



**What
do we do
for you?**





What do we do for you?

Europe has been hit with an international economic and financial crisis of unprecedented proportions in recent years. Social security, healthcare, pensions and many other services are under pressure. No state in Europe can face these challenges alone. Therefore, the EPP Group works hard to find common solutions to overcome the crisis and to put economic growth back on track.

Alongside this we want to continue to build on the achievements of the European Union over the last 50 years. Barriers between countries have been broken down and many essential activities, such as travel and trade, have become easier both for European citizens and businesses. The EPP Group continues to strive for better consumer



rights, which in the internet age, continue to evolve. We also make a continuous effort to foster good relations with Europe's international partners to ensure Europe's voice is heard throughout the world.

We believe that responsible political decisions can help provide simple, fair and lasting solutions to people's problems. Our success in finding such solutions is the reason you've made us the biggest and most influential Group in the European Parliament in the last three elections.

In this leaflet, you will find just a few examples of how we in the EPP Group work to benefit all of Europe's 500 million citizens.



Joseph Daul MEP,
Chairman of the EPP Group



Protecting the euro

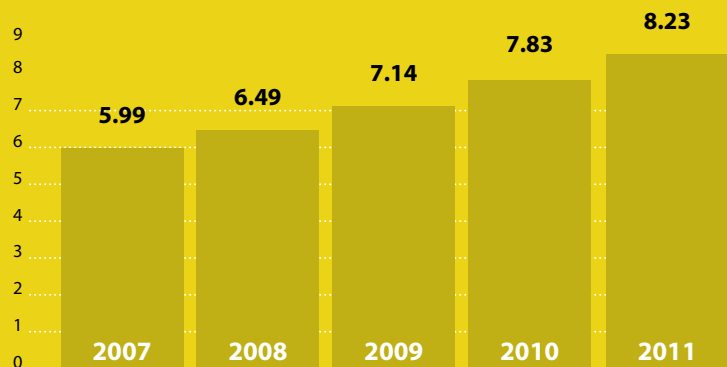
Making trade and travelling in Europe easier, the euro has been a great success. But exorbitant public debt in some EU Member States has put a severe strain on the common currency.

To avoid public debt spinning out of control again, the EPP Group is pushing for more financial governance in Europe, obliging Member States to either keep strict budgetary discipline - or else be sanctioned.

We also advocate more pooling of financial resources among the Member States - because a euro spent at EU level is worth more than a euro spent nationally.



Annual debt EURO 17 (in trillion €)



Source: Eurostat





A free financial market with effective safeguards

The economic and financial crisis was triggered by irresponsible lending practices by banks, poor management and insufficient regulation of the financial sector.

Because of this, the EPP Group pushed hard for the creation of three new European control bodies to supervise banks, financial markets, pension funds and insurance companies.

We want a free but responsible financial market which operates within a clear legal framework.







A “learning Europe” to challenge competitors

We need to get Europe back to growing its businesses, creating new jobs and being competitive in world markets. It's the only way Europe can maintain good pensions, a high level of care for older people, efficient public healthcare and many of the other benefits of the European social model - through a social market economy.

