



## CONCLUSIONS OF THE FORUM/MEETING:

“OFFICIAL CONTROLS IN FOOD SAFETY AND EXPERIENCES IN THE APPLICATION OF LEGISLATION ON HYGIENE: NEWS SCENARIOS.” (BRUSSELS, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 2009).

## 1.- Introduction

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Following an initiative from the Regional Government of Castilla y León, through its Health Protection and Food Safety Agency at the Regional Health Ministry and the Permanent Delegation of the Regional Government of Castilla y León in Brussels, the **“Official controls in food safety and experiences in the application of legislation on hygiene: new scenarios”** forum was held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2009. The forum involved the cooperation of the Spanish Permanent Representation to the European Union, the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency at the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs (currently the Ministry of Health and Social Policy) and the General Directorate for Agricultural and Livestock Resources at the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs.



## 2.- Aim of the Forum

The goal of this forum was to facilitate exchange of experiences with representatives from other Member States and Autonomous Communities as well as to request guidelines aimed at enhancing control of official quality. This is framed within the new scenarios which might emerge from possible amendments to European Union Legislation on Hygiene published in 2004 and in force since 2006, shaping the future of official control in the various food sectors with particular reference to official control in slaughterhouses.

## 3.- Speakers

The six speakers addressing the corresponding issues were:

- D. Jorge Llorente Cachorro**, Director of the Health Protection and Food Safety Agency at the Regional Government of Castilla y León.
- D. Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi**, Deputy Director General for Health of Primary Production at the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs.
- Ms Bibiana Janackova**, Unit E2 (*Food hygiene, Alert system and training*) at DG SANCO.
- D. Silvio Borrello**, Director General for Food Safety and Nutrition, Italy
- D. Olivier Pruneaux**, French Permanent Representation to the European Union.
- D. Francisco Javier Domínguez-Orive**, Deputy Veterinary Director at the Food Standards Agency in the United Kingdom



*Participating countries:*

- Poland.
- Italy.
- Portugal.
- Denmark.
- Finland.
- Sweden.
- Latvia.
- Belgium.
- The Netherlands.
- United Kingdom.
- France.
- Norway.

*Autonomous Communities  
in Spain:*

- Castilla y León.
- Galicia.
- Canary Islands.
- Catalonia.
- Basque Country.
- Murcia.

## 4.- Participants

In addition to the six speakers, a further 25 participants from Spain (including representatives from six autonomous communities) and 11 from the European Union and Norway also attended the forum.

## 5.- Conclusions

By way of an initial conclusion, and as a prior reflection, it should be pointed out that the coming into force of Legislation on Hygiene has meant major changes in the area of primary production. These changes entail shifting the burden of responsibility for product safety to the operators in the sector, reflecting a comprehensive approach to Food Safety by encompassing all the stages involved in the Food Chain. These changes need to go even further in the medium term.

The following conclusions emerged from the forum:

1. Although the aim was to set up a discussion concerning the European Commission "*Report on the **experience gained** through the application of Legislation on Hygiene*", this did not prove possible since, at the time, the report was still being drafted, had already been subject to the internal consultation of DG SANCO and was at the inter-service consultation stage.

It is to be hoped that after it has been drawn up and presented to the Council and European Parliament, there will be an **important public debate** on the content thereof.

2. With regard to **official controls in slaughterhouses**, the forum highlighted the **need** for **review** thereof, meaning that this crucial issue should be included in the above-mentioned Commission report.



In this regard, the conclusions to emerge from the seminar held in Lyon in July 2008 concerning the **modernisation of health inspection in slaughterhouses** may be taken as a reference.

3. Further to the issue of official control in slaughterhouses, the development of a **new control system** involving the following was considered:

- **Improving** efficiency thereof and **adapting** to **changes**.
- Setting up **closer links** between **animal and human epidemiology**.
- **Redefining** the **action** and role of Health Authorities and Official Services in slaughterhouses, given that the current system makes it difficult for operators to assume their responsibility in the issue of Food Safety.
- Establishing the figure of the **official assistant**.
- Setting up **management systems** in slaughterhouses **depending on the risks**, thereby bringing them into line with other health establishments.



4. During the discussion which took place in the forum, it was requested that **Spain** should be represented in the **group set up after the Lyon Seminar**, a proposal taken up by the Director of the Health Protection and Food Safety Agency, who undertook a commitment to issue a request to the Institutional Commission of the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency. This request was made the following day, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Commission's headquarters .



With regard to this question, said proposal was supported by the representatives of the Autonomous Communities present and the representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs.