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**FEDERAL SERVICE
FOR VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY SURVEILLANCE**

Moscow, 26 April 2010
FS-NV-2/3951

Ms Paola Testori Coggi
Director-General
Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection
Commission of the European Communities

Dear Ms Testori Coggi,

The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance presents its compliments to the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission and, in reply to the letter of 12.03.2010 SANCO/D4/LC/dn D(2010) 440319, would like to inform it of the following.

Rosselkhoznadzor letter of 13.01.2010 No. FS-NV-2/51 does not change the existing Russian legislation on introducing norms for antibiotics in animal products. The letter is used in decision-making with regard imported animal products in which antibiotics residue levels are revealed, in using the national standard GOST R 53601-2009 "Food products, food stock. Method of determination of the residue level of antibiotics of the tetracycline group with the use of high-effective liquid chromatography with mass-spectrometric detector".

In this context it should be noted that the presence of the residues of antibiotics in animal products produced by European enterprises speaks of the breach by state veterinary services of the EU countries of requirements of Russian legislation and terms of initialled veterinary certificates. It should be noted that Rosselkhoznadzor speedily informs state veterinary services of the EU countries on the adoption of relevant measures with regard producing enterprises.

Rosselkhoznadzor does not view the situation as discrimination against exporting countries since requirements of Russian legislation on absence of antibiotics in animal products are identical/similar and cover both foreign and domestic producers equally.

Please accept the assurances of my high consideration.

Deputy Head

N.A.Vlasov