, and **not through the EU co-financing levels**, as was the case for the School Fruit Scheme. This would be a new element for fruit and vegetables, which would help alleviate the huge disparities in price for products distributed and would imply a simplification in terms of a management. The level of EU subsidy for milk is increased. Member States will be allowed to continue providing national top-ups or attract private funding in order to enlarge the scope and/or the intensity of their intervention of the school schemes.

The aid will be allocated to each Member State taking into account certain **criteria** including (i) the number of six- to ten-year old children as a proportion of the population, (ii) the degree of development of the regions within a Member State so to ensure higher aid to less developed regions and (iii) for milk, the historical use of funds.

Reinforce the educational dimension: supporting educational measures will also become a requirement for milk distribution, thus bridging the gap between the current schemes. These measures will have a **focus on agricultural issues, nutrition/health (balanced diets) and environmental matters** and aim to connect children with food, agricultural production and farmers. Member States could choose thematic educational measures that could occasionally include agricultural products, other than the two core products, such as yoghurts, processed fruit and vegetables, honey, or olive oil. The list of all products supplied under the scheme and their nutritional aspects have to be approved by national health authorities. Supporting educational measures would have to be directly linked to the agricultural objectives of the scheme and be in line with the objective of promoting healthy diets.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the impact of the proposal is budgetary neutral compared to the current situation.

- **For fruit and vegetables**, the budgetary ceiling currently set in Regulation No 1308/2013 (**EUR 150 million** per school year) is maintained in this proposal.
- **For milk**, the proposal includes an envelope of **EUR 80 million** per school year, corresponding to the expected budget execution and in line with the overall amounts for market-related expenditure and direct aids taken into account in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

As regards distribution of expenditure, the greatest support will be given to the distribution and supporting educational measures. Other costs, such as evaluation, monitoring and communication, will also be eligible to a more limited extent.

DELEGATED ACTS: the proposal contains provisions empowering the Commission to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

2014/0014(COD) - 15/01/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted the report by Marc TARABELLA (S&D, BE) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Promoting healthy eating habits: in the current context of declining consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk products, especially among children, and of an increasing incidence of child obesity as a result of consumption habits geared to highly processed foods which, additionally, are often high in added sugars, salt, fat or additives, Members insisted on Union aid to finance the supply to children in educational establishments of selected agricultural products should do more to promote healthy eating habits and the **consumption of local products**.

Participation in the aid scheme and eligible products: Member States wishing to participate in the aid scheme shall prioritise the distribution of products of either or both of the following groups:

- **fruit and vegetables and fresh products of banana sector;**
- **drinking milk and its lactose-free versions.**

However, in order to promote the consumption of specific products and/or to respond to particular nutritional needs of children in its territory, a Member State may provide for the distribution of:

- processed fruit and vegetable products in addition to fruit and vegetables and fresh products of banana sector;
- cheese and curd, yoghurt and other fermented or acidified milk products without added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa in addition to drinking milk and its lactose-free versions.

Member States may additionally **complement the distribution** of fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured, or with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured or milk-based drinks with cocoa, fruit juice or naturally flavoured (category I) or naturally flavoured and non-flavoured milk products with fruit, fermented or not (category II).

In such case the **Union aid shall be paid only for the milk component of the distributed product** which shall not be lower than 90% by weight for Category I of Annex V and 75% by weight for Category II of Annex V.

Products distributed under the school scheme shall not contain added sugars, added salt, added fat, added sweeteners and added artificial flavour enhancers E 620 to E 650.

However, any Member State may decide that eligible products may contain limited quantities of added sugar, added salt, and/or added fat after obtaining the appropriate authorisation of their national authorities responsible for health and nutrition in line with their national procedures.

Financing provisions: the aid under the school scheme allocated for the distribution of products, the accompanying educational measures and the related costs **shall not exceed EUR 250 million per school year**, of which:

- for school fruit and vegetables: EUR 150 million per school year;
- for school milk: EUR 100 million per school year.

The amended text also provides that:

- without exceeding the global ceiling of EUR 250 million resulting from the amounts referred to under points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1, any Member State may transfer once per school year up to 20% of one or the other of its indicative allocations. However, that percentage may be increased up to 25% for the Member States with **outermost regions** and in other duly justified cases, such as where a Member State needs to address specific market situation in the sector covered by the school scheme, its particular concerns of low consumption of one or the other group of products, or other societal changes;
- Union aid may be used to extend the scope or effectiveness of any existing national school schemes or school distribution schemes providing school fruit and vegetables and school milk but **shall not replace funding for these existing national schemes**, except for free distribution of meals to children in educational establishments;
- Member States may finance those payments by means of a levy on the sector concerned or by any other contribution from the private sector;
- the Union may also finance information, publicity, monitoring and evaluation measures relating to the school scheme, including raising public awareness of its objectives, and related networking measures aimed at **exchanging experience and best practices** in order to facilitate the implementation and management of the scheme.

