



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Safety of the Food Chain
E4 - Nutrition, food composition and information
Head of Unit

Brussels,
SANTE/E4/AT/ns

Subject: PETITION - 34128 signatures to ban deceptive health claims on food

The petition at stake has already been subject to previous exchanges with the Commission, in particular the Commission letters of 20 December 2013 and of 19 March 2014 (Ref. Ares(2013)3787873 and Ares(2014)795787, respectively) in which the Commission provided information about the objectives and the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods.

As explained, this Regulation harmonises the EU market with the twofold objective of offering a high level of protection of consumers from misleading claims while ensuring free movement of goods within the internal market by creating equal conditions for competition.

As provided for therein, nutrition and health claims shall be based on and substantiated by generally accepted scientific evidence; only such claims authorised by the Commission can be used on the EU market.

In addition, in order to avoid the situation where nutrition and health claims mask the overall nutritional status of a food product which could mislead consumers when trying to make healthy choices in the context of a balanced diet, foods should comply with appropriate nutrient profiles (maximum levels of nutrients such as fat, salt, and sugars), which will enhance the consumer's ability to make informed and meaningful choices.

With this regard the Commission has conducted preliminary work, however first exchanges with Member States and stakeholders have led to a considerable political debate. Reflections are continuing under the current college of Commissioners how to best realise the objectives of the Regulation within the overall health policy and the better regulation principles of the Commission.

The Commission kindly requests to publish the present reply on your website.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Nikolakopoulou

By email: [REDACTED]