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**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2016 12:01 PM

**To:** [redacted] (SANTE)

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** I: Written question from an Italian MEP on a dioxin finding in chickens in the region of Venice

**Importance:** High

Dear [redacted]

The control issue concerning the industrial area of Marghera (PV) began in 2011, following an official analytical control performed by a private laboratory. Consequently, the competent local and regional authorities (Department of Protection of MS n. 1 and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region), in application of the precautionary principle to ensure the maximum consumer protection, conducted further investigations to identify the source of contamination.

Up to date, Local Health Authorities and the Regional Environmental Protection Agency (ARPA) have put in place a regional and integrated plan of official controls for the research of dioxin in food and environment.

In the light of the Recommendation 2002/163/EC, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region has implemented a regional plan of official controls to determine the levels of contamination of food and feed produced in the Marghera industrial area and in the surrounding areas, in order to evaluate the possible risk for public health.

**All samples were found to be compliant with EU legislation on dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food, except for two non-compliant samples of chicken meat.** These two samples, analyzed in 2015, were from two small-scale family farms, close on to the other, where few laying hens (5/6) were raised and the resulting eggs were **exclusively intended for home consumption.**

The situation in the family farms was investigated on the spot by local competent health authorities, through environmental analytical results and analysis of food of animal origin. The conclusions of the investigation are as follows:

1. The problem was a result of a bad management of the yard where the chickens were scratching, with evidence of spillage of waste (lubricating oils, residual ash and unburned waste).
2. The animal breeding was exclusively for home consumption.
3. All environmental analytical results and levels of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs found in the samples of food of animal origin, from surrounding areas, were compliant with the maximum levels established in the EU legislation.

Because the eggs were exclusively intended for home consumption, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region didn't take any administrative measures against the farmers and an ECSPF notification was issued.

Based on the results of the investigations, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region informed the Ministry of Health that there are no risks to the health of consumers associated with food consumption.

As regards the sampling and analysis methods used by the Italian competent authorities for the monitoring of the levels of dioxins, furans and PCBs in food and feed, no strong evidence of non-compliance with EU legislation, there are no reasons to believe that the methods are not compliant with the relevant EU legislation.