Accompanying educational measures: these measures represent a critical tool to reconnect children with agriculture and the variety of Union agricultural products, particularly those produced in their region, with the help of, for example, **nutrition experts and farmers**.

Moreover, Member States should be allowed to include in their **thematic measures a wider variety of agricultural products**, such as processed fruit and vegetables without the addition of sugar, salt, fat, sweeteners and artificial flavours enhancers. Member States should also be allowed to include other local, regional or national specialities, such as honey, table olives and olive oil.

Visibility of Union aid: in order to promote awareness of the school scheme and to increase the visibility of Union aid, the power to adopt certain acts should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the obligation by Member States to clearly publicise the Union support for implementing the scheme including in relation to **publicity tools** and, if appropriate, the **common identifier** or graphic elements.

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

2014/0014(COD) - 16/06/2014

The Greek Presidency of the Union highlights the progress achieved in the first half of 2014 on the proposals for regulations merging the schemes for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in schools. One of the proposals aims to streamline the existing schemes with a view to increasing their efficiency and effectiveness and reducing the administrative burden.

The Presidency presented its **report on the state of progress with the work** on the Commission proposals for regulations merging the schemes for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in schools.

This progress report can be summarised as follows:

- 1) **merger of proposals:** most of the delegations considered that the choice of a merger of the two schemes was well-grounded and seems preferable to the option of adjusting to keep the current separate setting while strengthening the school milk scheme educational dimension and as well as the synergies between the two schemes;
- 2) **legal basis of the proposals:** the delegations unanimously supported the Council Legal Service's view that Article 43(3) TFEU – and not Article 43(2) TFEU - is the correct legal basis for the fixing of the level of aid;
- 3) **the basic act and the delegated powers:** many delegations voiced concerns on the overall balance between the basic act and delegated acts. They considered that some of the issues for which the Commission had proposed to be empowered to adopt delegated acts (for example, how the criteria for the allocation of funds would be applied or the conditions for the transfers of allocations between the two components of the scheme) were essential provisions to be regulated in the basic act. Delegations also pointed out that the issue of the legal basis has an impact on the general architecture of delegated and implementing acts of the proposal;
- 4) **objective and the scope of the programme:** in general, delegations shared the objective of merging the school schemes, thus increasing their efficiency and effectiveness and consolidating the legal and financial framework. They also confirmed the original objectives of the schemes, i.e., **the promotion of the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk**, underlying the nutritional benefits for children. However, while a few delegations could support a narrow list of products for regular distribution as suggested by the Commission, many others considered the proposed scope unsatisfactory and preferred the scope of the existing schemes, in particular, those relating to dairy products. Among the delegations wishing an extension of the scope, several called for dairy products other than drinking milk - notably cheese, yoghurt, lactose - free milk - to be considered. Several delegations also called for processed fruit and vegetables (notably fresh juices). A few also asked for honey, table olives and olive oil to be included. A number of delegations made it clear that an enlarged scope **could not justify an increased budget**;
- 5) **financing provisions:** if most delegations could support the amount of the total envelopes for fruit and vegetable, including bananas, and for milk, the criteria for the allocation of Union aid were discussed extensively. On the financial provisions, most delegations could support the amount of the total envelopes for fruit and vegetable, including bananas, and for milk. However a few delegations considered the proposed EU aid for milk (80 million euros for school year) to be inadequate. Moreover, several delegations contested the choice of the criterion of **"the historical use of funds under previous schemes for the supply of milk and milk products to children"** to determine the milk envelope. They considered that it could be detrimental to those Member States that so far had not fully benefited from the "school milk scheme" or had no historical record having joined the EU only recently. However, a number of other delegations considered the criterion of the historical use of funds particularly important to ensure that there would be no disruption in the functioning of the "school milk scheme" in their Member State. Some delegations contesting this criterion suggested using the same criteria as that used for fruit and vegetables, i.e., **the number of children and the degree of development of the regions within a Member State**. They stressed that this would further simplify of the scheme. Eventually, the Greek Presidency noted the Commission intention to further consider the specific situation of Member States such as those that joined the EU very recently and that therefore have no historical record of the use of milk funds. Finally, a few delegations insisted on the need to take into account the specificities of small Member States and fix **minimum envelopes of aid** (as it is now the case of the "school fruit scheme"). The Commission showed some understanding for their request. These minimum envelopes should be fixed in the basic act and not through delegated acts.
- 6) **reduction of the administrative burden:** finally, several delegations remained to be convinced that the merged scheme would not increase the administrative burden both for national administrations and schools, notably in relation to the mandatory supporting educational measures, the involvement of national health authorities, national strategies, monitoring and reporting, price monitoring or the necessity to prove the added value of EU aid. The delegations notably called for **national strategies to remain simple and for requirements to remain proportionate**. The Greek Presidency noted the suggestions made by delegations on how to simplify the determination of the level of Union aid.

