Transforming food systems – adding value for better health in Europe

During the last century, the intention of European food policies was to tackle undernutrition and food insecurity by making food affordable and available to everybody. Unfortunately, this success story has also had some unintended consequences. Diets characterised by frequent consumption of processed foods high in saturated and trans-fats, refined carbohydrates and salt and a low intake of vegetables, fruits and whole grain foods are now widespread in Europe, with rising obesity prevalence and a significant disease burden. Consequently, more attention and efforts are needed to change towards a truly “healthy eating environment”.

To achieve this, panellists will discuss:

- What incentives and disincentives are currently influencing and constraining actors in the modern food supply chains.
- What are the entry points for changing food systems?
- What is the role of food chain length?
- What might encourage sectors involved in food systems to innovate further and bring their competitors on board for in a healthier direction?

ELS BEDERT
Adviser, Food & Non-Food Product Safety, EuroCommerce

CORINNA HAWKES
Professor of Food Policy, Director, Centre for Food Policy, University of London City

JOHANN MARIHART
President, Food Industries Association of Austria

JAVIER VALLE
Senior Policy Advisor, COPA & COGECA (European Farmers & European Agri-Cooperatives)

JO JEWELL
WHO Regional Office for Europe

KAREN FABBRI
Head of Sector, FOOD 2030, DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission

Moderated by CLIVE NEEDLE, Senior Policy Advisor, EuroHealthNet