

## **Provisions of Food Information for Consumers 2008/0028 (COD)**

This issue falls under the legislation for the 'Provision of food information to consumers', combining Directives 90/496/EEC and 200/13/EC. The European Commission released their proposals which were passed through the European Parliament and voted on in June of this year. Members of the European Parliament strongly supported Amendments 50, 101, 172-174 and 179 which all relate to the **labelling of food with their country of origin**.

More specifically, within Amendment 101, MEPs voted for more detail and now the legislation makes it clear that,

*"A country of place or provenance shall be given for the following: meat; poultry; dairy products; fresh fruit and vegetables; other single ingredient products; and meat, fish and poultry when used as an ingredient in processed foods. For meat and poultry, the country of place or provenance may be given as a single place for animals only where the animals have been born, reared and slaughtered in the same country or place. In other cases information of each of the different places of birth, rearing and slaughter shall be given."*

In addition, MEPs voted on Amendment 205 relating to **the labelling of halal or kosher meat**, with over 500 votes in favour. This Amendment changed the wording of this proposed text, which was previously thought to have negative connotations with regard to the way in which animals are slaughtered. The phrasing was amended to

*"Meat products from special slaughter"*

Members of the European Parliament feel strongly that this type of labelling should be included since a large proportion of meat on the markets has been slaughtered by halal or kosher means.

I am pleased to tell you that **the European Conservatives and Reformists Group voted in favour of the Amendments**, so that appropriate and sufficient labelling can allow consumers to make better informed choices when buying food products and help them to decide according to their specific nutritional and ethical preferences.

However, the text has not been agreed at the European Council level and therefore will have to be returned to the European Parliament for a second reading and further negotiations on the content. We hope to receive the text by the second half of 2011 and we will address the negotiations and Amendments with the same thorough, logical manner as we previously did.