

Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Member of the European Commission

Bert 08/369
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium
Tel. 00.32.2.295.41.59
e-mail: vytenis.andriukaitis@ec.europa.eu

Mr. Czesław Siekierski
MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60 ASP 12E152
B-1047 Brussels
E-mail: andrzej.szkotak@ep.europa.eu

21 DEC. 2017
Brussels,
ARES(2017)

Honourable Member,

In reply to your letter dated 27 November 2017 on the role of (official) veterinarians in meat inspection, I would like to confirm that the Commission does not intend to introduce substantial changes in the methodology of ante- and post mortem inspection. Such inspections must remain independent and always the responsibility of the official veterinarian as clearly indicated in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹.

The European Parliament and the Council fixed in that Regulation to which extent slaughterhouse staff can be involved in meat inspections² (Article 18(3)) and the Commission is not enabled to provide derogations or implementing provisions on this issue.

The European Parliament and the Council did oblige the Commission to lay down a delegated act allowing official auxiliaries (which are part of the competent authorities) to carry out certain

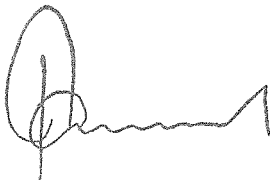
¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) 1107/2009, (EU) 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1).

² Article 18(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

inspection tasks, under strict conditions and subject to comprehensive training requirements³. Your concerns, which I fully share, will be taken into account in such delegated act.

I recently had a meeting with the Federation of European Veterinarians (FVE) to better understand the concerns of veterinarians and to assure them of my intention to maintain the spirit of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625 including the central role of the official veterinarian.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of connected loops and a final upward stroke.

³ Article 18(7) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.