



Dutch Normalisation Institute (NEN)
Commission: 370 212 Halal food
P.O.Box 5059
NL-2600 GB Delft

The Hague, 2 November 2011

Subject: CEN halal standardization project

Dear sir/ madam,

Islamic organisations and companies are informed about your project aiming to accomplish a European halal standard for labelling food products for the European Union and international markets. Despite we find this in itself a laudable enterprise, we cannot agree with it.

Recent discussions of Islamic organisations bring us to the conclusion that your project has fundamental flaws that go against the European principles of a civil and democratic society. Besides this we cannot find any request from the Dutch and European Muslim community for this project.

Based on this we hold the opinion that you ought to cancel the activities immediately and leave the question of the feasibility and need of a halal standard to the Muslim community. The industry and (semi-)public sector should be extremely cautious of involving itself in these kind of religious affairs.

In various conversations we have tried to convince you of the above. Nevertheless this has not withheld you from your present course. Currently we are organising national and international support of Islamic organisations and of prominent Muslims in this matter.

We genuinely hope you realise yourself that *halal* and *haram* is not something like standard sizes of nuts and bolts.

Awaiting your reply, we remain.

Yours sincerely,



Contactorgaan Moslims en Overheid (CMO),

Y. Altuntas (chairman)

Halal Correct Certification (TQHCC),

10.

B. Ali-Salah (managing director)

Green Muslims Foundation,

P.G. Teekens (committee member)

Halal Feed and Food (HVV),

10.
Y. Ben Koubia (vice-chairman)

CMO represents the following Muslim organisations in the Netherlands:

**Islamitische Stichting Nederland
Milli Görüş Noord-Nederland
Stichting Islamitisch Centrum Nederland
World Islamic Mission
Limburgse Islamitische Raad
Nederlandse Sjiïetische Moslims
Moslim Informatie Centrum
Halalreport TV
Actiecomité Halal
Haagse Moskeeën
SUMON
IHSAN**

**Unie van Marokkaanse Moskeeën
Nederland
Nederlandse Islamitische Federatie
Turkse Islamitische Culturele Federatie
Vereniging Imams Nederland
Brabantse Islamitische Raad
Landelijk Platform voor Nieuwe Moslims
Stichting Islamitische Begrafniswezen
Vereniging van Bosniaks in Nederland
Afghaanse Culturele Vereniging
Somalische Verenging SOMVAO
Regionaal Advies Centrum Rijnmond
SPIOR
STIPU**