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Brussels, **18 JUL. 2019**
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Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2019 raising concerns on food waste in the supply chain, in particular in the case of the destruction of Dutch onions which occurred in Hungary due to the missing indication of origin from the outer packaging of big bags.

Let me state from the outset that the Commission was not informed of this specific case, neither informally, nor pursuant to the mandatory notification set out in Article 18(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011.

Indeed, while Article 76 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2018 of the European Parliament and the Council² clearly creates an obligation to indicate the country of origin for products of the fruit and vegetables sector which are intended to be sold fresh to the consumer, other provisions³ foresee that for goods not in conformity with the standard, “traders may decide to bring all or some of the goods into conformity. Goods brought into conformity may not be marketed before the competent inspection body has ensured by all appropriate means that the goods have actually been brought into conformity.”

Mr Bas Belder

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¹ OJ L 157, 15.6.2011, p. 1.


² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671

³ Article 17 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011

According to the information you provided, it appears that the Dutch traders concerned did not benefit from the possibility to bring their produce in conformity with the EU country of origin obligation.

I have asked my services to contact the Hungarian authorities in order to verify the factual situation at stake and ensure the correct application of EU legislation by the control authorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Hogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil HOGAN