

# High level conference on FOOD AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

24 June 2016, Brussels - Charlemagne Building  
Jenkins Room, Rue de la Loi 170

## RECOMMENDATIONS

At the High Level Conference on Food Authenticity and Integrity organised on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Food operators, Commission officials, Member State officials, official laboratories, industry, traders and consumer representatives met and discussed how private operators and public authorities can cooperate to promote and guarantee food authenticity and integrity.

Panel sessions included presentations on European policy actions targeting counterfeit in the food chain; European and Member States' national policies and actions to promote food integrity; consumers' expectations, as well as presentations on the contribution of technical analysis. The informative sessions were concluded by the presentation of three case studies, where food operators could explain their internal processes guaranteeing the food integrity and authenticity of their products.

From the presentations and discussions, speakers and participants agreed on the following recommendations:

- + Good practices exist, some of which were presented at the high-level conference. Food operators are invited to continue their own initiatives and internal procedures to promote food integrity and authenticity;
- + Food operators are invited to continue sharing and promoting best case scenarios among themselves, through similar events or through other ways;
- + The European Commission is invited to recognise private initiatives set up by food business operators guaranteeing food integrity and authenticity;
- + The European Commission shall continue to strengthen cooperation, coordination and information sharing with Member States;
- + Information sharing should include third countries. This should be made using protocols to be negotiated by the EU Commission;
- + Innovation on the part of food businesses can play a key role in putting into place laboratory techniques that will guarantee food authenticity and integrity;
- + Member States and the Commission shall continue their efforts to ensure correct enforcement of the legislation and in adapting this legislation so as to be realistic and understood both by FBOs and consumers while strengthening sanctions when applicable;
- + FBOs are invited to be more transparent; this also requires an explanation of processes used so that consumers can visualise and understand production processes.

In conclusion, all actors of the food chain should continue to engage to provide information and transparency to consumers, which will lead to increased consumer trust.