

**Question for written answer E-007577/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Dual quality food - the withholding of information by the Slovak Government

I asked the Slovak government to provide reports on the publicly-funded tests it carried out in 2016 and 2017 on food products sold under the same names and brands in retail outlets in Austria and Slovakia, based on samples collected from such retail outlets. The tests were carried out at the State Veterinary and Food Institute and comprised sensory and analytical assessments of the products.

The responsible Slovak authority refused to provide the test reports and instead sent a document that had not been requested, that had no identification details (no signature, date, responsible person, etc), and that contained general comparisons of 33x2 products.

According to the Slovak government, the food samples were collected in Slovakia as part of official controls under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. In addition to this purpose, the tests on official samples were also used to conduct a comparison with equivalent products from the Austrian market. The food products purchased in Austria were not collected as part of official controls and were not tested as official samples. They were tested in a laboratory which, under the Slovak law on veterinary care, is authorised to provide laboratory diagnosis, investigation, testing and examination services in respect of both official samples and unofficial samples.

Did the Slovak government have the authority to collect food samples in Austria for laboratory examinations simply by purchasing the products in shops in Austria without cooperating with the Austrian authorities?

Does European legislation restrict the provision of test reports to the public in such cases?

Is it not against the common interest for the Slovak government to withhold the information at a time when it is claiming that 'dual quality food' is an enormous problem for the internal market?