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Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

AVR 11 2014
APR

Quote: 200730

Dr. Tonio Borg
Commissioner for Health and Consumers
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Dear Commissioner Borg:

As you rightly point out, 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.

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.

Canada and the European Union have acknowledged the effort and progress that has been made in the process for authorizing 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.

Canada acknowledges the efforts the European Commission has made for achieving the introduction of lactic acid as a carcass decontamination method into the EU and recognizes that this will contribute to facilitating trade in red meat.

I also welcome your commitment to discussing 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.

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Canada will work expeditiously in conducting the sanitary assessment necessary to establish and activate the conditions for the export of bovine meat from the European Union to Canada. Due to the integrated nature of the North American beef market, Canada will engage the United States to ensure that control measures are sufficient to prevent any adverse impact on Canada-U.S. bilateral trade in beef.

We, too, look forward to working together on other issues of relevance to trade in the meat sector with a view to facilitate trade and agree with your suggestion to review the progress that has been made one year from now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz".

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP

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