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Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the Commission
(29.7.2015)

The European Commission does not itself engage in the enforcement of legislation in individual cases such as those mentioned by the Honourable Member. The responsibility for enforcing EU agri-food chain legislation lies with Member States which must verify, through official controls, that requirements deriving therefrom are being complied with by operators at all stages of production, processing and distribution. Official controls must be carried out regularly, on a risk basis, with appropriate frequency and measures must be taken to guarantee fair practices, eliminate risks and sanction non-compliances.

The European Commission monitors Member States' delivery of their control duties, including through on-the-spot audits. Should the above-mentioned monitoring prove that Spanish authorities are not acting in accordance with EU legislation, the European Commission will take relevant action to ensure that this is immediately rectified.

The role of the FVO is to conduct audits in Member States to check compliance of their official control systems with EU legislation. Appropriate recommendations are addressed to the concerned Member States in case of identified shortcomings in their control systems. Individual establishments are not audited by the FVO. All FVO reports, and planning of future audits, are published at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/audit_reports.