



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**

**Deputy Director-General for the Food Chain**

Brussels,  
SANCO G7/LC/mh (2013) 2668019

Dear Mr Dankvert,

**Subject: Trade in potatoes and planting materials between the EU and the Russian Federation**

Concerning the announced ban on import into the Russian Federation of potatoes and certain planting materials from the EU, I seek to urgently clarify the situation with you.

At our meeting on 30 May 2013 we reached a clear understanding that the Russian Federation would reconsider the ban based on offers from the EU side concerning traceability, phytosanitary status of the place of origin, and steps for considering derogation for import of pine trees and potatoes from the Russian Federation into the EU. On these three points, we have made very concrete proposals in our letter Ref. Ares(2013)2265784 of 18/06/2013, which involve exceptional steps from the EU Member States in order to provide the reassurances that you requested. I thus believe that we have fully answered all your requests.

I can only regret that we have received no official reaction from your side on these offers, and that before the matter could be discussed in an official bilateral meeting in Geneva on 27 June 2013, we are informed by press declarations from Rosselkhoznadzor that the ban will enter into force. I would reiterate our call for trust-based relations between official services in which bilateral exchange can take place before announcements are made in the media. I also would like to clarify that at no point we have declined negotiations in Geneva. Your colleagues on the spot have confirmed that this meeting would take place this afternoon and that this issue would be discussed at this occasion.

I therefore hope that the meeting this afternoon will allow clarifying each side's position, and in particular clarify the Russian position on the EU offers made in our letter of 18 June 2013. I would also propose that we have a phone call tomorrow in order to agree on next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Ladislav Miko  
**Mr Bernard Van Goethem**  
Director  
DG Health and Consumers  
for the DDG absent

Mr S. Dankvert  
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