

Foreword

This special issue of the *British Journal of Nutrition* comprises a selection of the presentations discussed in the context of the Sixth Congress of the Spanish Society of Community Nutrition (SENC), held on 22–25 September 2004 on the beautiful island of Ibiza, Spain.

Community nutrition aims to promote healthy eating at the population and individual level. Behavioural and environmental interventions are among the strategies used in order to increase people's capabilities and opportunities to access and achieve healthy food options. Over recent years, environmental actions based on socioecological models have been increasing in importance. School-based interventions, healthy food provision in kindergardens, high schools and universities, as well as catering services for the elderly or at workplaces, fit within this approach. School meals, food and drinks vendors, supportive food policies and regulations, including those affecting food marketing and advertising, will be invaluable in achieving these goals.

In this effort towards progress, we clearly need firm support from the authorities at different levels and the participation of the food industry, health-care providers, educators and especially those with responsibilities in the development of legislative frameworks and regulations, with a clear vision

towards health and well-being of consumers, despite commercial or political interests.

All these and other aspects of community nutrition will be further discussed and be the subject of analysis in the next World Congress of Community Nutrition to be held in Barcelona in autumn 2006.

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