



Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 27/11/2017

Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Dear Mr Commissioner,

I wish to contact you in connection with the signals I receive from the veterinary community concerned about the drafts of delegated and implementing regulations to art. 18 paragraphs 7 and 8 of Regulation (EC) 2017/625/EC, which have recently been formulated by the European Commission and the relevant advisory group.

Veterinary medicine professionals are concerned about changes in the methodology of pre- and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals and assignment of supervisory functions under official controls to the slaughterhouse workers. In their opinion, there is a risk that the products of animal origin produced in this way will not meet the applicable requirements of the Union but also of third countries. Veterinarians fear that their role in the new surveillance system will be significantly reduced, that their presence in the slaughterhouse will not be required, and that examinations will be carried out by the staff of the slaughterhouse with no medical expertise. This solution, in the opinion of the medical and veterinary community, will constitute a conflict of interest and will jeopardize food safety on the EU market and our exports to third countries, which may undermine the quality of our controls.

Dear Mr Commissioner!

Understanding and appreciating the Commission's efforts to reduce the costs of official food controls, I ask you to take into account also the above reservations of the veterinary community in order to avoid any risk to our high standards of food safety and its international reputation.

With kind regards,

Czesław Siekierski



Member of the European Parliament

CC: Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development