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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as regards official controls on animals and products of animal origin exported from third countries to the Union in order to ensure compliance with the prohibition of certain uses of antimicrobials and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards the direct supply of meat from poultry and lagomorphs **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Statement by Belgium

Belgium supports the proposal in its current form, but we would like to raise a concern. Until now, Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin has allowed the direct sale of fresh poultry and rabbit meat on farms without any controls. The proposed amendment will extend direct sales on farms without controls to, for example, minced poultry and rabbit meat. In light of the sensitivity of these products, we consider it dangerous to produce them on farms without any controls.