

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear Commissioner Tonio Borg,

At the present time there is no EU-legislation that guarantees the natural or ecological properties of non-food products such as cosmetics. The EU "Ecolabel" for non-food products guaranties that certain environmental minimum standards have been fulfilled in the production process of the product but it does not guarantee that the product is ecological.

The European consumer has thus no way of knowing if the product he or she is buying is in fact ecological or not. Unlike in the case of foodstuffs, for example, there are no EU checks on ecological non-food care products. Instead, producers are free to call a cream ecological even if it is not at all ecological.

This leads to confusion and in some cases to misleading of the consumer. In 2012 the Danish Environment and Health Information Centre tested 36 supposedly ecological care and cosmetic products, 80 % of which proved not to be ecological, containing either perfume or parabens or dyestuffs.

This is a problem we believe the European Commission should act on. Many of the substances found in the products that the producers claimed were ecological, turned out to be directly harmful to the environment and to human beings.

A solution could be a European label that guarantees the ecological characteristics of non-food products. This would give the consumers a possibility to make a free choice when they buy cosmetics, soap, creams, care products etc. And it would give consumers a guarantee that when they buy a product with this label it is in fact ecological.

We know that the Commission in 2010 established a working group assessing different claim categories for non-food products. We hope that this working group could be the first step to launching a European ecological label for non-food products. And we hope that the working group will soon reach a conclusion so we can move forward in the direction of European label for ecological non-food products.

We look forward to your reply,

Dan Jørgensen

Andrea Zanoni

Sirpa Pietikäinen

Åsa Westlund

Raül Romeva i Rueda