The 'horsegate' step by step

BEUC The European Consumer Organisation

2013

2014

Dec 2012

BEUC finalises survey showing 90% of consumers want to know where their processed meat comes from.

Feb

Scandal breaks: horsemeat found in beef lasagne. Commission plots EU-wide control plan endorsed by Member States.

April

Commission publishes DNA test results: 5% of beef labelled meals contain horse meat. 0.5% of horse carcasses tested contaminated with Phenylbutazone.

Dec 17

After various delays, a Commission report stacks arguments against the labelling of meat origins in ready-meals.

Feb

Parliament to vote on Official Controls proposal tightening food checks.

Jan 2013

Horse and pig DNA identified in Irish beef burgers by FSAI

March

Commission proposes 5-point Action Plan on food fraud.

May 6

Commission proposal on official controls. Promising but lacks ambition.

Jan 14

Parliament adopts report on food fraud. Though non-binding, it is a promising stance by MEPs on food controls.