



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis management in food, animals and plants  
**Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals**

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Dear (b) (2016) 7675177

**Subject: Official controls concerning production and distribution of agri-food products and cooperation with Facebook on e-commerce.**

Directorate General Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) is responsible for the implementation of the legislation on official controls concerning production and distribution of agri-food products currently governed by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules<sup>1</sup>.

In this context DG SANTE set-up a Member States expert working group that discusses official controls of e-commerce in agri-food products and food in particular.

The objective is to improve cooperation between Member States and to strengthen the enforcement of EU agri-food law as regards Internet sales. This objective will be reinforced by the future Official Controls Regulation to be adopted in the first months of 2017.

Given the objective of the above-mentioned working group, we are interested in co-operation and an exchange of information with e-platform providers in view of providing guidance to Member States on how to address e-commerce related official control issues.

For example members of the expert working group observe that non-compliant products are regularly offered on e-platforms. In this case they contact the seller. If the seller is not the platform provider but an independent seller the contact details are frequently incorrect. Experts suggest that if non-compliant products are offered on an e-platform they would always contact the seller and the platform provider expecting that if the independent seller cannot be reached that the e-platform would assist in contacting the seller.

<sup>1</sup> The legislation of the European Union is available for free in all official languages at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

We are contacting all relevant e-platform providers on this matter. We would in particular like to know how Facebook would like to be contacted and whether you consider Facebook to be both an e-platform and an independent seller, or simply an e-platform.

We would be grateful if you could provide us with relevant information and contact details, ideally a specific email contact in order to facilitate the co-operation and exchange of information with Member State competent authorities.

I look forward to your reply and if you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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