



Krajowy Sekretariat
Przemysłu Spożywczego
NSZZ „Solidarność”
80 - 855 Gdańsk, ul. Wały Piastowskie 24



Tel/Fax: (+48 58) 3084377,500275063

e-mail: spspoz@solidarnosc.org.pl

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Directorate-General for
Health and Food Safety
European Commission

On behalf of the National Food Workers Secretariat of the NSZZ „Solidarność” and with reference to the meeting with the Commission on 27 September, I would first of all like to thank you for your time and the information that was provided on the amendments (EC) 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004. Thanks to this information, we now have a broader perspective on the matter.

I understand that the proposed changes are not a new issue and the salmon processing industry has had the opportunity to respond appropriately. We will be communicating this issue to our union members employed at companies that will be affected by the new regulations. What is important for the case, and what you should know is that these companies are located in the central part of the Polish coast, one of the least economically developed regions in Poland.

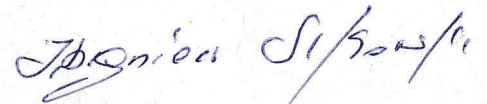
However, we cannot be blind to the consequences that will follow the introduction of the new regulations. The consequences could affect six thousands thousand workers whose jobs will be cut. All this will happen in a region which, as a result, of the necessity of the implementation of the EU law, lost out economically as a result of the closure of Polish fisheries. This was the price Poland paid for the objective benefits of EU membership (infrastructural development, introduction of relevant procedures, etc.). Nevertheless, the community of this region will once again be economically affected by EU regulations.

Therefore, on behalf of these people and the workers we represent, we appeal to DG SANTE to try to find a solution to this very difficult situation. So that the workers and people of the region do not pay for the mistakes of the employers. We believe that such a solution exists, however, it may be worth considering the introduction of a vacatio legis period in the stiffening amendments or gradually reaching the 96-hour period that the legislation introduceand?

If a way out of the situation can be found then, we will do our best to make it sufficiently clear in the public opinion that the European Commission takes such special cases of its citizens with care.

We remain at your disposal.

Best regards



Zbigniew Sikorski

Chairman

Food Workers Secretariat

of the NSZZ „Solidarność“