

European Commission
Commissioner Tonio Borg
Commissioner Dacian Ciolos
Ms. Dorothee André
Health and Consumers Directorate-General
B – 1049 Brussels

Berlin, 31/01/2014

OPEN LETTER

**foodwatch online petition for clear and uniform labelling of genetic engineering,
your letter dated December 9th 2013**

Dear Commissioners Borg and Ciolos, Dear Ms. André,

Thank you for your letter regarding our petition for the clear and uniform labelling of genetic engineering. The petition has now been signed by almost 30.000 citizens who demand the mandatory labelling of foodstuffs derived from farm animals fed with genetically modified feed.

The petition is focusing on a core question of consumers' freedom of choice regarding GMOs:

"We demand that you ensure clear and uniform labelling of genetic engineering. So that we consumers can finally have true freedom of choice, we demand that all animal-derived foods produced using genetically modified animal feeds be labelled as such from now on!"

Sadly, in your answer you do not address this demand. Instead, you explain the legal status quo and your unwillingness to establish a true freedom of choice:

"The Commission considers it necessary to properly inform the consumers on the presence of authorised GMOs in foodstuffs and feed, allowing them to make an informed purchasing choice. The GMO legislation ensures that consumers are comprehensively informed on the presence of GMOs in food and feed."

Although you are pretending to respect consumers' right to know and make well informed purchasing choices, you explicitly ignore the fact that exactly this is not possible regarding GMO in the food-chain. If it was, consumers would not have had to take action to call for a mandatory labelling of all animal-derived foods produced using genetically modified animal feeds.

It is the lack of such a mandatory labelling that forces many consumers, namely the ones buying animal-derived products such as meat, milk or eggs, to support genetic engineering in agriculture without their knowledge and against their will.

We therefore cannot accept your proposition cited above as the contrary is true: European GMO legislation does not ensure that consumers are comprehensively informed!

We strongly ask you again to act in favor of consumers' rights: Put a mandatory labelling for all animal-derived foods produced using genetically modified animal feeds into force!

We also call on you to address this issue at the negotiations of the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and to make the following unconditional demand on behalf of the citizens of Europe: Every single use of genetically modified plants in the entire feed- and food chain, including plants used as feedstuffs for animals, has to be made transparent to consumers. The citizens of Europe should be empowered to decide if and if yes what kind of genetic engineering they find acceptable and thus will be applied within the food-production process.

Yours sincerely,



Matthias Wolfschmidt
Director Campaigning