Question for written answer E-014432/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Mairead McGuinness (PPE)

Subject: Obesity

As of the Amsterdam Treaty, the EU has a responsibility to promote health within the Union. The Commission's third health programme (2014-2020) has the promotion of health, the prevention of diseases and the fostering of supportive environments for healthy lifestyles as its first priority objective.

Recent studies have shown an increase in the number of EU citizens living with obesity, yet there is no European definition for the term obesity. Indeed, one third of people with obesity in Europe consider themselves to be just overweight.

Can the Commission provide a definition for obesity, in order to combat the ambiguity that surrounds the term?

Each individual Member State provides separate guidelines for developing a healthy lifestyle for their citizens to follow that can help to prevent obesity.

Does the Commission plan on creating a universal set of guidelines which could be applied to all Member States to act as guidance to promote a healthy life style?

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