



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Věra Jourová
Commissioner for Justice Consumers and Gender Equality



04 AVR. 2017

Brussels,



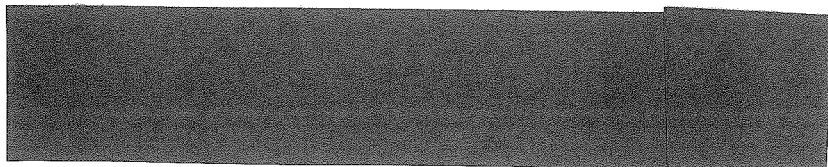
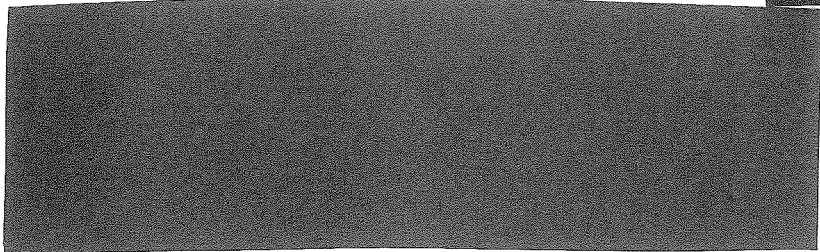
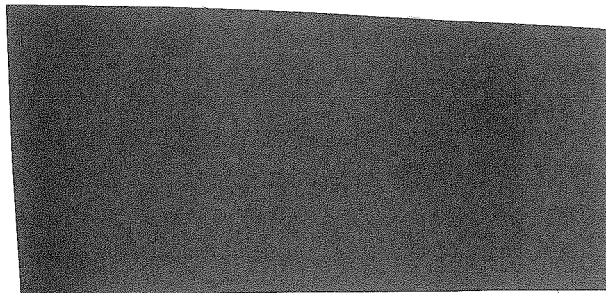
Your Excellency,

Allow me to ask you to convey the attached letter to the member of your government participating at the meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 6 March 2017.

When Commissioner Jourová addressed the Council on the issue of different specifications regarding the same food product circulating in the single market, she has promised to inform the Ministers on state of play on gathering of data through the Member states Consumer protection cooperation authorities. With the attached letter we summarise the current situation and call on the Member states authorities to support the evidence gathering.

Thank you for your kind help,

Yours faithfully,



Elżbieta Bienkowska
Commissioner for Internal Market,
Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Věra Jourová
Commissioner for Justice, Consumers
and Gender Equality

Vytenis Andriukaitis
Commissioner for Health and Food
Safety

04 AVR. 2017

Brussels.

Dear Minister,

In the AGRIFISH Council on 6 March 2017, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Věra Jourová has offered to keep you informed about the state of play of request to EU consumer protection authorities to look into the issue of dual quality of foodstuffs.

These authorities met in Brussels on 16 March 2017 in the framework of the Committee established by the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation¹. Representatives from the Slovak Republic, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Croatia informed the Committee about the results of studies and tests that have been carried out or are still ongoing on their respective markets. They confirmed that results available so far show significant composition differences in a limited number of the food products tested.

In order to have a full mapping of the type and extent of issues linked to dual quality of food products that may exist in all the EU countries, we have asked the authorities to provide information on:

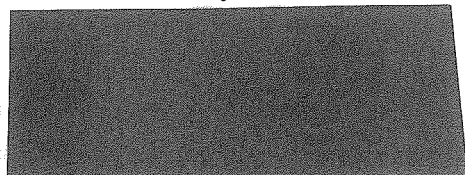
- i) any measures that would have been taken in their Member State,
- ii) complaints received from individuals or associations,
- iii) their powers and capabilities to test products in order to compare their quality and
- iv) whether dual quality of food or other products is considered being a problem in their Member State.

As of today, authorities from 14 Member States have already replied. Allow us to encourage you to inspire your Member States authorities to react on the request for provision of information.

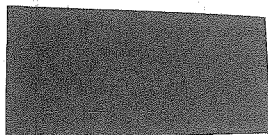
The Commission services will analyse the replies in detail for the meeting of the High Level Forum for a better functioning food supply chain on 20 June 2017, in line with the conclusions of the European Council of 9 March 2017.

Ensuring that consumers have full transparency on eventual quality and composition differences, so that they can use their market power, seems to us to be central to address this issue. We would like to encourage an increased cooperation between the national authorities, stakeholders and consumers under the framework of the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain, which would allow to examine composition differences of foodstuffs and have a meaningful dialogue with the concerned producers and retailers. It would also be useful to bring this issue back to an Agriculture Council meeting after the High Level Forum.

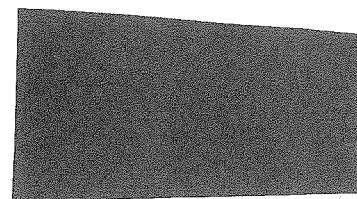
Yours faithfully,



Elżbieta Bienkowska



Věra Jourová



Vytenis Andriukaitis

¹ Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws.