



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and food audits and analysis
Director

Grange,
SANTE.F2

Subject: Reference number: DG(SANTE)/2017-6126 - MR
Audit in Spain from 18 to 22 September 2017 in order to evaluate
Member State activities to prevent tail-biting and avoid routine tail-
docking of pigs

Dear [REDACTED],

I enclose a copy of the final report (ref. no. DG(SANTE)/2017-6126 - MR) of the above-mentioned audit and a table detailing how each of the comments made by your services and other official bodies, if applicable, have been taken into account in the production of the final report.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to thank all the personnel who were involved in this audit for the assistance and co-operation shown to the team.

This report has been sent for translation into Spanish. The translated report will be sent to you as soon as it becomes available.

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter (ref. PLA of 15 February 2018), in response to the draft audit report in which you indicated the action already taken in relation to the recommendations contained in the report.

The attached table contains the recommendations made following the above audit and our assessment of your responses to these recommendations. I regret to note that the actions proposed in the action plan submitted by your services are not considered to have satisfactorily addressed the recommendations, for reasons set out in the table.

I would be grateful if you could clarify and update your response to the recommendations, taking into account proposals discussed in the Coordination Board for the Prevention of Systematic Tail Docking on 13 March 2018, using the table, and return it to me by e-mail

[REDACTED]
MAPAMA Contact Point

[REDACTED]
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within one month of receipt of the translated final report. The updated table will be published with the report.

Further updates to all the recommendations can be sent in the context of the Spanish Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail-biting and the avoidance of routine tail-docking (please cross reference to the audit number where appropriate).

The report may be presented to Member States at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. The audit team will be in touch with your services to discuss this possibility.

The Commission services are committed to a process of continuous improvement of their operations and activities and therefore, feedback from auditees is an important tool in helping us to achieve this objective.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for your services to submit feedback on the audit process online using the following link <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FVO-FeedbackQuestionnaire-MS> In particular, I would encourage you to provide additional information by completing the comment boxes. This is especially useful, from our perspective, where your assessment of any statement is "disagree" or "strongly disagree". Your comments will be extremely useful in feeding into the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety's continuous review of its processes, aimed at ensuring that audits are performed to the highest standards. The information provided by you will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please note that you will need to enter the password **FVOSfb22454MS** to access the online survey and only one response may be entered in respect of each audit.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that the reference number quoted above is used in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely,



Paola Colombo
Director

Encl.: Report DG(SANTE)/2017-6126 - MR
Commission services' response to competent authority comments on draft report
Commission services' assessment of competent authority Action

c.c.: H.E. Sr Pablo García-Berdoy, Permanent Representative of Spain to the EU
Head of Representation, EC Representation in Spain