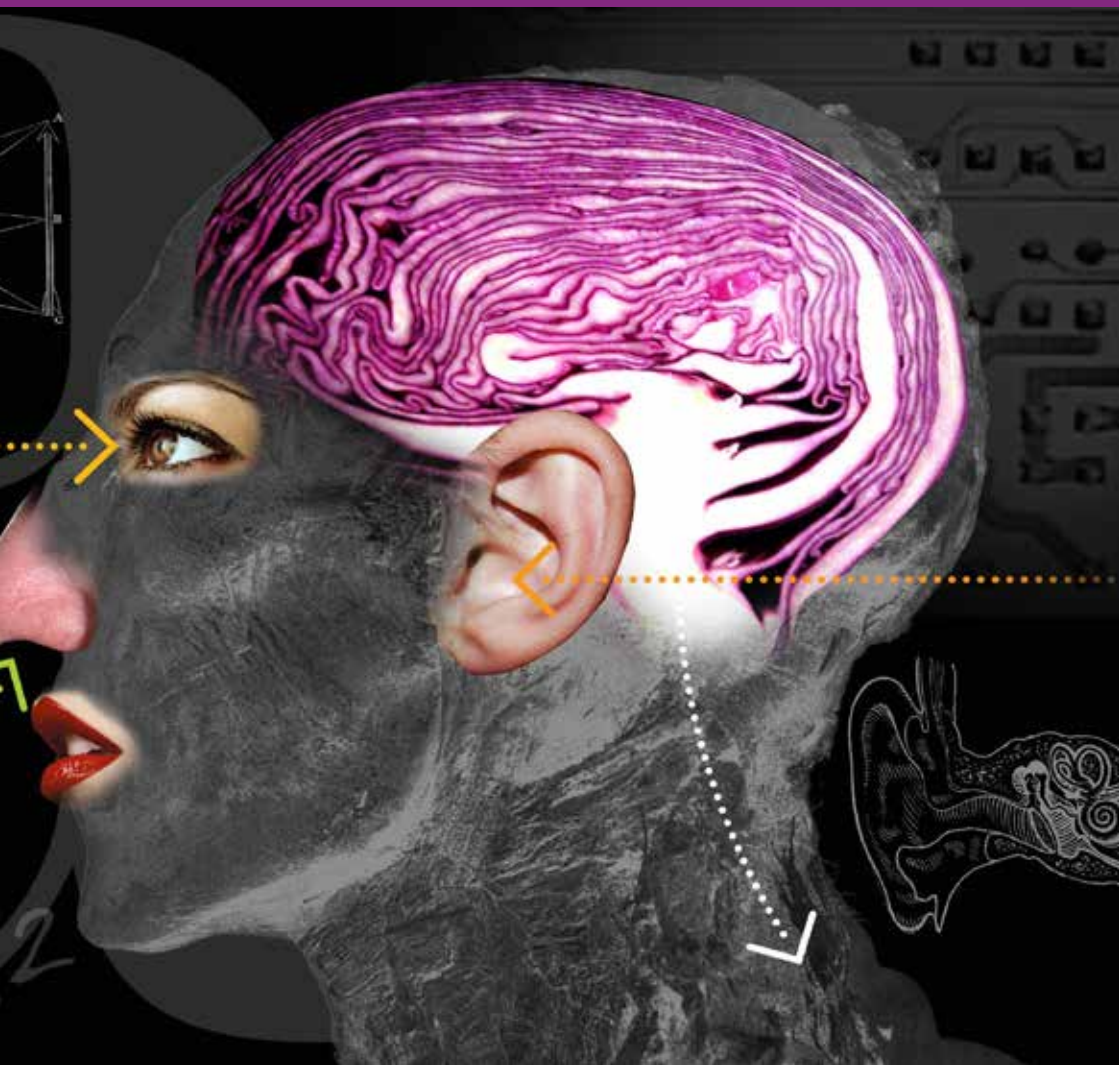
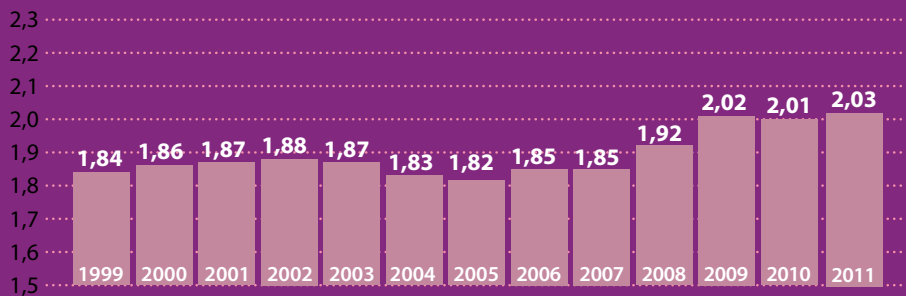
To make this happen, education and training are crucial. Europe's education systems must be state of the art, from primary education right up to universities and beyond. Research and technological development must be better coordinated and 3% of GDP should be invested in R&D to ensure that tomorrow's smartest inventions and newest technologies are created in Europe.

The EPP Group is convinced that a “learning Europe” is vital for Europe to be able to meet the challenge from global competitors like China, India and Brazil.



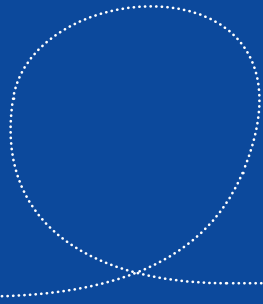
Research and Development Expenditure as % of GDP

EU 27 countries





Cheaper flights



Flying is one of the easiest and most popular ways to travel. But the total cost is not always clear when booking online, making it difficult to compare costs from one carrier to another.

