Reviewer's report

Title: Sugar-added beverages consumption among pre-school children of Crete: effects on nutritional status and risk of obesity

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2008

Reviewer: France Bellisle

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions
The manuscript has been improved over the previous one. Nevertheless a number of confusing aspects remain and must be clarified. For one thing, the subjects are presented as "pre-school children". Then it is surprising to read on page 4 that these children were supposed to be in school at the time of testing, or on page 5-6 that they might be registered in physical activity classes. There is a problem here. The authors should clearly describe their population. Giving age of the subjects would be helpful.

Another source of confusion comes from the fact that the introduction and discussion sections mainly describe effects attributed to sodas or "soft drinks". Then the rationale for examining the effects of sodas plus sugar-added fruit juices in the present study should be justified.

Minor revisions
There are several minor points that require clarification.

The amount of sugar-added beverage intake that was considered to be "high" should be given in the abstract. The abstract mentions that the children were 4-7 years-old. Then they were not really "pre-school children".

Page 5: High intakes are associated with obesity, but not really with overweight as shown in Figure 1. The association between high intake and WC is a bit more linear, but still the data seem to indicate that it is the very high intake level that is associated with risk.

Page 6: "Defining obesity" should be replaced by "Defining adiposity status"

Page 7, lines 7 and following: sentence unclear (What is the risk you are talking about here?)

In the Results section, results of statistical tests (F values, $X^2$ values etc.) should be given in addition to p values. Table 2 should mention the age of children in each intake group.

The last sentences of the discussion section (Page 10, lines 1-6) do not derive from the presented data.

Table 1. Units should be given for the numbers associated with "overweight", "obese" and "consumers". I suppose the numbers given are the N. Is this correct? The end of page notes are useless unless the corresponding statistical
values are provided ($X^2$ and $F$ values).

The Figure Titles as presented on the Figures are totally wrong. These figures present odds ratios and not BMI levels or waist circumferences. On page 14, different titles are given. The authors should clarify this.

Finally, the language requires editing for style and clarity.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I am presently a member of the international scientific advisory committee for Coca-Cola, and a member of the jury of the Evian scholarships.