

**leatherhead
food research**

part of SAGENTIA REGULATORY

Interactive session: European Union Member States' stances on EU regulations

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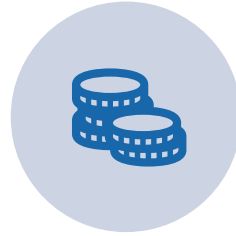
Agenda



Front of pack
nutrition labelling



Alcohol
restrictions



Sugar tax



Recycling logos

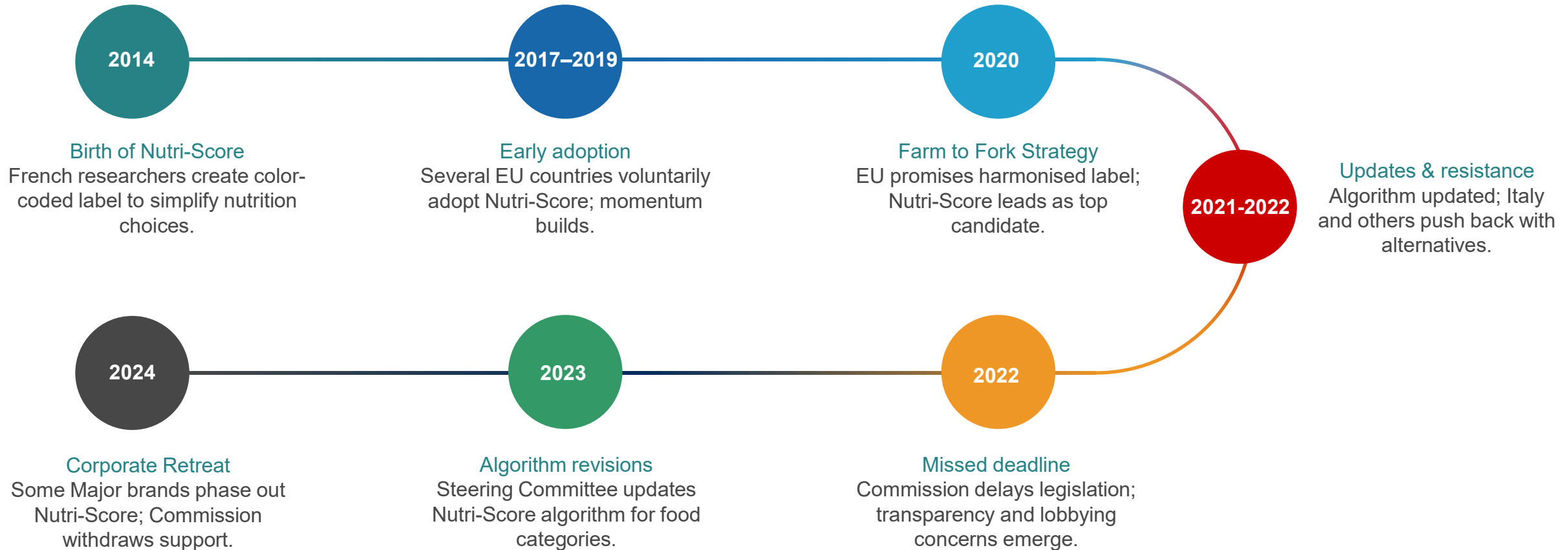


Plant-based
product names

Front of pack nutrition labelling



Nutri-Score: A decade of policy, progress, and pushback



Nutri-Score or not? A unified vision or a fragmented future?



February 2025: Commission avoided confirming support for Nutri-Score and it is absent from both the Commission's work programme and Agri vision.



France: Adoption of new algorithm in March 2025.



Challenged the Commission's refusal to release Nutri-Score documents, despite an Ombudsman ruling. They filed a court case citing EU transparency law violations.



Finland: considering adoption.

Estonia and Austria also expressed interest.



Nutri-Score

Countries having officially adopted* the Nutri-Score:

- France
- Belgium
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Switzerland (non-EU)

Romania to become the 8th country in 2025.

