



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : Mislabelling of beef products

In follow-up to the discussions on mislabelling of beef at the Agriculture/Fisheries Council meeting on 25 February 2013 (as an AOB point) and at the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers on 6 March 2013, delegations will find in the Annex a joint statement by the French, German, Finnish, Greek and Portuguese delegations presenting their position.

Joint proposal from France, Germany, Finland, Greece and Portugal

Lessons to be drawn from the detection of mislabelling of horsemeat

Taking into account that the origin of meat in food preparation is consumers' prime concern and that further actions should be taken to get more transparency in the future, we invite the European Commission:

- to endeavour to submit in June, and before the end of the summer at the latest, the report regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for meat used as an ingredient.
- to accompany this report by a legislative proposal with the following outline:
 - all types of meat should be covered irrespective of their percentage in the final product ;
 - the information concerning the rearing/fattening of the animal and the place of processing are the most important for the consumers.
- to clarify that traders carrying out activities in the food chain other than production, processing or distribution of food, are fully responsible for ensuring that all the requirements of food law are met.