



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
The Director-General

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Agnethe Dahl
Deputy Director General
EEA and Trade Section
Dept. for Marine Management and
Pollution Control
Ministry of Climate and
Environment, Norway
Ved Stranden 18
DK-1061 Copenhagen K

Dear Ms Dahl,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December in which you - as the Chair of the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for the Environment - express the Nordic Council's views in support of the further development and application of the Environmental Footprint methods.

I share your views on the role that a common method can play in boosting supply and demand of green products, in guaranteeing fair competition based on environmental performance, in supporting informed choices for consumers and professional purchasers and in reducing the environmental impact from consumption and production.

I also agree that any future scheme needs to be credible and cost-effective.

Through the work done on the Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint the Commission therefore aims to deliver a tool that will significantly reduce the costs for all stakeholders related to measuring and communicating the environmental performance of products and organisations. The pilot phase showed and tackled the complexities that need to be resolved to create a tool that is simple to apply for the final user. The reduction of costs is a result of this simplification and of the availability of good quality secondary data.

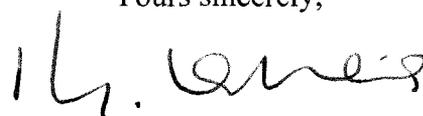
I am looking forward to further discussions on the possible future policy applications for the Environmental Footprint methods, including their potential for strengthening existing instruments such as the EU Ecolabel, Green Public Procurement and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme.

Developments such as product benchmarking are also opportunities for new avenues in product information. We know that consumers are increasingly interested in green products. The 7% sales growth of products with declared sustainability features are a proof of this. However, we also know that many European consumers do not trust

environmental information. A trustworthy tool that can help them differentiate could make an important difference.

I gladly take you up on your offer to actively contribute to the further development and implementation of the Environmental Footprint methods. We have a long road ahead of us and the experience and commitment of the Nordic Council will be very valuable in reaching a good result.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Calleja', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Calleja

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