

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2863/03  
by Ole Sørensen (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Urgent alert notification from the Commission concerning salmonella in Danish pigmeat

On 16 September, I received an answer from the Commission concerning the issuing of a warning to the Danish slaughterhouse Tican about salmonella (answer to written question no. P-2618/03<sup>1</sup>).

I thank the Commission for its review of the rules but I am still without answers to my questions. My questions are largely concerned with how the Commission interprets and applies the rules in force and I would therefore reiterate them.

1. What checks did the Commission carry out to verify the facts of the matter before issuing an urgent alert concerning products from TiCan?
2. What measures did the Commission take to investigate the possibility that the salmonella in the infected kebab derived from other sources than TiCan products? Were isolated samples taken from products from TiCan or is the whole affair based on samples from the prepared kebab? Had the unprocessed products from TiCan undergone further processing which could have been the cause of the salmonella outbreak? Has it been shown that the meat products were kept in the restaurants - and had been repackaged and sent on by the wholesalers - under proper hygienic conditions?
3. What is the Commission's view on the extent to which the Swedish authorities' actions were based on health rather than on competitive considerations?
4. The Commission's answer of 16 September raises another question - how is it possible that at the very time the Commission issued the urgent alert, a number of articles appeared in the Danish press concerning the accusations of salmonella against Tican when 'the public does not have access to information concerning companies or brand names'?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C