

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**

**Green Member of the European Parliament  
for the South East of the UK**

**Commissioner Franz Fischler  
200 Rue de la Loi  
Brussels**

**13 July 2001**

Dear Commissioner Fischler

**RE: ORGANIC TRANSITION PERIODS AND CERTIFICATION**

It has been brought to my attention that the obligatory transition time for organic farming (EU Regulation 2091/92) is not enforced equally within the EU, thereby giving an unfair advantage to some organic producers.

While the UK adheres to the official transition period of two years, it appears that in the Netherlands SKAL certifies growers after six months and in Finland certification is granted after zero months.

While we understand that exceptions from the two year rule are possible if the farm proves to have not used pesticides etc prior to conversion, the activities of SKAL do not appear to be on this case-by-case basis but rather they grant the six month transition period as a general rule. This clearly seems to contravene EU regulations and give Dutch farmers an unfair advantage.

If on the other hand, you believe SKAL has been acting legally, would it be possible for UK growers to register for certification under the Dutch scheme, given that all players should be equal under single market rules?

I would urge you to look into this as a matter of urgency in order to ensure greater harmonisation within the Union as well as consistency and equality on this matter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP

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