

Warsaw, 21 October 2014

**Communiqué of the Chief Veterinary Officer on the alleged contamination of beef
in Poland with anthrax**

The Chief Veterinary Officer strongly denies the rumours that the slaughter of cattle infected with anthrax has taken place in Poland.

On 17 September 2014, two heads of cattle were delivered to one of Polish slaughterhouses. They were accompanied by a health certificate signed by an official veterinarian of the Slovak Republic who attested that the animals on the day of their shipment to Poland had been clinically healthy.

On 19 September 2014, after an ante-mortem inspection had been carried out at the slaughterhouse by an official veterinarian, the animals were slaughtered and, after conducting a post-mortem inspection, their meat was recognised as fit for human consumption.

According to epidemiological information sent by the Slovak veterinary services, a suspicion of the disease occurrence in the herd was determined on 27 September 2014. The occurrence of an anthrax outbreak in the holding which the cattle originated from was communicated on 1 October 2014.

After 17 September 2014 there have been no shipments of cattle from the Slovak holding where the anthrax outbreak was found to Poland.

Therefore, there are not any reasons to claim that meat obtained from those two heads of cattle originated from animals infected with anthrax.

Chief Veterinary Officer