



**Athens, 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2013**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) following actions that have been undertaken in collaboration with the General Veterinary Directorate of Ministry of Rural Development and Food regarding the detection of horse meat in food samples would like to inform consumers about the first official results of laboratory analysis that were conducted in food samples for the presence of horse DNA with the Real Time-PCR method (Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction).

Until now, seventy six (76) food samples have been transmitted to laboratories, twenty six (26) have been analyzed so far, and of these, two (2) were found as positive. The number of 76 samples has been officially taken following relevant controls in meat production/ meat processing units, caterings, facilities for the refrigerated storage and enterprises dealing with retail trade with representative and proportional rate throughout country.

The two (2) positive samples refer to equal numbers of lots of frozen bovine meat, origin from Romania, total quantity of 1064 kg with label "FROZEN BEEF MEAT NECK" and "FROZEN BEEF MEAT TOPSIDE" of the company "ZIKOUDI VASSILIKI". The meat has been detained on the 14.02.2013 by the Veterinary Unit of the Rural Economy and Veterinary Directorate of the Prefecture Unit in Piraeus.

The appropriate measures are going to apply for these specific lots, according to legislation.

It is reminded that EFET and the General Veterinary Directorate of Ministry of Rural Development and Food in collaboration with the Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary of the Prefecture Units in the whole country continue to conduct controls regarding the presence of DNA horse in several foods covering the entire food chain. In case of additional positive results, the relative measures are going to be implemented and further updated information is going to follow.