



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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16 October 2019

Zac Goldsmith MP
Minister of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Block
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Zac,

European Parliament proposed restrictions on naming vegetarian food

Thank you for your letter dated 16 August 2019 regarding the amendment put forward by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI Committee) to restrict the use of descriptions such as "sausage", "burger" and "steak" to apply only to products containing meat and not to vegetarian alternatives.

We note your agreement that the majority of vegetarian products are clearly labelled, and that any problems regarding the marketing of vegetarian foods can be addressed by existing legislation. We also note your view that it is important to ensure that vegetarian foods are not marketed in a way that suggests nutritional equivalence with meat products where this is not the case, which was a point made by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) during our evidence session.

If this or an equivalent proposal reaches the Council during negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy reform, please write back with further details regarding our specific questions, namely the Government's position on the amendment, whether you are aware of any evidence that the problem the amendment was designed to solve exists, and whether the Government would consider implementing a similar measure if it were to take effect after the UK leaves the EU.

Lord Teverson
Chair of the European Union Energy and Environment Sub-Committee