

Baroness Ashton of Upholland
High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Brussels

12 April 2013

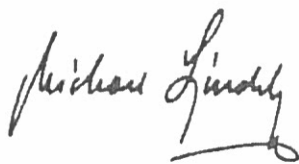
Dear High Representative,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2013, building on the public commitment made by Member States in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 12 May 2012, and 10 December 2012.

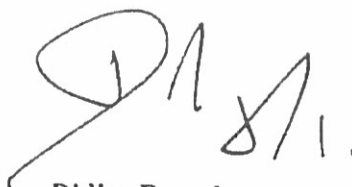
We warmly welcome your commitment to work with fellow Commissioners to prepare EU-wide guidelines on the labelling of settlement produce. This is an important step to ensure correct and coherent implementation of EU consumer protection and labelling legislation, which is in fulfilment of our previous commitments and is fully consistent with long-standing EU policy in relation to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. As you set out, our consumers have the right to an informed choice, this initiative will help support our retailers to provide this. The correct labelling of products is necessary to ensure our consumers are not being misled by false information. If European consumers have confidence that they know the origin of goods they are purchasing, both Green Line Israeli producers and Palestinian producers would benefit. We stand ready to assist you in taking forward this important work.

You also asked for enhanced efforts on the part of Member States' authorities in the full and effective implementation of existing legislation. We will circulate your letter to our ministries and enforcement bodies, underlining the offer of cooperation with our competent authorities made by the EEAS and the Commission.

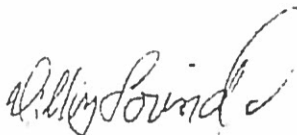
Yours Sincerely,



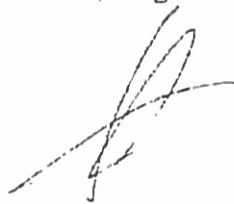
Michael Spindelegger
Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for
European and International Affairs, Austria



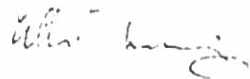
Didier Reynders
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European
Affairs, Belgium



Villy Søvndal
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark



José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
Spain



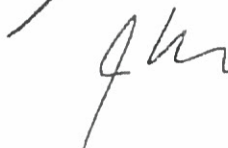
Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland



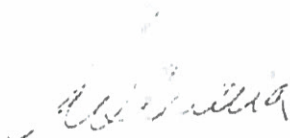
Laurent Fabius
Minister of Foreign Affairs, France



Eamon Gilmore
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Ireland



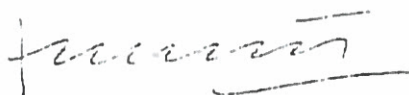
Jean Asselborn
Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign
Affairs, Luxembourg



George W. Vella
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta



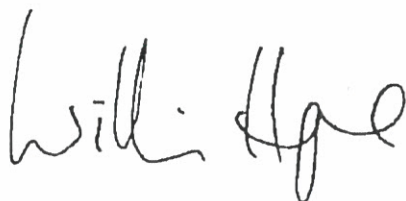
Frans Timmermans
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the
Netherlands



Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas
Minister of State and Foreign Affairs,
Portugal



Karl Erjavec
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs, Slovenia



William Hague
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, United
Kingdom
