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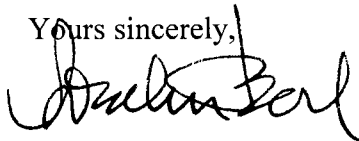
Dear Mrs. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter in which you expressed your concerns regarding the health problems associated with the cultivation of oilseed rape.

Concerning your recommendation to launch an awareness campaign on health problems allegedly associated with oilseed rape, I would like to point out that, as documented by the report on "Asthma and other breathing difficulties and the link with oilseed rape" attached to your letter, the evidence presented and discussed does not yet seem to be conclusive as far as health risks at general population level are concerned. In any event such an initiative would, according to Treaty Article 152, be the responsibility of the individual Member State.

In the context of the CAP, oilseed rape cultivation is supported in the same way as other arable crops and in the absence of a proven health risk, this is not expected to change.

Yours sincerely,



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