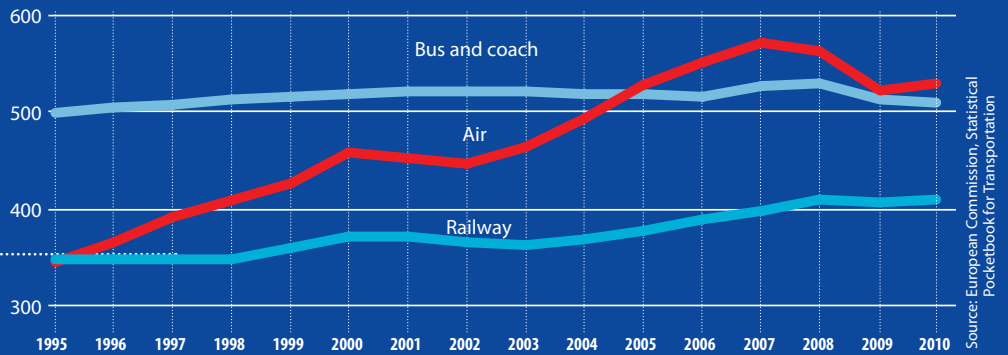
The EPP Group played a key role in new European transparency legislation: displayed air fares need to include all taxes, fees and charges added to the basic ticket price.

But we didn't only push for transparent prices. Our Group also spearheaded the European Parliament's work to introduce rules obliging carriers to take the shortest available route, while making air traffic control and air navigation systems more efficient. This shortens travel time and decreases fuel consumption. As a result, tickets are cheaper and air pollution and CO₂ emissions are reduced.

