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From The Times

September 30, 2009

## EU nutrition rule will deceive consumers

**Write a new regulation that will actually help rather than harm consumers**

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Sir, The European Commission is planning to rush through tomorrow a new regulation on nutrition claims for fats that is based on flawed science. It would actually worsen public health. In doing so, the Commission has overridden the concerns not only of specialist scientists, but even the governments of some member states. The new rules would allow food manufacturers to fortify products with cheap plant oils, but claim they are "high" in omega-3 fats, thereby implying that they will deliver the same physical and mental health benefits as fish oils. Thus, we believe the new regulation would legalise the deception of consumers.

Therefore, we are sending an urgent petition to the EU and to the Food Standards Agency, which represents the UK on the relevant committees. It urges them to suspend all work on the regulation immediately, to convene an expert meeting to agree the scientific fundamentals, then to write a new regulation that will actually help rather than harm consumers.

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