



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF ROMANIA
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No. 5104

Brussels, 27.07.2017

Dear Mr. Vinčiūnas,

Please find enclosed the letter sent to Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis by the Minister of agriculture and rural development of Romania, Mr Petre Daea, on the subject of dual quality of foodstuffs. I would be grateful for your kind assistance in bringing the letter to the attention of the Commissioner.

Please accept, dear [REDACTED] the assurances of my highest consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Cabinet of Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Bucharest
No. 2782/2017 26.07.2017

Dear Madame Commissioner,

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

I feel honored to greet you with cordiality and to assure you of my entire appreciation.

As a follow-up to your letter of 04.04.2017, in which you asked for information on the application of double quality standards to food and food products, as well as the accomplishment of a comparative study, I replied to you on April 13 2017, communicating the measures taken until that moment, under my co-ordination as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Romania, as well as the measures to be taken in order to carry out a comparative study.

According to those released on April 13, "after the accomplishment of comparative tests, we will return with additional information", which is the reason I am addressing you herewith.

On 07.04.2017, we addressed to our counterparts from five EU Member States: Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, France and Austria a letter of request, on which we expressed our intention to send teams of Romanian specialists that will travel to these countries in order to identify and collect food products, which will become the basis of a comparative study.

Following these letters, we received positive reactions from our counterparts in Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands, on 08.06.2017, 12.06.2017 and 13.06.2017.

From 19 to 26 June 2017, a joint team of specialists in food, health and food safety, consumer's protection and European Affairs, took part in the identification and selection of food products in Maastricht -The Netherlands, Aachen -Germany and Brussels -Belgium.

During this action plan, were selected 29 samples from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, consisting in food products such as: meat preparations, milk preparations, canned fish, chocolate, as follows:

9 samples of cheese products
2 samples of butter
1 sample of cream
3 samples of fish cans
1 sample of chocolate

7 samples of ham
3 samples of sausages/ Frankfurters
1 sample of small sausages
2 samples of liver pate

Mrs. Elżbieta Bienkowska , European Commissioner for industry and domestic market
Mrs. Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for justice, consumer and gender equality
Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for health and food safety

On 26.06.2017, the samples collected from Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany were handed over in safe conditions to the Institute of Hygiene and Public Veterinary Health Bucharest, institute coordinated by The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA), in order to make the following analysis:

- physico-chemical analysis for meat, milk, fish, chocolate;
- the presence of fats of vegetable origin in milk and milk products.

On June 28-30 2017, immediately after collecting the samples from Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, the teams organized and carried out the action of identifying and sampling the 29 identical products in the commercial networks of our country, according to the legal procedures in force, the samples being sent to the Institute of Hygiene and Public Veterinary Health Bucharest - ANSVSA.

Laboratory analyzes revealed differences in 9 samples, according to the following parameters: percentage of fat, protein percentage, energy value.

This topic is of particular interest, the public opinion in Romania showing a strong and constant pressure in order to clarify the issue of the double standard, being interested in the reaction of the institutions, producers and traders.

Wishing to respond to the legitimate interest of consumers, as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, we held a press conference on 26 July a.m.

Thus, together with the other institutions involved, I have presented the status of the actions undertaken and the results of the comparative laboratory analyzes, stating that the information I have provided can not be considered complete, as long as the action can be challenged, in the absence of a legal framework in this area.

In the letter no.277630 of April 13, 2017, we state "because the European Union currently has no legal instruments, procedures to determine the double standard of quality, we consider it appropriate to draft or supplement the Community legal framework on these issues".

Following the evolution of the debate within the European Union on this subject, they reconfirm my conviction that there are currently no procedural, methodological and legal tools for testing food products, which is why I believe that it is necessary to establish unitary rules for the sampling, analysis and interpretation of the results, in order for the Member States to implement a solid, common and efficient methodology.

I believe that this issue should be approached as a priority issue and this is the reason why I am at your disposal with any information and expertise in this area, in order to achieve the European common framework, so that Member States can respond efficiently to the issue of the double standard.

We attach to this letter the document that presents the analytical results of the comparative study on the products examined at which were found certain differences (Document signed by the heads of institutions involved and it's translation).

