

On 16 June 2010 the European press reported the following on the EP vote on labelling:



Ludger Fischer, who coordinates the UEAPME food forum, said, "Small food producers vary their offer every day, according to season and availability.

"Their production is not standardised, and some of them may never make the same exact product twice. Labelling and applying a fully fledged nutritional notice on each of their products is either impossible or too expensive."

"In both cases, it would push the business out of the market and dramatically reduce the choices available to consumers."

"Thankfully, parliament has understood the possible consequences of extending labelling requirements to non pre-packed food and has voted to avoid this scenario."

[http://www.theparliament.com/no\\_cache/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/meps-reject-traffic-light-scheme-for-food-products/](http://www.theparliament.com/no_cache/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/meps-reject-traffic-light-scheme-for-food-products/)



The **European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME)** welcomed the fact that nutrition labelling was only made mandatory for processed foods and that non pre-packed products were excluded from labelling requirements.

The association, however, sees as "a slap in SMEs' face" the introduction of compulsory country-of-origin labelling for all foodstuffs, including food coming from other EU countries. **UEAPME's food policy advisor Ludger Fischer** argued that such a requirement "will trigger enormous complications for small businesses changing ingredients very frequently" and called on the Council to reject this clause "if it is serious about protecting the distinctiveness of typical European fresh foodstuffs".

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/food-industry-wins-battle-traffic-light-labels-news-495324>



According to the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME), this vote has some positive points – for example, the exemption of non pre-packed products from labelling requirements – and some negative points. The latter include compulsory country of origin labelling for a large number of products. "This decision is a slap in our face and will trigger enormous complications for small businesses changing ingredients very frequently," said Ludger Fischer, who coordinates the UEAPME Food Forum.

<http://www.europolitics.info/ep-vote-draws-mixed-reactions-art275310-10.html>



The draft food labelling regulation has provoked intense lobbying from industry, health campaigners and consumer groups ever since the proposal was first published by the European Commission in January 2008.

The European craft and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) employers' association (UEAPME) said it had mixed feelings about today's outcome. Ludger Fischer, UEAPME's food policy advisor, welcomed the Parliament's decision to exempt non pre-packed food, such as bread and pastries, from the legislation. But he described the Parliament's decision to extend country of origin labels as "a slap in our face" that "will trigger enormous complications for small businesses changing ingredients very frequently".