Subject: Payment of the tariffs imposed by the EC regulation n. 822/2004 on veterinary visits and extension of the exemption for instrumental activities to farming.

The issue concerns the compatibility with EU law of the national regulation establishing the exemption from the payment of veterinary tariffs for farms only, without including those that deal with instrumental activities to farming.

Therefore, the Council of State referred the following questions to the EUCJ:

- if the art. 27 of the EC Regulation, n. 882/2004 that provides that for the activities referred to in Annex IV, section A, and in Annex V, section A, the Member States ensure the collection of a tax, must be interpreted in the sense of imposing the obligation payment to all agricultural entrepreneurs even where "they carry out the slaughtering and cutting of meat in an instrumental way and connected to the animal breeding activity";

- if a State can exclude certain categories of entrepreneurs from the payment of health rights despite having set up a system of collection of taxes suitable, as a whole, to guarantee coverage of the costs incurred for official controls or apply lower rates than those provided for by the Regulation CE n. 82/2004.