

Check against delivery

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Commission welcomes positive developments, announced by Germany, in efforts to identify the source of the E. coli outbreak

The European Commission welcomes the announcement made earlier today by the German authorities on the course of their investigations to identify the source of the E. Coli outbreak affecting mainly the northern part of Germany.

The findings announced by the German authorities constitute a breakthrough, which could be further substantiated by the ongoing epidemiological investigation. During this investigation – in other words during work done to identify possible links between people falling ill and food establishments, and between these food establishments and food producers/handlers– the German authorities were able to link one farm, producing various types of sprouts, to food establishments where consumers ate food and fell ill.

This led the German authorities to focus their sampling and testing on the suspect farm, located south of Hamburg. Up until yesterday afternoon, they had collected more than 850 samples. Testing has been concluded on about 470 samples and all results were negative.

The Commission also welcomes the revised recommendation of the German authorities to the German consumers, which lifts the warning against the consumption of lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers and advises the public to avoid the consumption of raw sprouts. The German authorities have already issued a recall of all the products coming from the suspect farm.

Tracing the source of contamination and taking the necessary measures is important to ensure that consumer confidence is restored and, more importantly, that the number of new cases drops. The Commission extends its sincere condolences to those who are suffering as a result of the death and disease that has been caused by this outbreak.

For more information, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/coli_outbreak_germany_en.htm

For the part of the midday briefing on *e-coli*, please see link to EBS webpages:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/player/streaming.cfm?type=ebsvod&sid=181913>