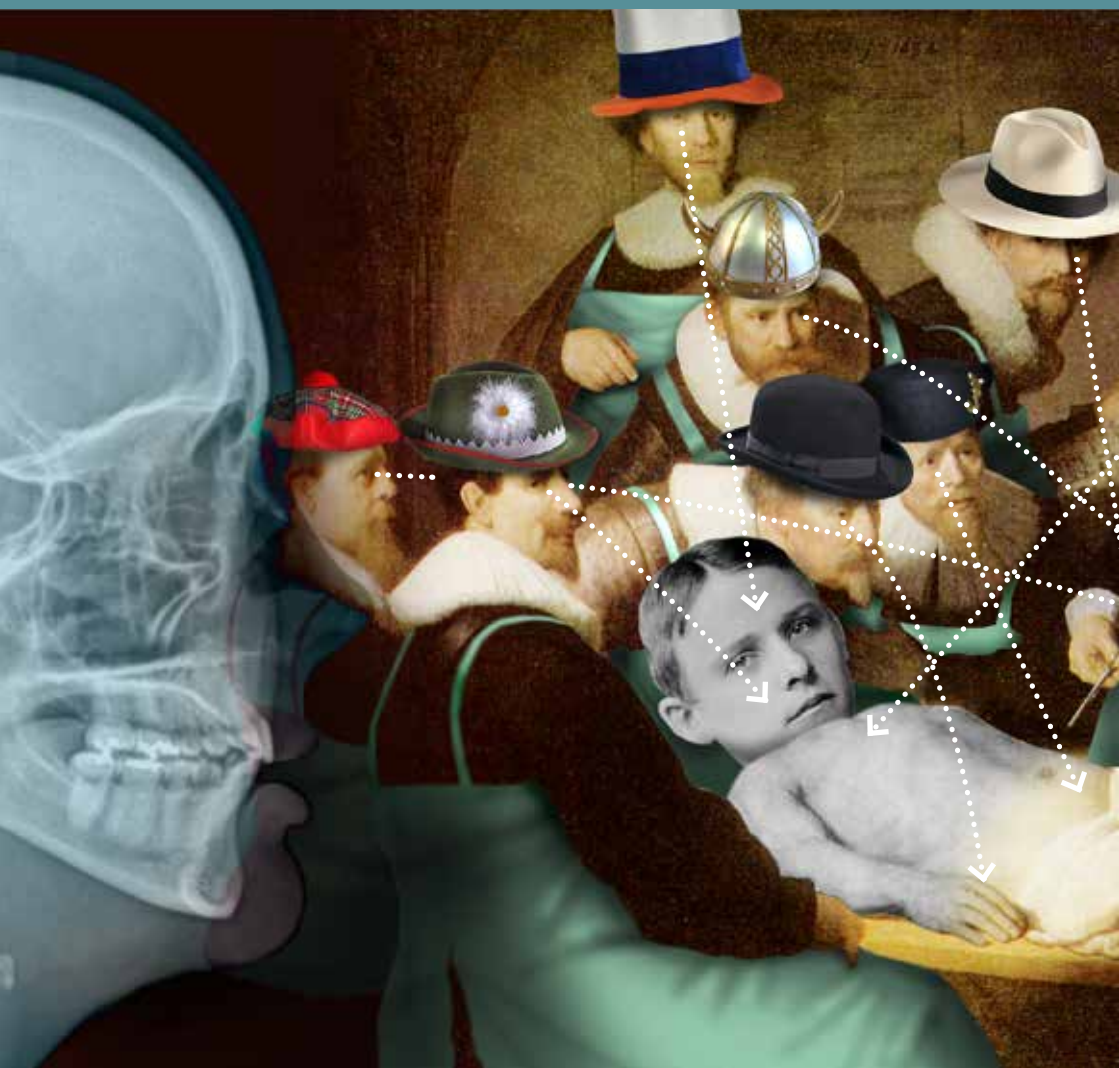


Transport in EU 27 by Mode for Passenger Transport 1995 - 2010

(Billions passengers – kilometers)



