EN E-000669/2021 Answer given by Ms Kyriakides on behalf of the European Commission (1.5.2021)

One of the aims of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan¹ is to improve health promotion and disease prevention through actions on healthy diets and regular physical activity.

The EU4Health programme is one of the main financial instruments to implement the Cancer Plan. It will support Member States to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases by addressing key risk factors and aims to improve surveillance, diagnosis, management and treatment of non-communicable diseases, including obesity.

The Farm to Fork Strategy² states that reversing the rise in overweight and obesity rates across the EU by 2030 is critical. It includes actions that support citizens to reach or maintain a healthy body weight. This includes setting nutrient profiles to restrict the promotion of food high in salt, sugars and/or fat and to propose harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices. Both actions are foreseen in the fourth quarter of 2022.

To support Member States in the implementation and monitoring of the Cancer Plan and its actions, a stakeholder contact group will be established under the Health Policy Platform. The new Knowledge Centre on Cancer will help foster scientific and technical alignment of Commission activities on cancer.

The Commission's Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Knowledge Gateway includes a brief on Obesity Prevention³.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe en

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/f2f action-plan 2020 strategy-info en.pdf

³ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/health-promotion-knowledge-gateway/obesity_en