

Dear Ms Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of May 1st 2009 concerning labelling of eggs.

Production method labelling forms part of the marketing standards for eggs under the single common market organisation regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007, and its implementing rules.

On 28 May, the Commission has adopted a Communication on agricultural product quality policy, which will set out strategic orientations for the development of quality policy instruments, including marketing standards. This document, which builds on the results of the Commission's Green Paper consultation launched on 15 October 2008, addresses the development of marketing standards at the level of broad principles and does not contain any specific proposals for any sectoral marketing standard.

As you are aware, production method labelling is an approximate indicator of animal welfare and it covers several other farming attributes, notably in the environmental sphere. On the particular issue of animal welfare labelling, the Commission is preparing a separate Communication for adoption later this year. This Communication will address animal welfare labelling in a comprehensive way and so lay the foundation for future policy development.

Yours sincerely,



Mariann Fischer Boel

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