A travelling healthcare scheme

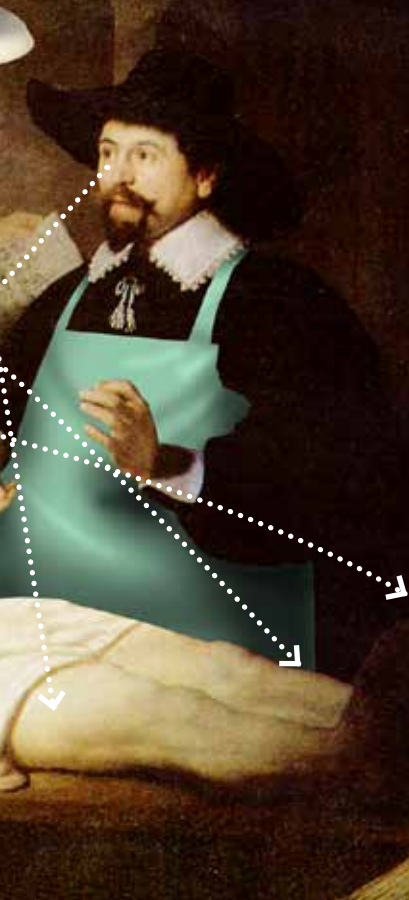


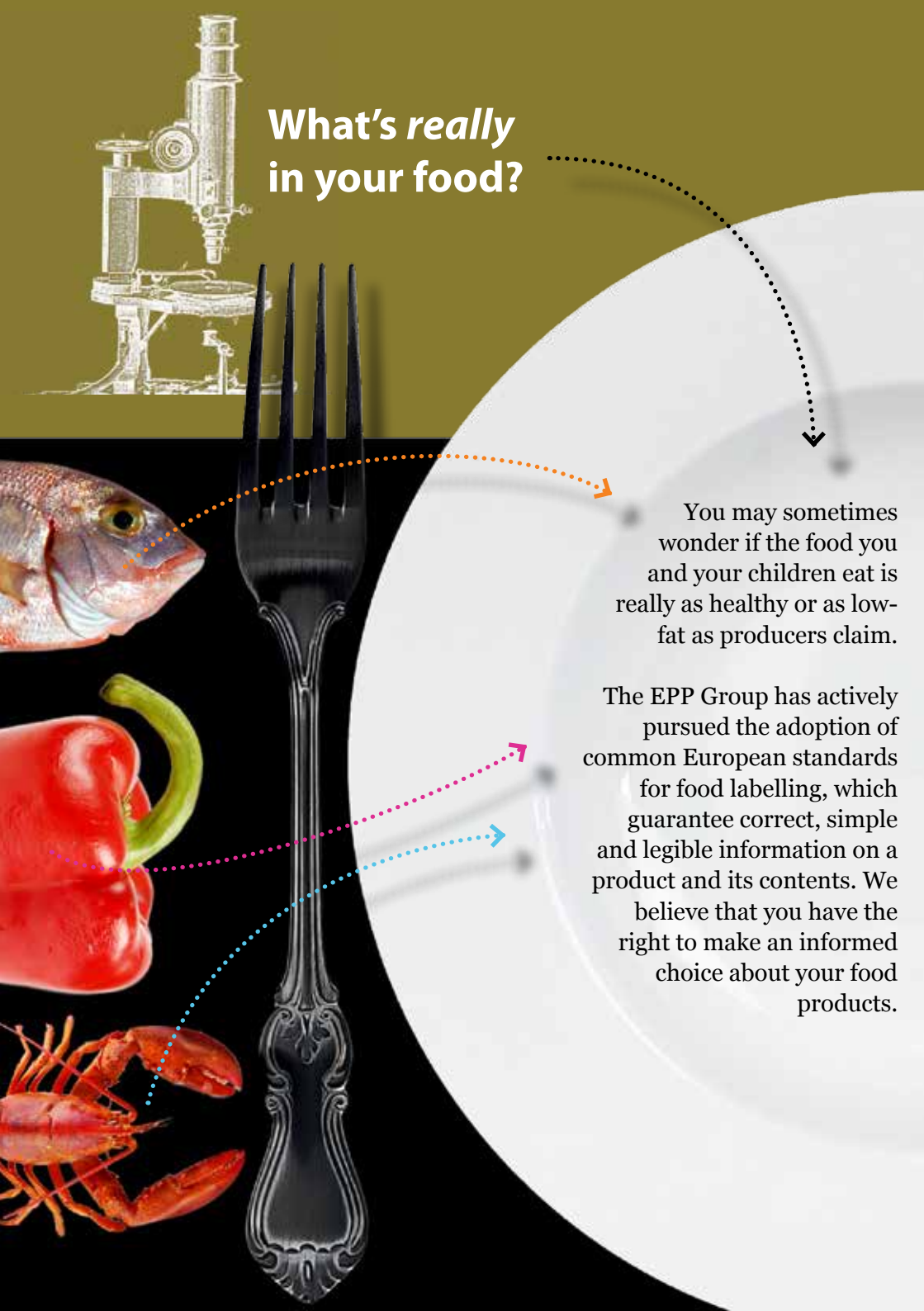


Until recently, EU citizens could not use their national healthcare system to get medical treatment in another EU country.

Thanks to the efforts of the EPP Group, the main driving force behind new EU legislation on cross-border healthcare, you can now receive healthcare treatments abroad and get reimbursed by your own healthcare system.

This is very good news, especially for those who suffer from a rare disease. For these patients, better coordination and cooperation between EU Member States can improve diagnosis and treatment.

