

From: Peggy Mason
Sent: October 5, 2023 2:23 PM
To: cfia.labellingconsultation-etiquetage.acia@inspection.gc.ca
Subject: **Origin Labelling Consultation**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I strongly believe that Canadian labelling should be accurate and in accordance with international law. A very clear example would be the Palestinian Occupied Territories which are the subject of a binding UN Security Council resolution requiring goods from those territories to be identified as such, and not as products of Israel.

I quote two relevant paragraphs from UN Security Council Resolution 2334 of 23 Dec 2016:

1. Reaffirms that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;

...

5. Calls upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

As noted above, this Security Council resolution is binding on all UN member states. Therefore, it should be clear that this is not properly a matter for public consultation. It is tantamount to consulting the public on whether Canada should follow – or breach – international law and its binding obligations thereunder in its labelling of goods from overseas.

I would add one further point regarding your terminology of “imported foods from a contested territory”. While Israel may contest this territory, its status under international law is absolutely clear, as paragraph 1 above states and can only be changed through negotiation and agreement of the parties.

So the bottom line is that Canada’s labelling policy on all imported goods should fully conform with international law and our obligations thereunder.

Very sincerely,

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