

**Wemos Foundation,                    31 July 2001**

**Comments on Discussion paper SANCO/1341/2001**

Dear SANCO,

The Wemos Foundation would like to give comment to the discussion paper SANCO/1341/20001 about Nutritional claims and functional claims. We apologise to send in our comments this late. Still, we hope they can be taken into consideration.

In general the discussion paper describes some good issues for discussion. It reflects very well our opinion that health and nutrition claims can be very misleading. Misuse of claims is common practice, e.g. when there is insufficiently scientific proof for the claim and the wording used. When misuse will be charged and sanctioned a public image will have been created already.

We regret that the recommendation of the last Codex Committee on Food Labelling, concerning health claims for infants and young children has not been taken up in the discussion paper. It was agreed during the last session of the CCFL to take up 1.4 in the Scope, stating that 'Health claims are not permitted for foods for infants and young children unless specifically provided for in relevant Codex standards.'

We hope that the European guidelines will take up a similar provision. When a country subscribes the international WHO/UNICEF Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (concerning marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes or BMS), then this country should be consequent in its regulation about claims. Claims idealise BMS and violate therefore Article 9 of this Code. Nutrition of a child at a very young age can be of great influence to the health of this child at a later stage, and therefore needs special attention.

If you might have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or somebody else of the babyfood program of Wemos. I sincerely hope our comments will be taken up for consideration.

Thank you very much in advance.

With kind regards,

Mary Janssen