



**FVE's position on a proposed COMMISSION REGULATION  
amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 of the European  
Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC), No 2074/2005**

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In recent discussions in the European Parliament ENVI Committee regarding the proposed COMMISSION REGULATION amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC), No 2074/2005, the suggestion was made that the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) supports the committee in rejecting the proposal.

To avoid misunderstanding about its position, FVE wishes to state the following:

- FVE welcomes the Commission's initiative to review meat inspection procedures and to align these with the current knowledge and scientific insights in risk management;
- Key objectives of the Commission proposal must be food safety assurance and thus strengthening consumer confidence, through effective and efficient methods of official controls throughout the whole supply chain;
- Food chain information (FCI) obtained from primary production and ante and post mortem inspections at slaughter are inseparable parts of one coherent food safety, animal health and welfare assurance system. Complete and reliable FCI on the health and welfare status of the animals is essential for risk-based, targeted inspections at slaughter and will contribute to improving farming practices;
- FVE therefore has strong reservations regarding the present piece meal approach, proposing changes in the meat inspection process without at the same time considering improving the quality of the FCI and thus losing sight of the integrity of the over-all assurance system;
- FVE is concerned that by separating modernisation of meat inspection from the on going revision of the Official Controls, the opportunity to strengthen food safety, and animal health and welfare assurance throughout the food chain and to increase consumer confidence will be lost.

**In Conclusion:**

FVE supports the technical aspects of the proposed modernisation of the meat inspection but is very concerned about presenting these proposals disconnected from the envisioned enhancement of the role of FCI. **FCI is the cornerstone of modern official controls on food of animal origin.**

President

Christophe Buhot

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