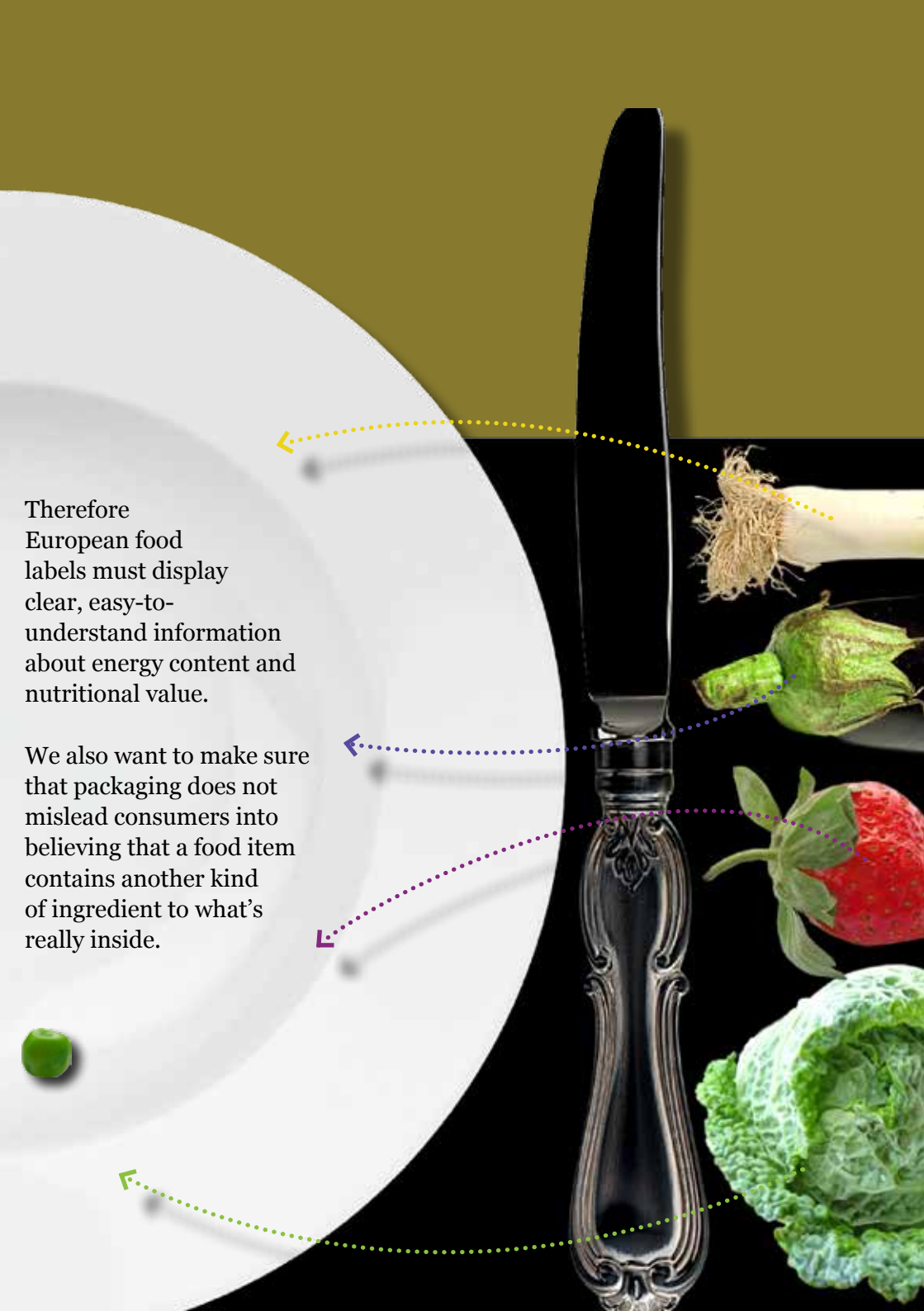




What's *really* in your food?

You may sometimes wonder if the food you and your children eat is really as healthy or as low-fat as producers claim.

The EPP Group has actively pursued the adoption of common European standards for food labelling, which guarantee correct, simple and legible information on a product and its contents. We believe that you have the right to make an informed choice about your food products.

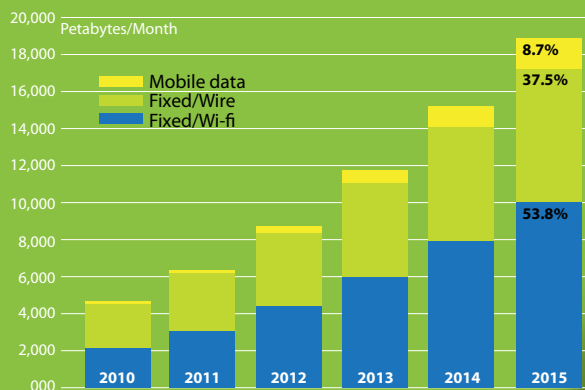


Therefore
European food
labels must display
clear, easy-to-
understand information
about energy content and
nutritional value.

We also want to make sure
that packaging does not
mislead consumers into
believing that a food item
contains another kind
of ingredient to what's
really inside.

New rights for online consumers

Internet traffic



Source: Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI)
Global IP Traffic Forecast

Ever bought a memory card for your camera from another EU country on the internet? Or perhaps a new shirt? If so, were the price and the shipping costs clear? Would you have been certain of your rights if the memory card hadn't worked, or if the shirt had arrived with an ugly stain?

Thanks to new rules on consumer rights largely negotiated by the EPP Group, online sellers must provide you with precise information on the total price, the goods ordered and the contact details of the trader.

You also have the right to change your mind and withdraw from the deal within two weeks of the delivery date.

