



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** meeting on 17-18 July 2017
Dual quality of foodstuffs – presentation of the latest study
- Information from the Czech delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex a background information note by the Czech delegation with a view to the Council meeting ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 17-18 July 2017 (AOB).

Dual quality of foodstuffs – presentation of the latest study

Since 2015, the Czech Republic, along with several other Member States, has been highlighting the fact that products of the same brand with the same or similar packaging often vary in different countries. As a result, customers can buy visually same products but of different quality in supermarkets all across the EU. We consider distinguishing the quality of products based on the country of destination to be discriminatory. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic has commissioned a scientific study on this subject.

The aim of the analysis conducted by the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague was to compare characteristics of identical foodstuffs sold in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Austria and Slovakia. Additionally, as we assumed that the unfair trade practices of dual quality cover a wider range of products, non-food products were included in the analysis as well.

The Czech Republic takes the opportunity to present the results of the latest study¹. We are convinced that we need to continue to pay close attention to this issue at the EU level in order to eliminate such practices in the EU Internal Market.

¹ The results will be presented to the Council in a PowerPoint presentation.