



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**

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

Brussels,  
SANCO/E4/CD/ns

Dear Mr Wolfschmidt,  
Dear Mr Huizinga,

**Subject: petition for a ban on the use of health claims for food products**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 March 2014 on the above mentioned subject.

As I mentioned in my reply to your petition (Ref. Ares(2013)3787873 - 20/12/2013), Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods (the Regulation) is not yet fully implemented. Indeed the setting of nutrient profiles referred to in Article 4 of the Regulation is a remaining implementing measure. The preliminary works of the Commission concerning this implementing measure raised an important political debate, which delayed its adoption. Given the particular political context for this year, with the forthcoming elections of the European Parliament and the designation of the President and members of the new Commission, I am not in a position to give you any further information.

The Regulation was adopted on 20 December 2006 and applies since 1 July 2007. The application of the Regulation is not subject to the adoption of any implementing measure. Therefore the delay in setting nutrient profiles does not prevent its application, which allowed, as I already mentioned in my previous reply, a significant reduction of the number of claims on the market, by prohibiting the ones that were not scientifically justified. I hope that you will agree that it would have been detrimental to consumers to wait until the adoption of nutrient profiles to progress in the regulation of these claims.

Yours sincerely,

Basil Mathioudakis

Mr Wolfschmidt  
Head of strategy and campaigns  
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