Thanking you for your cooperation, I assure you, Madam / Commissioner, of European respect and high appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

Petre DAEA

MINISTER



**REZULTATELE ANALITICE ALE STUDIULUI COMPARATIV PRIVIND PRODUSELE EXAMINATE
LA CARE S-AU CONSTATAT DIFERENȚE**

Nr. crt.	Denumire produs RO	Denumire produs UE	Valoare declarata pe eticheta	Valoare obtinuta RO	Valoare obtinuta UE
1.	Parizer porc	Parizer porc Germania	279 kcal/100 g	259,09 kcal/100 g	274,32 kcal/100 g
2.	Carnati pentru gratar	Carnati pentru gratar Germania	280 kcal/100 g	254,61 kcal/100 g	282,46 kcal/100 g
3.	Conserva peste	Conserva peste Germania	377 kcal/100 g RO/ 181 kcal/100 g UE	307,84 kcal/100 g	210,34 kcal/100 g
4.	Pateu	Pateu Cehia	238 kcal/100 g	259,98 kcal/100 g	273,54 kcal/100 g
5.	Bacon cuburi	Bacon cuburi Belgia	233 kcal/100 g	278,55 kcal/100 g	192,14 kcal/100 g
6.	Sunca de porc	Sunca de porc Germania	222 kcal/100 g	306,38 kcal/100 g	230,36 kcal/100 g
7.	Conserva peste macrou	Conserva peste macrou Franta	13,6 g/100 g	20,7 g/100 g proteina	22,05 g/100 g proteina
8.	Conserva peste hering	Conserva peste hering Germania	13 g/100 g RO/ 15 g/100 g UE	21,96 g/100 g proteina	20,36 g/100 g proteina
9.	Conserva peste macrou	Conserva peste macrou Franta	55,11 g/100 g peste	42,87 g/100 g peste	47,8 g/100 g peste

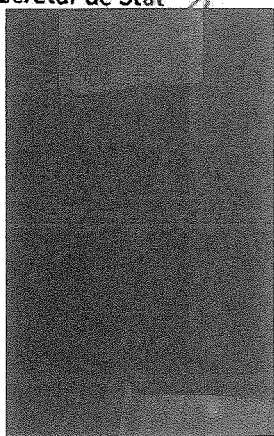
NOTĂ: PRODUSE ANALIZATE 29
PRODUSE CU DIFERENȚE 9

ANSVSA

Dr. Geronimo Răducu BRĂNESCU

Președinte

Secretar de Stat



MADR

Petre DAEA

Ministru



ANPC

Marcel Bogdan PANDELIȚĂ

Președinte

Secretar de Stat



**ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF THE COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE PRODUCTS EXAMINED IN
WHICH DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED**

No. crt.	Product name RO	Product name EU	Value declared on the label	Value obtained RO	EU value
1.	Pork baloney/rosy sausage	Rosy sausage Germany	279 kcal/100 g	259,09 kcal/100 g	274,32 kcal/100 g
2.	Barbecue sausages	Barbecue sausages Germany	280 kcal/100 g	254,61 kcal/100 g	282,46 kcal/100 g
3.	Fish can	Fish can Germany	377 kcal/100 g RO/ 181 kcal/100 g UE	307,84 kcal/100 g	210,34 kcal/100 g
4.	Liver pate	Liver pate Czech Republic	238 kcal/100 g	259,98 kcal/100 g	273,54 kcal/100 g
5.	Bacon cubes	Bacon cubes Belgium	233 kcal/100 g	278,55 kcal/100 g	192,14 kcal/100 g
6.	Pork ham	Pork ham Germany	222 kcal/100 g	306,38 kcal/100 g	230,36 kcal/100 g
7.	Fish can mackerel	Fish can mackerel France	13,6 g/100 g	20,7 g/100 g proteina	22,05 g/100 g proteina
8.	Fish can Herring	Fish can herring Germany	13 g/100 g RO/ 15 g/100 g UE	21,96 g/100 g proteina	20,36 g/100 g proteina
9.	Fish can Mackerel	Fish can Mackerel France	55,11 g/100 g peste	42,87 g/100 g peste	47,8 g/100 g peste

Analysed products: 29

Products with differences: 9

National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFS)	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	National Authority for Consumers Protection (NACP)
Dr. Geronimo Răducu BRĂNESCU President, Secretary of State	Petre DAEA Minister	Marcel Bogdan PANDELICĂ President, Secretary of state