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Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis

on behalf of the European Commission

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The EU-Canada Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) has not changed the existing maximum residue levels (MRLs) in the EU or in Canada, therefore the currently applicable EU and Canadian MRLs continue to apply. Indeed, for some substances the EU and Canada have different MRLs that affect EU exports to Canada and EU imports from Canada of products of plant and animal origin, as a result of the respective risk evaluations (in addition to the existing international recommendations).

The main objectives and strategy of any discussion on the SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) chapter within a Free Trade Agreement negotiation is to protect human, animal or plant life and health in the territory of the Parties, while facilitating trade between the Parties. The Commission has been extremely strict in its negotiation position with the aim to secure and maintain the EU level of health protection. This means that exported products have to meet the importing Party’s product specific requirements and this works in both directions.