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UNICA
Unión de la Industria Cárnica Argentina
Argentinean Chamber of the Meat Packing Industry

Reply to the images published by the NGOs TSB and GAIA regarding the South American Horsemeat Industry

We are addressing you this reply as a reaction on the video published by the Swiss and Belgium NGO's TBS and GAIA regarding the horsemeat industry in Argentina and Uruguay under the Title "South American Horse Meat from Torturous Production, The Failure of the European Importers".

Contrary to these false and completely lack of scientific accusations, the Argentinean horsemeat industry looks after the animal welfare and the community and environment safeguard by employing thousand of families, by feeding worldwide human and animal population with safe food according to national and international regulations and by giving the discarded animals a deserving ending.

Worldwide improvements on animal handling are done gradually with training and educational programs across all the productive chain.

It's a cultural change that takes time and the whole industry is continuous working to achieve it.

At this stage, supportive and collaboratively joint work is essential to improve.

In this sense, for the last years Argentinean Horsemeat Industry and National Sanitary Service (SENASA) have taken continuously measures to improve Animal Welfare Protocols, reinforcing training, tightening penalties for non-compliance, making building reforms at the slaughterhouses and strengthening the chain at the collecting points and transports.

As well, all the slaughterhouses are active participants of several interdisciplinary activities aiming for a continuous work on animal welfare as the Respectful Life Project who's objective is to study and analyze scientific facts to improve animal welfare.

These illegal command attacks by NGOs that deny and underestimate all these efforts do not contribute at all on seeking solutions to improve animal welfare.

Some of these images were taken illegally by trespassing private property.



The discredit campaign against third countries horsemeat industry seeking to force European importers to stop buying overseas is not a constructive action intending to help animals, but quite the opposite.

We must work all together to achieve feasible and long-term solutions according to geographical, environmental and social realities of each country.

In any moment, these NGO's never had contacted neither the industry nor the National Sanitary Service neither to visit the plants nor to discuss improvement alternatives.

As usual among all these years, the whole industry is more than willing to receive these NGOs or any others willing to work in an ethical, responsible and positive way to really help the animals and all the people working for this important industry.
