

Brussels, 06.10.2009
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Dear Mr Hanssen,

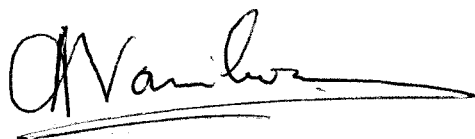
Thank you for your letter dated 5 August 2009 on the establishment of nutrient profiles and your comprehensive analysis of its potential benefits.

The setting of nutrient profiles is a major step in the implementation of Regulation (EC) 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on nutrition and health claims made on food, and it is being closely followed at the highest level of the Commission. It is a key measure to prevent the proliferation of misleading nutrition and health claims made on foods, and I am grateful that you share this view.

The European Food and Safety Authority provided its scientific opinion on nutrient profiles in January 2008. Food business operators, consumer and public health organisations have been consulted, as nutrient profiles impact on economic activities, but also on public health. We are currently still in the process of consulting the other services of the European Commission before tabling a legislative proposal for vote in the Regulatory Committee.

I fully agree with you that any exemptions to the obligation to comply with nutrient profiles need to be carefully assessed, in order to make sure they do not concern foods which may have a negative impact on health due to their nutritional composition. Striking the right balance as far as the scope of the exemptions is concerned is proving to be a challenging exercise. In this sense, I have taken good note of your remarks and concerns.

I greatly appreciate the support the Norwegian authorities have always shown in the development of these nutrient profiles. Your contribution will help us in our continuous work to progress on this important implementing measure.



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