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TONIO BORG
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.03.2014
Ares(2014)

Dear Minister Ritz,

Canada and the European Union share a commitment to the determination of equivalence of their respective sanitary measures, including controls on microbiological criteria, and stress the importance of finalizing negotiations on meat inspection systems, in order to facilitate trade in meat and meat products.

In our discussions, Canada and the European Union have acknowledged the effort and progress that has been made towards the determination of equivalency of sanitary measures under the Joint Management Committee of the *Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Canada on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animal products*, done at Ottawa on 17 December 1998, and our services are fully committed to giving high priority to this work in order to finalize the equivalence determination on meat and meat products within a year.

Both sides have acknowledged the effort and progress that has been made in the process for authorising the remaining EU Member States' meat inspection systems for export to Canada and will continue to collaborate in this regard. Both sides are fully committed to conduct the respective steps to complete the process for the authorization of the EU meat and meat products inspection systems within a year.

On July 26, 2011, EFSA published its opinion that treatments consisting of 2% to 5% of lactic acid solutions at temperatures of up to 55 °C applied either by spraying or misting are of no safety concern provided the substance used complies with the European Union specifications for food additives.

Minister Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Canada

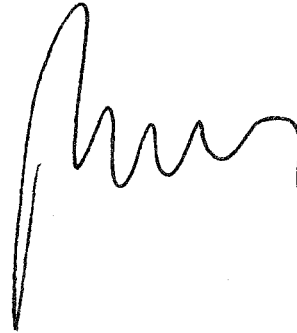
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On September 30, 2010, EFSA published its opinion that recycled hot water is a suitable carcass decontamination technique under certain conditions. The DG SANCO commits to discuss with Member States advancing a draft Decision for the acceptance of recycled hot water as a carcass decontamination method consistent with the EFSA's opinion and taking into account Canada's comments on practical and efficient implementation, and to inform Canada of the results of this discussion including next steps and timing as soon as possible.

My services and I look forward to continuing to work together on other issues of relevance to trade in the meat sector with a view to facilitate trade, and I propose that our services will review the progress that has been made within one year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a large initial letter.

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