The European Parliament is expected to start its work on the proposal in autumn 2014.

Aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments

2014/0014(COD) - 08/03/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 584 votes to 94, with 32 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments.

Parliament's position, adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure, amended the Commission proposal as follows:

Strengthen EU aid schemes: the amended text stressed the importance of the continuation and strengthening of the two school schemes in the current context of **declining consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk products**, especially among children, and of an increasing incidence of child

obesity as a result of consumption habits geared to highly processed foods which, in addition, are often high in added sugars, salt, fat or additives. Parliament stressed the fact that the Union aid should finance the supply to children in educational establishments of selected agricultural products should do more to promote healthy eating habits and the **consumption of local products**.

Participation in the aid scheme and eligible products: Member States wishing to participate in the aid scheme shall prioritise the distribution of products of either or both of the following groups:

- **fruit and vegetables and fresh products of banana sector;**
- **drinking milk and its lactose-free versions.**

However, in order to promote the consumption of specific products and/or to respond to particular nutritional needs of children in its territory, a Member State may provide for the distribution of:

- processed fruit and vegetable products in addition to fruit and vegetables and fresh products of banana sector;
- cheese and curd, yoghurt and other fermented or acidified milk products without added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa in addition to drinking milk and its lactose-free versions.

Member States may additionally **complement the distribution** of fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured, or with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured or milk-based drinks with cocoa, fruit juice or naturally flavoured (category I) or naturally flavoured and non-flavoured milk products with fruit, fermented or not (category II).

In such case the **Union aid shall be paid only for the milk component of the distributed product** which shall not be lower than 90% by weight for Category I of Annex V and 75% by weight for Category II of Annex V.

Elements excluded from the products distributed: products distributed under the school scheme shall not contain any of the following: **added sugars; added salt; added fat; added sweeteners; added artificial flavour enhancers** E 620 to E 650.

However, any Member State may decide that eligible products may contain limited quantities of added sugar, added salt, and/or added fat after obtaining the appropriate authorisation of their national authorities responsible for health and nutrition in line with their national procedures.

Financing provisions: the aid under the school scheme allocated for the distribution of products, the accompanying educational measures and the related costs shall not exceed EUR 250 million per school year, of which:

- for school fruit and vegetables: EUR 150 million per school year;
- for school milk: EUR 100 million per school year.

That aid should be allocated to each Member State taking into account the number of six- to ten-year-old children in that Member State and the degree of development of the regions within that Member State, so as to ensure that higher aid is allocated to **less developed regions**.

As regards school milk, the historical use of the Union aid for the supply of milk and milk products to children should be taken into account.

All Member States are entitled to receive at least a **minimum amount** of Union aid per child.

The amended text also provides that:

- without exceeding the global ceiling of EUR 250 million, any Member State may **transfer once per school year up to 20% of one or the other of its indicative allocations**. However, that percentage may be increased up to 25% for the Member States with **outermost regions** and in other duly justified cases, such as where a Member State needs to address specific market situation in the sector covered by the school scheme, its particular concerns of low consumption of one or the other group of products, or other societal changes;
- Union aid may be used to extend the scope or effectiveness of any existing national school schemes or school distribution schemes providing school fruit and vegetables and school milk but **shall not replace funding for these existing national schemes**, except for free distribution of meals to children in educational establishments;
- Member States may finance those payments by means of a levy on the sector concerned or by any other contribution from the private sector;
- the Union may also finance information, publicity, monitoring and evaluation measures relating to the school scheme, including raising public awareness of its objectives, and related networking measures aimed at **exchanging experience and best practices** in order to facilitate the implementation and management of the scheme.

Accompanying educational measures: these measure may:

- provide for accompanying educational measures, which may include, inter alia, measures and activities aimed at reconnecting children with agriculture through activities, such as **farm visits**, and the distribution of a wider variety of agricultural products;
- be designed to **educate children** about related issues, such as healthy eating habits, local food chains, organic farming, sustainable production or combating food waste.

Visibility of Union aid: the power to adopt delegated acts should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the obligation by Member States to clearly publicise the Union support for implementing the scheme, including in relation to publicity tools and, if appropriate, the common identifier or graphic elements. Member States participating in the school scheme shall publicise, at school premises or other relevant places, their involvement in the scheme and the fact that it is subsidised by the Union. Member States may use any **suitable publicity tools**, which may include posters, dedicated websites, informative graphic material, and information and awareness-raising campaigns.