



To: Interested Parties

25 October 2007

Reference: LRM 06/71

Dear Sir/Madam

EU FOOD LABELLING REVIEW

I am writing to update you on developments in Brussels on the EU Review of Food Labelling. Following my letter of 2 August, the European Commission held a further meeting of the Experts' Group on 8 October, which is likely to be the last at Commission level. The key points discussed are summarised below.

Timetable

The Commission expects to start an Inter-Service consultation with other Directorates shortly, with the aim of publishing a draft Food Information Regulation - combining both General and Nutrition Labelling - by 19 December 2007. An Impact Assessment will accompany the proposal.

Structure of Legislation and General Requirements

The Commission has further confirmed that it is proposing to include in the new Regulation a set of key principles to determine mandatory information requirements. These principles are along the lines of those endorsed by the Food Standard Agency's Board earlier this year and the subject of a recent public consultation. This approach was welcomed by Member States. Member States also agreed that the new Regulation should have a robust framework, with clear aims and objectives that would be able to accommodate future developments in the provision of food information. The Commission is seeking to simplify the requirements of the Food Labelling Directive 2000/13 as far as possible.

Definitions

The Commission is proposing an extensive list of definitions to clarify terms used in the text. There was general agreement that maximum use should be made of those definitions already existing in EU legislation.