*Note that MS cannot make placing Nutri-Score on labels mandatory



Alcohol restrictions



The next health & nutrition-driven change in regulation is alcoholic beverages

South Korea (1995)
Cancers and brain damage

Russia (2007)
Liver/organ damage

South Africa (2007)
Alcohol addiction

Kenya (2022)
*General health conditions,
Liver damage*

Moldova (2023)
Alcohol addiction

Ireland (2026)
Liver damage and cancer

Health warning
statements

Alcohol content

Nutrition information
(calorie labelling)

Ingredient listing



Ireland

The driver

Heath & wellbeing

Maturity

Established

Product
categories

Alcoholic drinks

The story

- Postpones rollout of alcohol health warning labels until 2028

xx grams xxx kJ/ xxx kcal	DRINKING ALCOHOL CAUSES LIVER DISEASE
	THERE IS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND FATAL CANCERS
Visit www.askaboutalcohol.ie	

Regulations

- [S.I. No. 249/2023 - Public Health \(Alcohol\) \(Labelling\) Regulations 2023](#)

Spain

The driver

Heath & wellbeing

Maturity

Evolving

Product
categories

Alcoholic drinks

The story

- Spain is advancing legislation to restrict alcohol advertising to minors. The law bans all direct or indirect marketing targeting youth, prohibits anyone under 21 in ads, and disallows characters popular with minors. Terms like “responsible consumption” are also banned as misleading

Latvia

Driver

Heath & wellbeing

Maturity

Established

Product categories

Alcoholic drinks



The story

- Alcohol advertisements will no longer be allowed to promote discounts, prices, or special offers
- Certain containers will be banned, and alcohol sales hours will be restricted
- Health warnings required at retail, but proposed mandatory nutrition info and warning pictograms were not adopted

Regulations

- Latvia's Alcohol Law
- Effective from August 1, 2025

Sugar taxes



EU nations tighten sugar tax regimes



Romania revises its sugar taxes (applicable to any sugar-added products) from August 2025



Finland rethinks Health Tax Strategies



Italy expected to implement its Sugar Tax in January 2026



Netherlands increased the flat rate tax in 2024, and is still considering graduated tax and “additional overall tax for sugar-containing foods”



French Parliament rejected the concept of adding a new product category, “high-sugar processed food snacks”



Denmark announced on August 29 that the Government is abolishing tax on coffee, chocolate and sugar products



Recycling logos



Recycling logos

- **Spain:** Since January 2025, a mandatory recycling logo applies to all consumer packaging, regardless of type or point of sale
- **Portugal:** Non-reusable packaging under SIGRE must include recycling information either on-pack or via alternative means such as a website or QR code



In the Yellow container
Plastic, metal and carton packaging



In the Blue container
Paper and cardboard packaging.

