

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Danish Veterinary and Food Administration



Mr. Mathioudakis
European Commission
DG Health and Consumer Protection
Unit 4: Food Law, Nutrition and Labelling
101 Rue Froissart
BE-1040 Bruxelles

DIVISION FOR NUTRITION

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Subject: Request for a discussion point at the next meeting in SCoFCAH in July 2010

Dear Mr. Mathioudakis

Denmark would like to request a discussion point at the next meeting in SCoFCAH concerning the sale of food supplements on the internet.

We are experiencing an increase in the number of companies situated in other member states or third countries that from websites are marketing food supplements to Danish consumers. These websites are in Danish language and it is often very difficult for consumers to find information on the physical location of the company responsible for the websites.

In many cases these companies based outside of Denmark are selling products containing substances or combinations of substances that are forbidden in Denmark because they are considered to be dangerous. It is also common for companies to use illegal health claims.

We have in Denmark from a risk assessment perspective decided to allocate resources to an ongoing surveillance of foreign websites that in Danish language are marketing food supplements to Danish consumers.

When the sale of dangerous products occurs from companies situated in other EU countries we contact the relevant authorities in order for them to carry out relevant control activities. In parallel we issue warnings to Danish consumers on the purchase of the identified dangerous products.

We would in a discussion in SCoFCAH like to hear if other member states are experiencing a similar situation and how they are acting upon this. We would also like to discuss the possibility of establishing a common communication tool at EU-level, where member states can report on web based sale in other member states of products that are dangerous or accompanied by illegal claims.

Yours faithfully

Jens Therkel Jensen
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