



**UNIÓN EUROPEA**  
DELEGACIÓN EN CHILE

El Jefe de la Delegación

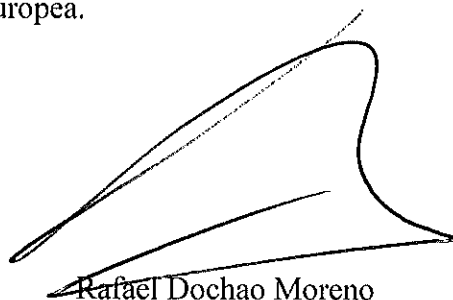
Santiago, 22 MAR 2013  
DELCHL/NA/cpk/D(2013) 133

Señor  
Oscar Videla Pérez  
Jefe División de Protección Pecuaria  
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, SAG  
Av. Bulnes 140  
Santiago

Estimado señor Videla:

La presente tiene por objeto transmitirle una carta dirigida a su atención por el señor Bernard Van Goethem, Director de Veterinaria y Asuntos Internacionales de la Dirección General de Sanidad y Consumidores, sobre el resultado de la evaluación que efectuó la misión de auditoría FVO DG (SANCO) 2013-6865 sobre el sistema de control sobre la producción de carnes bovina, ovina y porcina, así como sobre los procedimientos de certificación para su exportación a la Unión Europea.

Le saluda muy atentamente,



Rafael Dochao Moreno

Anexo

Cc:

Sr. Miguel Peña Bizama, Jefe Asuntos Internacionales, SAG

Sra. Carla Henríquez, Jefa Departamento Europa, África y Medio Oriente, Direcon

Sr. Fernando Acuña, Subdepartamento Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias, Direcon



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate G – Veterinary and International Affairs  
Director

Brussels,  
SANCO/G7SPM/tb D(2013) 458728

Dear Mr Videla Pérez,

**Subject: Outcome of the FVO audit DG (SANCO)/2013-6865 to evaluate the system of control over the production of beef, ovine and porcine meat, meat products and casings destined for export to the EU, as well as certification procedures**

I am writing to you in relation to the audit carried out by the Commission Inspection Service of DG SANCO (FVO – Food and Veterinary Office) in Chile from 18 February to 1 March 2013 to evaluate the system of controls over the production and certification of beef, ovine and porcine meat, and meat products derived thereof, as well as a follow-up of the previous audit (ref. DG (SANCO)/2011-6124) carried out in 2011.

In accordance with Article 13 (Notification and consultation) of the EU/Chile Agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, I would like to notify our serious concern in view of the outcome of the above mentioned audit.

During this audit relevant shortcomings were identified related to official controls on EU eligible bovine holdings (PABCO A), intended to supply export establishments with EU eligible animals. Deficiencies with regard to the listing of EU approved export establishments were also noted.

It has been evidenced that a number of actions have been taken to address the recommendations of the previous report, but they were found to be inefficient.

An extensive set of control procedures is in place, and also proper documented instructions, check lists and manuals of procedures; however, this did not prevent the occurrence of deficiencies, some of them significant, especially in the field of traceability of live animals.

The audit team noted that the regional and local competent Authority often fail to use the appropriate enforcement powers, especially in cases of breaches of traceability of EU eligible live bovines.

Mr Óscar Videla Pérez  
Jefe de División de Protección Pecuaria del Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero  
Avenida Bulnes 140  
Santiago, Chile

As regards the specific system of production (PABCO A), designed by the competent Authorities to guarantee that only EU eligible bovine animals are slaughtered for export to the EU, the audit team confirmed the deficiencies already identified during the previous audit, and many others, such as:

- Not all movement of EU eligible bovine animals between holdings are registered in SIPEC (as required by the national legislation). Consequently there are animals being physically present at one holding (which can have a different status) while registered at another.
- Significant delays of up to several weeks occur between the departure of the animals from the holding, the notification of this off movement (which should be < 5 days) and the registration of the movements in the database. There are no sanctions for not respecting the deadlines.
- One single PABCO number still could cover two or more holdings having different geographical locations.
- The management of ear-tags before their application to bovine animals does not ensure their full traceability. Animals identified with official ear-tags were still not entered in the database. No single physical verification is carried out on the ear tagging process.
- Weak performance of authorised veterinarians during their supervisory activities in the PABCO holdings was noted. The system of verification of the performance of authorised veterinarians by the competent Authorities was also inefficient.
- When checked at the slaughterhouse, the database does not ensure traceability of all animals brought to the premises.
- Records of medical veterinary treatments: mass treatments were not linked to identified bovines. Treatments with phenylbutazone had no withdrawal periods.

In relation with the system in place for the approval of the establishment producing food for export to the EU, it is considered, as such, acceptable. Nevertheless, its implementation showed significant weaknesses. The ability of the competent Authorities to take appropriate actions after the annual audits is questioned.

The above leads us to the conclusion that the PABCO A system, specifically designed for bovine animals, is currently unable to ensure that only EU eligible animals are slaughtered for the EU. SIPEC is currently not reliable to ensure the traceability of bovine animals. Therefore, we consider that the meat exported from Chile to the EU cannot be properly traced.

In addition, due to the failures in the PABCO-A register system, Chile authorities cannot ensure that products exported to the EU are not originated from animals that have been treated with EU prohibited substances like growth promoters, which we consider that could be a risk for human health.

Taking into account the seriousness of the deficiencies evidenced, the Commission is considering to take provisional measures for the protection of public health, as contemplate in the article 14 (Safeguard clause) of the SPS EU/Chile Agreement.

Nevertheless, the Commission could consider not taking any measures if Chile suspends the issuance of export certification of fresh beef to be exported to the EU. This suspension should be maintained for the time your Authorities have put in force the appropriate corrective measures that could guarantee that the situation has been satisfactorily settled. The Commission auditors of the FVO will verify on the spot if the suspension of the certification could be lifted.

If Chile decides to suspend the issuance of certificates for exports of beef to the EU, I will appreciate in receiving writing confirmation from you before the 8 of April 2013. On the contrary we will proceed to propose Member States the adoption of the appropriate measure suspending the imports of beef from Chile into the EU.

I look forward to receiving from you the information mentioned above and my services and I remain at your disposal for any further clarification or assistance you may need on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard Van Goethem

Cc: Mr José Miguel Sepúlveda, Mr Fernando Acuña, Direcon  
Mr Cristián Jara, Mission of Chile to the EU