

## EU debate on food labeling proposals 13 Feb 2009

Contributed by Administrator  
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Food industry executives and European decision-makers met in Brussels for a debate on EU food labeling proposals. The meeting took place on Wednesday evening. The debate was organized by the UK's Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and held at the Bibliotheque Solvay in Brussels. It focused on the question: Labeling: an effective tool to improve the food literacy of EU consumers?

Panel members included:

Dr Renate Sommer MEP, the European Parliament's reporters for the proposed EU Labeling Regulation; Professor Klaus Grunert of Aarhus University, who recently conducted a pan-European consumer study into attitudes to labeling; Simon Stannard, the UK's permanent representative to the EU; Melanie Leech, FDF's director general; and Basil Mathioudakis, head of unit at DG Sanco in the European Commission. Kate Trollope, editor of EU Food Law, acted as moderator. We are proud of the fact that, for more than a decade, UK industry has been leading the way by providing clearer nutritional information on back-of-pack on a voluntary basis. In recent years UK manufacturers have also been putting that information on the front of our products in the form of Guideline Daily Amount labeling. In showing such leadership, our sector is again making a real difference for consumers," said Ross Warburton, president of FDF at the debate.