

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Fischer Boel
DG Agriculture
The European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

May 1st 2009

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that in its forthcoming Communication on agricultural product quality, the Commission does not abandon its commitment to the labelling of eggs and egg packs to indicate farming method.

Whilst there could be improvements to the scheme that has been in place since 2004, overall it has been successful; giving consumers the information they need to make informed purchasing decisions. Compassion in World Farming also considers that it has been a key factor in the move away from battery eggs in many member states. Returning to the voluntary scheme that was in place before 2004, and which was ineffective in terms of consumers being able to reliably compare eggs from different sources, would be a massive step backwards - both in terms of animal welfare and consumer rights.

As you know, EU citizens consistently report that they want their food products labelled clearly and honestly, particularly in an age where ethical food production is high on the public agenda. I trust DG Agriculture will put the interests of consumers and the welfare of egg producing hens ahead of any cost based arguments from the intensive farming industry and look forward to hearing your views on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.