

Subject: FW: Commissioner's meetings in Vilnius today - VU Life Science Center and LT Agri Chamber

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Sent: Friday, January 4, 2019 7:04 PM
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Meeting with a group of scientists at the Vilnius University Life Sciences centre

Meeting of two hours. LT presented the Centre's activities, it's partly financed from EU funds also gets funding from research programs. Quite concerned about the EJC ruling on new breeding techniques, which will be certainly limiting their activities. They were interested to know if commission will be presenting a new legal proposal. Also worried about anti vaccination movements and other fake news like in gene engineering and diminishing trust in science in general . They will participate at an event in LT parliament in science/ GM. They also plan to be more active on mass media.

Commissioner explained what COM is doing, and the state of play re EJC ruling and that this COM will not be proposing a new legal proposal. Cmmrs suggested to involve LT reference centres in public campaigns as general public was less negative on GM in medicine as opposed to food. He said he wanted to organise a big conference on GM in Brussels by March this year. Wants to invite both supporters and opponents to discuss. LT VU were very much interested to attend and share their experience and work.

So generally, very good atmosphere. Commissioner is enthusiastic about it.

Meeting with LT Agricultural chamber.

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