

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Parma, 6 June 2011
Ref MH/bb/mm(2010) – out - 5808276

Mrs. Paola Testori-Coggi
Director General
Health and Consumers
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Re: Request for urgent scientific and technical assistance on the possible risks for public health from surface and internal contamination of vegetables with E. coli serotype 0104

Dear Mrs. Testori-Coggi,

I refer to your letter with reference Ares(2011)600584, dated 2 June 2011, which asks EFSA for providing urgent scientific advice on the possible risks for public health from surface and internal contamination of vegetables with E. coli serotype 0104.

I'm aware of the current situation and the urgency of your needs.

Following exchange of mail with our services we understand that the scope of your request covers all pathogenic STEC strains and that relative exposure refers to the comparison between exposure to vegetables contaminated in the pre-harvest stage vs. vegetables contaminated in the post-harvest stage. In the pre-harvest stage, differentiation between externally contaminated and internally contaminated should be made.

My services have already started working on the mandate received and we will deliver the advice on time. In addition as agreed with your services and the German Authorities EFSA will send Senior Scientific staff to Germany in order to provide scientific assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Cc:

EFSA: H. Deluyker, M. Hugas, P. Stella, M.T. Da Silva Felicio
DG SANCO: E. Poudelet, K. Van Dyck, P. Caricato, S. Osaer