

EN
E-002327/2019
Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.8.2019)

As a preliminary remark, the Commission wishes to inform the Honourable Member that, at the time of reply, the letter referred to in his written question was not received by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, which is responsible for the EU legislation on official controls.

In accordance with Regulation No 882/2004¹, Member States shall designate the competent authorities responsible for the purposes and official controls set out in the Regulation. Competent authorities shall ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of official controls, as well as their impartiality, quality and consistency at all levels, and the efficient and effective coordination between all authorities involved, particularly of regional or local ones (Article 4 of Regulation 882/2004).

In order to ensure that these obligations are complied with, Commission experts shall carry out general and specific audits in Member States (Article 45). In turn, national competent authorities shall carry out internal audits or may have external audits carried out (Article 4.6).

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1564393757073&uri=CELEX:32004R0882>