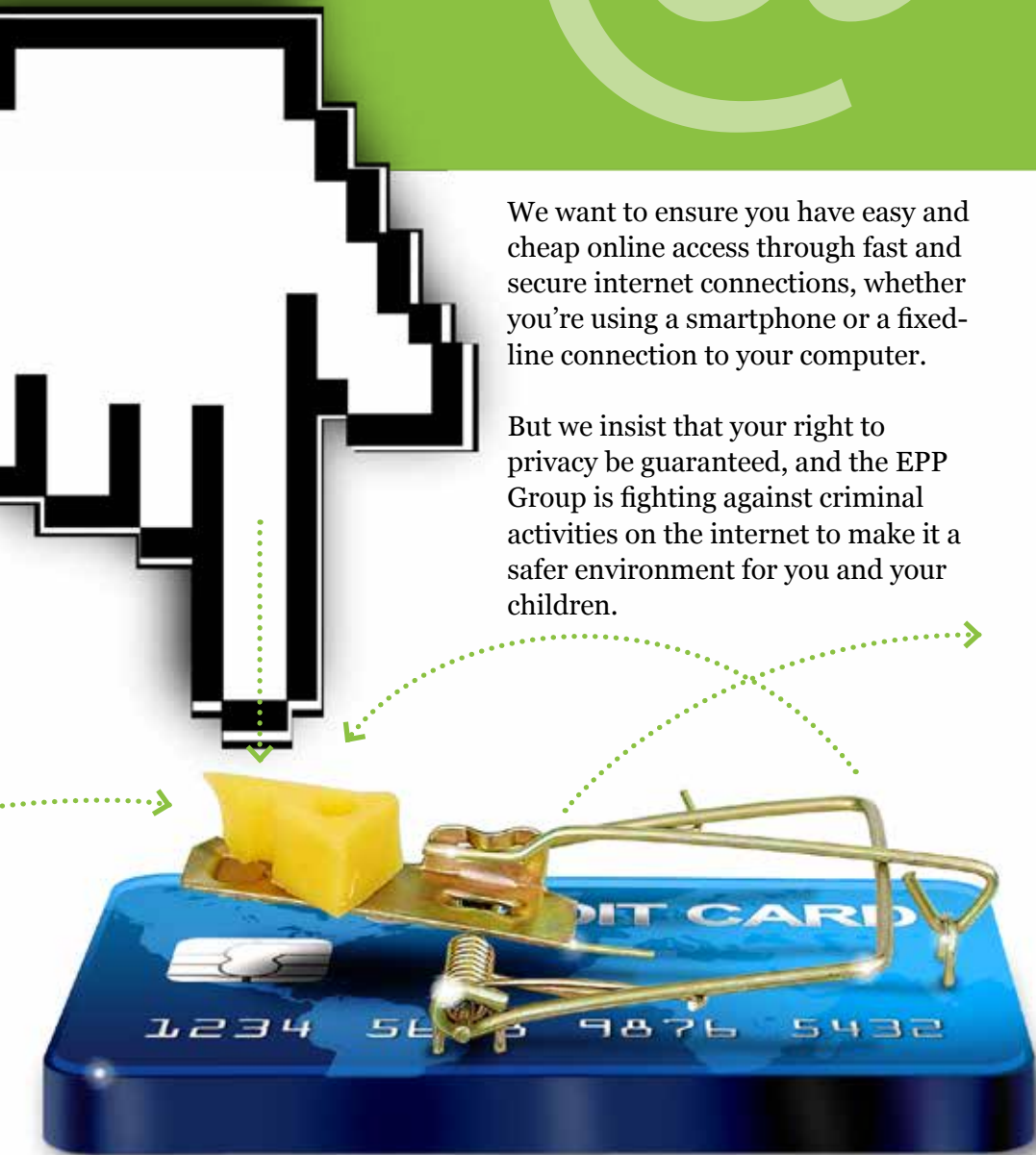


A fast and secure internet connection



We want to ensure you have easy and cheap online access through fast and secure internet connections, whether you're using a smartphone or a fixed-line connection to your computer.

But we insist that your right to privacy be guaranteed, and the EPP Group is fighting against criminal activities on the internet to make it a safer environment for you and your children.



Europe on the international stage

The European Union has become a major economic and trading power, as well as the single largest development aid donor, but it still has to fully assert its political power at a global level.

The EPP Group takes a leading role in formulating the EU's external policy and in ensuring the EU speaks with one voice on major world issues.

We want to promote the values of democracy and rule of law globally, encourage the spread of fundamental principles and human rights and contribute to the eradication of poverty throughout the world.







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