



## STATEMENT

Brussels, 22.02.17

### **Food procurement for health in schools**

FoodDrinkEurope welcomes the initiative of the European Commission and the Maltese Presidency of the EU on food procurement for health in schools. "We consider school meals to be a good tool to use as part of the efforts to reduce overweight and obesity. Besides the quality of the meals themselves, such an approach also helps teach good dietary habits" stated Mella Frewen, Director General of FoodDrinkEurope.

"We however regret that stakeholders were not duly involved and that discussions were held behind closed doors" she added. FoodDrinkEurope believe that creating healthy school environments in Europe requires multi-stakeholder action, coordinated in a transparent manner, through dialogue and collaboration.

FoodDrinkEurope advocate healthier diets and lifestyles for children, amongst others through targeted action at local, national and European level (see FoodDrinkEurope's [Eat & Live Well website](#) for a snapshot of activities in our sector).

School food standards need to be holistic and science-based. In this respect, it is difficult to accept the classification of certain foods as "healthy foods", which is neither science-based nor helpful. It is much more relevant to consider healthy and balanced diets.

*Note to the editors:*

*FoodDrinkEurope is the organization of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (286 000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.2 million employees).*

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