



# Press Release

18th February 2008

## Brand manufacturers welcome ombudsman in the groceries market

The British Brands Group welcomes the Competition Commission's proposal to appoint an ombudsman to oversee relations between grocery retailers and their suppliers. The proposal is a proportionate response to the concerns expressed by suppliers, both small and large, about unfair demands by some retailers.

An ombudsman will be able to adjudicate the small minority of cases where irreconcilable differences arise between suppliers and retailers.

John Noble, director British Brands Group said: "We welcome the appointment of an independent third party who will be able to act in the interests of the industry as a whole and enable us all to focus attention on serving consumers better."

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

The British Brands Group was founded in 1994 as a non-profit-making membership organisation. Its primary role is to speak out authoritatively on behalf of brand manufacturers, representing them collectively when regulatory issues threaten their value and ability to be a positive force in society.

While the Group focuses on UK policy makers, it also works to deepen understanding of how brands benefit consumers, society and the economy through providing choice, value for money and innovation. The Group also provides the prime forum for its members on brand-related issues.

The British Brands Group is part of a global network of similar brand associations, and is the UK representative of AIM, the European Brands Association, based in Brussels.

For more information and further background briefings on this subject please visit the British Brands Group website: [www.britishbrandsgroup.org.uk](http://www.britishbrandsgroup.org.uk).