

Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Member of the European Commission

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2 September, 2008

Brussels,
D/08/1260
Lien A/08/2731

Dear Graham,

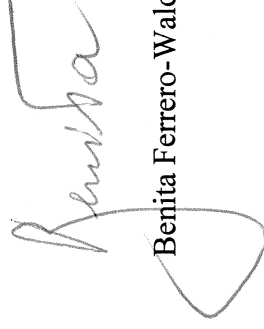
Dear Mr Watson,

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 2008 sharing with my colleague Meglena Kuneva your constituent's concern about the labelling of products originating in the West Bank. Given that this issue falls under my remit, she has forwarded your letter to me. Please accept my apologies for the late reply.

The Commission is aware of reports on the inaccurate labelling of products from Israeli settlements beyond Israel's recognised borders. It is the EU's position, in line with Security Council Resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Convention, that settlements in occupied Palestinian territory are not part of the territory of the State of Israel. Consequently, the labelling of products originating in settlements beyond the Green Line should reflect this position.

With regard to the Directive you are referring to, it is the task of national control authorities such as food inspection bodies or market surveillance authorities to control and to ensure its implementation, i.e. the correct labelling of foodstuffs. It would therefore be advisable for your constituent to take up this matter with the relevant authority in charge of consumer protection in the UK.

Yours sincerely,


Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Mr. Graham Watson
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