





**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Director-General

Brussels,  
 JUST E3

**NOTE TO**

**MR A. ITALIANER (SECRETARY-GENERAL)**  
**MR L. ROMERO REQUENA (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, LEGAL SERVICE)**  
**MR J.B. PLEWA (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DG AGRI)**  
**MS L. EVANS (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DG GROW)**  
**MR V. SUCHA (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, JRC)**  
**MR J. AGUIAR MACHADO (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DG MARE)**  
**MR X. PRATS MONNE (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DG SANTE)**

**Subject: Inter-service consultation concerning the European Commission's Interpretative Notice on the application of EU food and consumer law to identify eventual unfair practices in relation to dual quality of food**

In the meeting between President Juncker and PM Fico in July 2017, the Commission agreed to deliver a wide-range of short-term actions to address the issue of dual quality of foods which has been experienced by the EU consumers in various Member States.

The attached document is the first deliverable of the Commission's planned actions. It contains a new specific guidance for national authorities on how to identify illegal practices in relation to differentiation of food under the relevant EU consumer protection and food labelling legislation.

The Interpretative Notice will provide a clear and uniform basis on which relevant authorities in the Member States can rely in their individual actions to address the issue. It will also support the cooperation among consumer protection and food authorities, improve information sharing and increase leverage vis-à-vis the industry.

It is the intention to adopt the interpretative notice on 26 September by an expedited written procedure.

Your services have been closely involved from the start of the drafting of the notice. An informal inter-service meeting was held on 6 September to discuss the first draft. Subsequent comments from your services have been incorporated in the attached document.

Given the political urgency of this file, I would therefore be grateful for your comments on this document within 3 working days upon receipt of this note.

If your services have any questions or require further information, they are requested to contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], DG JUST, Unit E.3.

Approval by

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11 SEP. 2017

(e-signed)  
Tiina ASTOLA

Attachment: Draft Interpretative Notice

c.c.: [REDACTED] (CAB JOUROVA)

[REDACTED] (CAB TIMMERMANS)

[REDACTED] (SG)

[REDACTED] (LS)

[REDACTED] (DG GROW)

[REDACTED] (JRC)

[REDACTED] (DG SANTE)

[REDACTED] (DG MARE)

[REDACTED] (DG AGRI)

[REDACTED] (DG JUST)