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European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	C(2023)8519 - ST16974 + ADD1
Subject:	COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 14.12.2023 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards specific hygiene requirements for certain meat, fishery products, dairy products and eggs - <i>Delegated Act - Intention not to raise objections</i>

Statement of Demark

Denmark wishes to object to the delegated act laying down requirements for certain meat, fishery products, dairy products and eggs. The delegated act does not provide the necessary flexibility, and the proposed provisions make slaughter at the holding of provenance unnecessarily expensive and laborious for farmers without documented effect on food hygiene or animal welfare.

Denmark finds it problematic that the official veterinarian, who carries out the ante-mortem inspection of animals intended for slaughter, must be present at the time of slaughter. It is not necessary since the mobile unit used for on-farm slaughtering must be part of an approved slaughterhouse, where it is not a requirement to have an official veterinarian present at all times.

Furthermore, for farmed game in the existing legislation, an official veterinarian does not have to be present at the time of slaughter when the holding of provenance is situated in a region, which is not under health restrictions, and where the food business operator has demonstrated the appropriate level of competence to slaughter animals without causing the animals any avoidable pain, distress or suffering. Denmark finds that similar conditions should apply when it comes to slaughter at the holding of provenance.

Furthermore, there is no reason to set up provisions limiting the number of animals that may be slaughtered at the same occasion, as long as the provisions on animal welfare and hygiene of slaughter is in place. In the existing legislation on farmed game, there is no restriction, and several animals can be slaughtered on one occasion. They can also be transported in the same vehicle to the game handling company. The same should apply when it comes to slaughter at the holding of provenance.

Denmark therefore urges the Commission to revisit the delegated act, in order to ensure the necessary flexibility with regard to the provisions on the presence of an official veterinarian and the provisions on the number of animals that may be slaughtered at the same occasion.
