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Request for advice

On 19 February 1998, the then Vice-President of the Health Council received the following request (reference GZB/VVB/98653) from the then State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport:

My colleague the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and I hereby ask you to address the following matter:

In 1986, the former Food and Nutrition Council produced a report entitled Guidelines for a Healthy Diet. That publication formed the basis for subsequent food policy and for initiatives in the fields of food production and the dissemination of food-related information to the public. In recent years, a number of minor revisions have been made to the guidelines, in line with scientific developments.

More than ten years have passed since publication of the guidelines, and certain aspects of them are now the subject of debate. I would therefore be grateful if the Health Council would start work on the general, periodic review of the guidelines referred to in the annual plan for 1998. I understand that it will not be possible to complete this review in the short term. My suggestion therefore is that a revised version of the guidelines should be published in the year 2000 and that the guidelines should thereafter be updated every five years, in addition to any revisions that may be necessitated in the interim.

Please let me know whether the Council is able to act upon this proposal.

With kind regards,
State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport,
(signed) Erica Terpstra
