

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party

for the South East of England

Commissioner Fischer Boel
DG Agriculture
The European Commission
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

March 2nd 2006

Dear Commissioner,

In recent days I have been sent an unprecedented number of emails and letters about the Commission's proposal to allow organic food, contaminated with genetically modified organisms up to a threshold of 0.9%, to retain its organic status. As I am sure you are aware, Green MEPs in the Parliament were at the forefront of the campaign to reject this proposal and I am writing to you now to urge you to listen to the wishes of my constituents.

In common with people across Europe, residents of the South East of England do not want GM foods - be they sold in their shops or grown in their fields. Consumers that choose organic produce, and their numbers are growing year on year, are particularly concerned about avoiding GM foods. This proposal risks damaging the reputation of organic produce and the independent, robust and trusted organic certification schemes that currently work to a practical detection threshold of 0.1% GM contamination. The Commission's plans severely restrict the consumer's right to choose because they will not be provided with information about whether or not their organic produce is contaminated with GMOs. This is surely at odds with Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 and in Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 which relate to labeling. My constituents are, quite rightly, concerned that unknowingly purchasing and eating GM foods will become more of a likelihood.

To date Europe has taken a strong line on GM foods. I am delighted that the Commission has declared its intention to appeal the WTO's ruling on the legality of GM import bans. This new proposal, however, runs the risk of letting GM foods into Europe through the back door and I urge you to reconsider.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

Suite 58, The Hop Exchange, 24 Southwark Street, London SE1 1TY, UK
Tel: 020 7407 6281 Fax: 020 7234 0183 E-mail: carolinelucas@greenmeps.org.uk
Web: www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk