

Parliamentary questions

14 September 2010


E-7069/2010

Question for written answer
to the Commission

Rule 117

Glenis Willmott (S&D)

► Subject: Childhood obesity

 Answer(s)

The Commission's 2005 Green Paper (COM(2005)637) 'Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases' states in point 1.7 that 'Community action may support and complement [Member States' activities, promote their coordination, and help to identify and disseminate good practice, so that other countries can benefit from experience gained]'.

As regards the specific case of childhood obesity, can the Commission detail the mechanisms now in place and give examples of good practice which has been identified and disseminated thus far?

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Parliamentary questions

7 October 2010

E-7069/2010

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

The Commission adopted a 'Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues' in May 2007 which puts forward areas for EU and Member States' action to promote healthy diets, as well as to reverse the decline in physical activity levels⁽¹⁾.

To facilitate the coordination of initiatives and to foster exchange of good practice the Commission established a High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity in 2007, composed of representatives from all Member States.

Moreover, the Commission developed the Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Its members have committed to more than 200 actions. In addition, in 2007, eleven major food and beverage companies committed to changing the way they advertise on TV, print and Internet to children under 12 through the EU Pledge⁽²⁾.

Through the Health Programme, the Commission has supported initiatives targeting nutrition and physical activity among young people. These include the ACTIVE project to produce cartoon animation that tells positive, inspiring and fun stories about healthier living, focusing on healthy eating and physical activity. Another example is the EPODE European Network (EEN) which aims at supporting community based initiatives with concrete guidelines on promoting lifestyle changes in children in four Member States.

To ensure transatlantic sharing of know-how, the Commission together with the US Department of Health and Human Services, intends to organise a second EU — US Childhood Obesity conference in 2011 in Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/documents/nutrition_wp_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ <http://www.eu-pledge.eu/>

Last updated: 12 October 2010

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