

JANEZ POTOČNIK  
*Member of the European Commission*

Brussels, - 1 -06- 2010  
D(2010) 391

Ms Gabriella Zanzanaini

*By email: gzanaini@fweurope.org*

Dear Ms Zanzanaini,

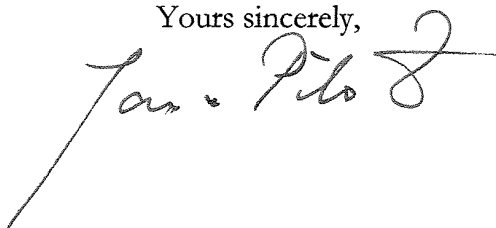
Thank you very much for your e-mail of 27 April 2010 highlighting the issue of the limited civil society participation in the European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Roundtable.

The European Food SCP Roundtable is an important initiative supporting the European Commission's efforts to implement SCP policies in collaboration with stakeholders, with a particular focus on the food chain. I appreciate your remarks concerning the sustainability of the food sector as a whole. Although the food industry is undertaking serious efforts to improve the sustainability of the sector, including the Roundtable, there is still room for improvements in many areas.

Concerning the question of inclusion, please be assured that the European Commission considers broad stakeholder participation as a key requirement for the relevance and broad ownership of the initiative. Since the launch of the Roundtable, the Commission has been encouraging civil society to actively take part in its work. As a result, the EEB very recently joined as an observer, and we expect BEUC to follow soon. In addition, the public consultation on the draft guiding principles has stimulated interest and involvement in the process by civil society organizations.

My services and other departments of the European Commission would be happy to meet the representatives of your organizations to discuss in detail the more technical points you raised.

Yours sincerely,



Copy to: Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President, European Commission