

# MORNING AGRICULTURE & FOOD

—By EDDY WAX—

with Bartosz Brzeziński, Nahal Toosi and Emma Anderson

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SNEAK PEEK

## FOOD LABELING

**NGO WARNS NUTRI-SCORE PRESENTS 'MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN':** The NGO Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE) warned Thursday that the possible adoption of Nutri-Score as an EU-wide nutrition label "remains a major public health concern."

In a [new analysis](#), SAFE argues Nutri-Score is "ineffective" and potentially "misleading" in helping consumers "distinguish between healthy and unhealthy products" due to its reliance on "incomplete and overly simplistic criteria" as well as rules that aren't clear enough.

**Key context:** Opposition to Nutri-Score has been increasingly in the spotlight lately, especially since the Czech Council presidency is no fan of it. At Monday's Agrifish Council, ministers will discuss food labeling options over lunch.

**Sugary and processed:** The authors compared Nutri-Score to three other labeling systems — but no, not [Italy's rival Nutrinform Battery](#) — and determined that it tends to be much less stringent toward products that are heavily processed and high in sugar. Notably, the authors said, Nutri-Score does not assign a negative score to ultra-processed foods, which are known to be detrimental to health.

**Blind spots?** The authors also argue that Nutri-Score's algorithm "disregards" some naturally occurring substances that are beneficial to health, including unsaturated fats, vitamins and minerals, while "neglecting" the presence of harmful substances like certain additives, dyes and endocrine disruptors.

**Update error:** They also argued the [recent updates to Nutri-Score's algorithm](#), meant to improve how it scores certain categories of products, have failed to address the algorithm's fundamental issues, while introducing misleading "distortions" to scores of products like vegetable oils.

Source : POLITICO