

**Question for written answer E-002474/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Abolishing taxes on domestic fruit and vegetable production to tackle child obesity, cancer and diabetes

A chocolate bar often costs less than a piece of fruit. The low price of unhealthy foods in comparison to nutritious options is a major barrier to healthy diets.

Unhealthy eating leads to increased obesity and non-communicable diseases.

As reaffirmed in the farm-to-fork strategy, combating obesity and promoting healthy eating habits is an EU priority.

Sustainable food consumption can be achieved through the development of healthy food environments, but tax policies to reduce the cost differential can also be considered.

Lower food taxation can improve diets by making healthy foods cheaper and therefore a more attractive choice than unhealthy, processed foods.

To this end, a few governments have adopted such price differential measures. Several Member States, such as Romania, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, France, Netherlands and Belgium, have introduced taxation policy initiatives to encourage the consumption of domestically produced fruit and vegetables.

1. Considering that Member States decide whether to set price incentives and which ones to set to favour a healthier food environment, has the Commission conducted comprehensive studies on the potential effectiveness of these measures, including the abolition of taxes on domestic fruit and vegetable production?
2. What new steps is the Commission considering taking in order to coordinate efforts to boost fresh fruit and vegetable consumption throughout the EU?
3. Within this framework, does it plan to propose a new set of measures in order to support our farmers' production?

Submitted: 7.11.2024