



Vevey, 30 January 2026

## **Subject: Open letter to Foodwatch**

Dear Foodwatch representatives,

In a press release dated January 29, 2026, published on your website, Foodwatch France announced that it had filed a criminal complaint against X with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Paris Judicial Court and defended several families of sick infants in the context of the recall of infant formulas due to the potential presence of cereulide.

**In this press release, we note false and/or misleading claims against Nestlé, without foundation— including, but not limited to:**

**Claim 1:** Having made "*late recall*", without any "*understandable excuse*".

**False:** We have taken action as soon as we confirmed the issue both in December and in January, for reasons well documented in our public communication and timeline available here: <https://www.nestle.com/sites/default/files/2026-01/infant-formula-recall-timeline-events.pdf>

**Claim 2:** Having shown "*alarming negligence*" in the management of the health and safety of its products.

**False:** Our broader monitoring protocols allowed us to detect the issue, identify the source of the contamination from a global industry supplier. For more details, see the full sequence of events available publicly on our website: <https://www.nestle.com/sites/default/files/2026-01/infant-formula-recall-timeline-events.pdf>

**Claim 3:** Having minimized or knowingly denied the link between the consumption of its infant formulas and the serious symptoms suffered by many infants, this behavior being qualified as "*indecent*".

**False:** We recognize the stress and worry that the recall has caused for parents and caregivers. Our consumer engagement personnel in coordination with our medical experts are committed to listening attentively to parents and caregivers to treat each individual inquiry with care.

To date, we have not received any medical reports confirming a link to illness associated with our products.

**Claim 4:** Having allowed contaminated products to be marketed "*for months despite being aware of the alleged contamination*".

**False:** In each case, the recalls happened within a few days after confirming the issue. We have taken swift, proactive and responsible actions every step of the way, based on the information we had at the time, to prioritize consumer safety and in line with applicable national protocols for conducting a recall. For more information, please see the full sequence of events available on our website:

<https://www.nestle.com/sites/default/files/2026-01/infant-formula-recall-timeline-events.pdf>

**Claim 5:** Having been "*informed*" "*as early as December 2025*" by its supplier "*of the contamination*" of the concerned ingredient, while voluntarily delaying the implementation of corrective measures.

**False:** Upon confirming the root cause of the issue: a contaminated oil ingredient from a global industry supplier—we, Nestlé, informed the supplier on 29 December 2025, and provided detailed findings from our investigations. In addition, we proactively alerted the industry through trade associations (as early as 30 December) given the potential for this issue to impact other infant formula manufacturers.

The Foodwatch claims, formulated without any factual basis, expose Nestlé to suspicions that are unacceptable as they are unfounded and touch on a subject as sensitive as infant health.

All facts presented in this letter can be verified with the authorities, our supplier, and customers.

At every step, our actions have been guided by doing the right thing for parents and their babies. Nestlé will continue to uphold these values and communicate in a timely, transparent way with authorities, parents and caregivers, and all stakeholders, as we have done since the outset of this recall.

In parallel, we are committed to sharing our scientific expertise and urgently call for a harmonized global food safety approach and testing method on cereulide to raise industry standards.

We believe these efforts will reassure parents and caregivers as we continue to provide high-quality, safe products in which they can trust.

Given your mission to protect interests of consumers, we believe it is incumbent upon Foodwatch to ensure that all public statement referring to Nestlé and this recall are fact-based and accurate, especially given the sensitive nature of this information for parents and caregivers at this difficult time.

If Foodwatch continues to disseminate misleading or false information in relation to the above, **Nestlé reserves the right to take all necessary actions to protect its interests.**

Yours sincerely

Nestlé