



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals
Head of Unit

Brussels,
SANTE.DDG2.G.3 (2017) 4274782

Dear [REDACTED]

Subject: Official controls of online offered agri-food products and cooperation with e-platforms
- Your email response of 28 March 2017

I would like to thank you for your email response of 28 March 2017 to our initial letter concerning the role of Facebook as an e-platform for the sale of products.

You pointed out that Facebook serves its users with a broad range of services which help its users to connect and communicate with each other, including to list, discover, and discuss items for sale. In addition, you clarified that Facebook does not consider itself an independent seller.

In the meantime, food control authorities of EU Member States have contacted us and provided evidence that Facebook users do not only discuss items but actually offer food products for sale on Facebook.

Whereas the offering of food chain products which are in compliance with legislation is of no concern to us, there is always the possibility that a product offered is non-compliant with EU or national legislation. For such cases we would like to establish a communication channel between Facebook and the competent food control authorities of the EU Member States. The authorities would use this channel for the rapid exchange of information with Facebook in order to avoid that consumers' health is put at stake by non-compliant offers of Facebook users. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could provide us with contact details, ideally a specific email address in order to facilitate the co-operation and exchange of information with Member States' food control authorities.

The practice of exchanging relevant information about non-compliant products via specific email addresses reserved for control authorities is well established with all major e-platforms on which products are offered for sale.

Facebook Belgium SPRL

[REDACTED]
Rond Point Schuman 11
B - 1040 Brussels
[REDACTED]@fb.com

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any clarification if needed. The person responsible for this file in Unit G3 is [REDACTED] (contacts below).

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Contact:

[REDACTED], Telephone: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

C.c: [REDACTED] (DG SANTE)