What’s next?

In its CAP 2020 reform proposals, the Commission intends to further strengthen the scheme by raising the overall EU budget available for the scheme, increasing the rates of co-financing and extending the list of eligible measures. This would allow even more children to benefit from this very popular scheme.

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Key figures for 2010/11

- **8.1 million** children benefited (+ 70 % compared with 2009/10)
- **54 000 schools** took part
- **24 Member States** participated
- **EUR 90 million** of EU funding

- The target group was schoolchildren aged **1 to 18** but many Member States mainly targeted children aged **6 to 10**
- Preferred products were fresh fruit and vegetables: apples, oranges, bananas, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers ...
- **Italy, Romania, Germany and Poland** have been the main beneficiaries of these EU funds in recent years
- Children enjoyed additional activities such as farm visits, school gardens, cooking sessions ...

Europeans have eaten their school lunches for over 50 years. It is a positive programme aimed at helping children to develop good habits at an early age, which they carry into later life. It’s an investment against obesity in favour of a healthier lifestyle.

Dacian Cioloș
European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

European School Fruit Scheme
A success story for children

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"This is a positive programme aimed at helping children to develop good habits at an early age, which they carry into later life. It’s an investment against obesity in favour of a healthier lifestyle.”

Dacian Cioloș
European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
The World Health Organisation recommends eating a minimum of 400 g of fruit and vegetables a day to lower the risk of serious health problems. However, statistics show that Europeans do not eat enough fruit and vegetables. This is worrying considering the rising trends of overweight and obesity.

It is estimated that more than half of the adult population in the European Union are overweight or obese. The situation is particularly worrying when considering children — if they are overweight or obese at a young age, they will be at greater risk of poor health in adolescence and adulthood. On average, one in four children in the EU aged 6 to 9 years old were overweight or obese (measured data collected by WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative, COSI, 2008).

The school fruit scheme is approaching its fourth year of application since its launch in the 2009/10 school year. The scheme is much more than just simply a distribution of fruit and vegetable products — it involves partners from the agriculture, public health and educational sectors, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.