Dear MEP Members of the ENVI Committee,

I represent Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, a civil society, and non-profit, registered organisation from India (www.bpni.org). I am contacting you to request you for your support in the European Parliament, which is going to vote on a critical issue regarding use of health/nutrition claims on follow on formula and foods for infants and young children.

Please do vote in favour of the Resolution, which was passed last month by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) opposing the adoption of the “draft Commission regulation on the authorisation and refusal of authorisation of certain health claims made on foods and referring to children’s development and health”.

This resolution is very important to all those trying to protect infant health in the poorest countries of the world and where we are trying to ensure that our governments do not allow such claims are not permitted. Health and nutrition claims on baby foods are very alluring to families and are believed without question. By promoting just one ingredient, the other risks of the product, which are very great in our region - are masked. Millions of babies are born each year in this region and face poor sanitary conditions that lead to preventable diarrhea and deaths.

As regional coordinator of International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) for the Asia region, EU legislation of this nature is critical to policy makers of the region. We do hope that you will agree that parents and carers deserve accurate information and will vote in favour of this very important ENVI Resolution.

Sincerely, and with warm regards,

Dr. Arun Gupta MD FIAP
Regional Coordinator IBFAN Asia,
Member, Prime Minister’s Council on India’s Nutrition Challenges,
Member Steering Committee World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action.
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