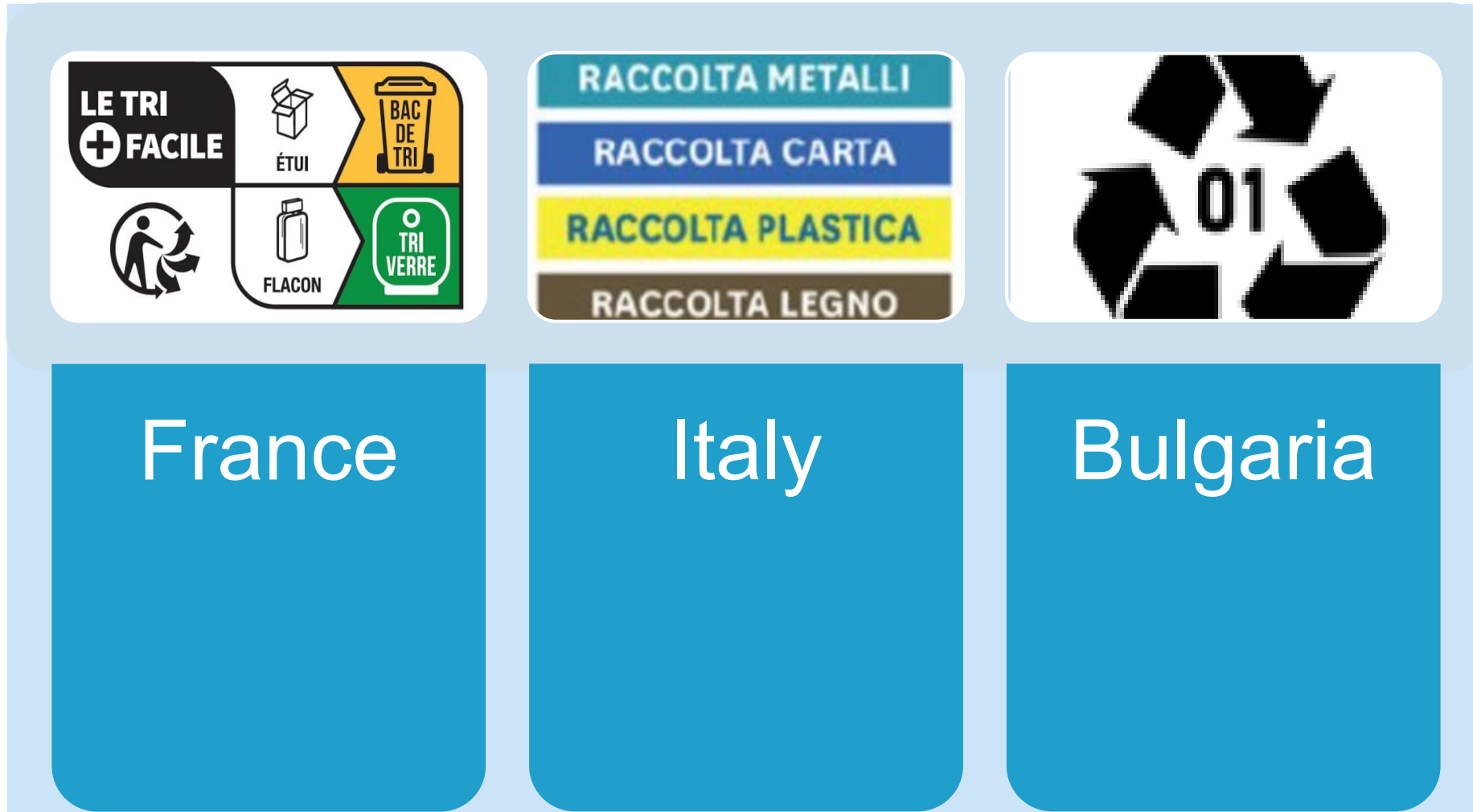


In the Brown container
Compostable packaging



In the green Container
Glass packaging

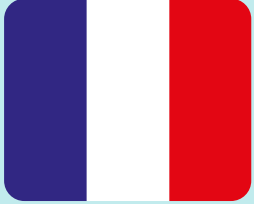
France, Italy & Bulgaria



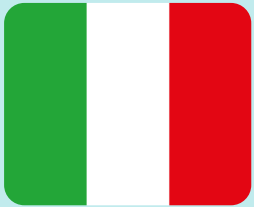
Plant-based product names



EU Member States tried to crack down on 'meat' names for plant-based foods



France: Banned 21 meat terms for plant-based foods in 2023



Italy: Enforced a similar ban in December 2023 to avoid consumer confusion



Poland: Drafted a regulation to ban meat-like names for plant-based items



Czech Republic: Dropped its plan to ban meaty names from its regulation



CJEU ruling: plant-based products & meat-related terms

- **CJEU ruling (Oct 2024):** Blanket bans on meat terms for plant-based products are not allowed unless legally defined
- **France's decrees annulled (Jan 2025):** National bans overturned for violating EU law. EU-wide impact



French MEP says, *'a steak is made of meat, full stop.'*



French Parliament vote (Sept 2025): Approved a ban on meat-related terms for plant-based products



Industry-backed proposal: Meat terms like steak or burger reserved for products made of actual meat



Conflict with EU law: Contradicts CJEU's 2024 ruling allowing such terms if labels are clear and not misleading



Questions?

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