

27<sup>th</sup> June 2001

## **Nutrition and Functional Claims SANCO/1341/2001**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Discussion Paper on the above.

The Dairy Industry Federation represents the processors of milk and manufacturers of dairy products in England and Wales. We have considered this paper, and have concluded that it is a good approach, and we welcome EU guidance in this area.

We note that the paper covers nutrition and functional claims only. We would welcome its extension to the area of health claims, with subsequent modification of Directive 2000/13/EC.

We would, however, point out that Council Regulation (EC) No 2991/94 regulates the use of the terms 'low-fat', 'light' and reduced-fat spreadable fats. We would want to maintain the use of these terms for these products.

We would also point out that for some products "X% fat free" is not a misleading description. For example, in the case of semi-skimmed milk (which is regulated to have a fat content of 1.5 to 1.8%) a claim "98% fat free" is perfectly accurate, and provides the consumer with useful information.

We hope that these comments will be helpful to the Commission in their preparations for a proposal on this subject.

Yours sincerely

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