NOTE

from: French delegation

to: Council

Subject: Chemical decontamination of fresh meat

Delegations will find attached a note from the French delegation which will be submitted to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council as an "Other business" item at its meeting on 19 May 2008.
Note from the French authorities to the Council
Request for an "Other business" item at the Agriculture Council meeting on 19 May 2008

The French authorities would like to draw the Council's and the Commission's attention to their concern regarding the plan announced at the close of the last Transatlantic Economic Council on 13 May 2008. This involves changes to EU regulations that will allow the importation of poultry meat processed using chemical decontamination ("pathogen reduction treatment"), as well as the use of such treatments in EU Member States in the production of poultry meat for consumption in the EU.

The Commission announced that before the next European Union - United States summit it would propose changes to EU regulations to authorise certain substances for the chemical decontamination of poultry meat produced in or imported into the Union.

On that occasion incorrect information was passed on with regard to the current reality of such practices in the European Union, which could have changed the perception of the dossier.

Following the exchange of views held at the last Agriculture Council meeting on 14 April, it emerged that a broad majority of Member States shared France's concern regarding this plan. The French authorities would like the Commission to give details of the action it intends to take on this matter.