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## **EU to tackle food fraud**

The European Commission today proposed a major update to EU's food controls<sup>1</sup>. Though these measures have been in the pipeline for a while, the recent horsemeat scandal has spurred the inclusion of provisions against food fraud.

BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, welcomes these first time measures specifically designed to tackle food fraud, such as unannounced controls and substantial penalties. They are long overdue to ensure the food on our plates is safe and is really as advertised and supposed.

While the controls are a positive step, the real challenge will be to have enough independent inspectors on the ground to enforce them. Moreover, unannounced inspections would help keep food manufacturers on their toes, thereby decreasing the risk of fraud risk-taking.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, commented:

"Given the current lack of confidence in food manufacturers, it is a great step to see food fraud finally feature highly on the EU agenda. Resources will be needed to enforce these new laws while the penalties for breaches demand robust minimum thresholds.

"It is crucial that Europe coordinates its food controls, after all it is a single European food market. That is the only way to restore and maintain consumer confidence, which keeps being undermined in recent months."

ENDS

<sup>1</sup> [Regulation](#) EC No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules: