

From: [REDACTED] (JUST)
Sent: mercredi 15 novembre 2017 18:32
To: [REDACTED] (JUST)
Cc: [REDACTED] (JUST); [REDACTED] (CAB-JOUROVA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (JUST); [REDACTED] (JUST); [REDACTED] (JUST);
[REDACTED] (JUST-EXT); [REDACTED] (JUST); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (JUST)
Subject: Dual Quality - Joint workshop - CPC / Food Authorities - 13 November - Flash Report

Dear [REDACTED]

Below is for your information a flash report outlining the key issues addressed during the joint workshop on dual quality food we held on Monday.

Have a good evening,

[REDACTED]

On Monday 13 November we held the **CPC joint workshop on dual quality food** with the attendance of food and CPC authorities. We had around 25 participants including - amongst others – representatives of the Visegrad countries, DE, IT, FR, ES and the UK. The discussion was productive and focused on the concrete work which can be done to address dual quality food issues both at national level and in a coordinated manner across the EU.

We initiated the works by providing participants with a status update on the actions that the Commission is conducting and the respective benefits for all stakeholders involved (e.g. the next steps regarding the application of the guidance to real cases, the funding available to MS and the development of the harmonised testing methodology). In addition, we informed about the most recent developments, including the latest comparative tests since our last workshop of 28 September, and the outcome of Bratislava-Summit of 13 October and the AGRIFISH Council of 6 November.

CZ, SK, HU and LT provided substantial contributions by presenting real examples of cases which raise issues of dual quality, based on comparative tests conducted at national level. Using these examples, we were able to provide preliminary clarifications on how, in our opinion, the guidance could be applied *in concreto* to these cases.

This prompted a very concrete discussion between authorities and the Commission on what are the key issues that need to be agreed in order to find a common approach for assessing real cases of dual quality. A big part of the debate focused on what can be considered "identical" or "similar" packaging, on the concept of "product of reference" - against which variations can be

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tested - and on what can be considered as "significant" variations, and this in direct reference to the cases identified at national level.

The JRC provided an update on their work towards the development of a harmonised testing approach and the key steps of their methodology which they have discussed with the stakeholders concerned until present. The kick-off meeting for the stakeholder-network took place on 10 November.

Together with Chafea, we clarified the procedure and requirements to apply for the grants provided under the Consumer Programme (EUR 1 million). We made clear that it is very important to achieve the widest possible uptake of these funding opportunities by the Member States in order to support the work in the area of dual quality and we offered further assistance on possible further queries on the grants.

The final part of the meeting was dedicated to discuss with the MS possible useful projects to develop enforcement capacities and complement the work of JRC. We agreed that the Commission (together with Chafea) will continue to provide assistance to the MS in order to maximise the success of the grant procedure. **HU, SK, CZ and BG appear to have an interest in applying for the grants** to conduct joint projects on dual quality. To maximise participation and to allow for the preparation of the application for the grants, a further extension of the deadline until 19 December is under consideration.

The issue will be discussed again in GROW's **High Level Forum on a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain on 6 December**. In this respect, DG GROW is planning to include an intervention by Commissioner Jourová at this event and they will send us a more detailed request including a draft agenda soon. They anticipated that the intervention could include an update from the Bratislava summit, the AGRIFISH Council and a recall of the next steps to address dual quality of food issues.