

**TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026**



# **A SMARTER PREVENTION AGENDA FOR A HEALTHIER EUROPE**

*Empowering Citizens Beyond  
Prescriptive Policies*



## **Introduction**

### **Prof. Sumantra Ray**

Sumantra (Shumone) Ray is a UK licensed medical doctor and a registered public health nutritionist. He is the Chief Scientist and Executive Director of the NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health in Cambridge. Prof. Ray has a full professorship in Global Nutrition at Ulster University, and several other academic cross-appointments, including King's College London.

Prof. Ray is also the Founder and Co-Chair of the BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health and he has published over 200 scientific papers. He is an Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Handbook of Clinical and Healthcare Research as well as the Elsevier Essentials of Nutrition in Medicine and Healthcare. Since 2024, Ray has also been Head of Nutritional and Preventative Medicine for the WellFounded Clinic.

## **Panel 1**

### **Prof. dr. ir. Frans J Kok**

Frans Kok is emeritus professor in Nutrition & Health and former head of the Division of Human Nutrition at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. He was trained in human nutrition in Wageningen and epidemiology at Harvard University, Boston USA.

Prof. dr. ir. Kok's scientific research covers topics such as diet in disease prevention, dietary behaviour, and overweight. In emerging economies in Asia and Africa attention is on diet and deficiency disorders. He is author of around 350 original scientific publications and supervised 70 PhD graduates. Frans Kok is editor of three nutrition textbooks '*Personalized Nutrition – Principles and Applications*', '*Introduction to Human Nutrition*' and '*Biomarkers of Dietary Exposure*'.

Kok has been member of several (inter)national scientific committees, including director of the European Nutrition Leadership Program in Luxembourg.

## **Dr. Roberta Re**

Roberta Re is a senior scientific adviser with over 25 years' experience spanning academia, industry, and government, specialising in nutrition science, functional foods, and regulatory affairs. She works at the interface of science, policy, and industry, advising organisations on scientific substantiation, regulatory strategy, and public policy. She is Director of Cambridge Food Science, a consultancy supporting global food, drink and supplement companies, and Food and Drink Specialist at the UK Department for Business and Trade, where she contributes to cross-government coordination and sector growth.

She holds a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Italy, studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned a PhD in Biochemistry from King's College London. She began her research career at the MRC Human Nutrition Research Unit in Cambridge as part of the NDNS team, later joining Leatherhead Food Research to lead its Human Nutrition Research Unit. In 2015 she became Director General of the World Sugar Research Organisation, leading global scientific engagement with international bodies including WHO, FAO and Codex. She also holds an MBA from the University of Sussex and is a Mentor at the Cambridge Judge Business School Entrepreneurship Centre.

## **Panel 2**

### **Bo Dohmen**

Bo Dohmen is Senior Manager for Nutrition & Health at FoodDrinkEurope, where she has led regulatory and policy work since January 2022. She co-leads initiatives on wholegrain, fibre, salt reduction, reformulation, innovation, and healthier living as part of the FoodDrinkEurope Action Plan for Competitive and Sustainable Food Systems. Prior to that, Bo worked as Public Affairs Manager at the European Flavour Association and gained experience in several EU public affairs consultancies. She holds an MSc in European Studies from University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and a BA in European Studies from Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands), specialising in public policy, communication, and foreign languages.

### **Simon Spillane**

Simon Spillane is Senior Director at The Brewers of Europe, which brings together national brewers' associations and companies from 28 European countries to represent the united voice of Europe's 10,000+ beer breweries. Based in Brussels, The Brewers of Europe promotes the positive contributions of beer and the brewing sector, champions the conditions and policy framework for brewing and marketing beer sustainably, effectively, and responsibly across Europe. Spillane has held various senior roles at The Brewers of Europe over the last twenty years, having previously lived and worked in other countries across the EU. He is a dual Belgian-British national.

### **Annette Toft**

Annette Toft is Chair of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Foodstuffs. Since 2013, she has been Director of the Danish Agriculture & Food Council in Brussels. Previously, she served as Director of the Division for Food, Veterinary, Research and Organic Farming Policy within the same organization. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen and an MBA from Henley Business School. Since 2018, she has been a Member of the Board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). She has extensive experience in European food and health policy.

## **Moderator**

### **Prof. Pietro Paganini**

Pietro Paganini is a socioeconomic and (geo)political analyst and communicator with extensive experience in the global context. He is the Founder and President of Competere – Policies for Sustainable Development, where he designs strategies and policies for business leaders and policymakers to promote balanced diets and informed consumer choices. He is Adjunct Professor of Business Administration at Temple University (Philadelphia) and John Cabot University (Rome). He serves on the boards of DiBiZ, Academy IIP, and the Italian Institute for Privacy and Data Valorization. Paganini is the author of “*Food: How to Overcome Food Ideology?*”, “*Obesity: Instructions for Rebellion: The Mediterranean Way to Regain Balance, Health, and Freedom of Choice*” – co-authored with Prof. Carruba – and “*In Lucy’s Footsteps. An Evolutionary Journey*”.