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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Recent Listeria cases in the European Union  
*- Information from the Belgian delegation*

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Belgian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the session of Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 14-15 October 2019.

## Recent Listeria cases in the European Union

Due to recent outbreaks of Listeria infections in Members States, Belgium has had to recall and withdraw products as a precautionary measure to protect the health of Belgian consumers. These outbreaks raise the question on how to deal with transnational food safety crisis which imply life-threatening risks for EU citizen.

The Kingdom of Belgium would like to address the lessons that can be drawn from these recent cases in order to improve even further the existing tools that exist on European level. While acknowledging that the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is an excellent instrument for managing border-crossing food crisis, the EU should seek possibilities to minimize even further delays to information sharing between Member states.

Ways should be explored on how to anticipate the effects of a food crisis originating in one member states on its neighboring member states and how to use new technologies, such as the Block chain and DNA testing, to improve food traceability in the EU.

Furthermore, we need to make sure that cooperation between the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and Member States Food Safety Agencies run as smoothly as possible.

Finally, it should be discussed at a future occasion, if the European Food Safety Authority's annual report on Listeria could be deepened even further.