

# Regionalisation: the EU approach

Dr Olafur Oddgeirsson  
Brussels November 2009



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## International standards



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Definitions

- regionalization: recognition that an exporting region (all or part of a country or a border-straddling zone) is disease-free or pest-free (or has a lower incidence)
- sanitary and phytosanitary measures: measures dealing with food safety and animal and plant health. Sanitary: for human and animal health. Phytosanitary: for plants and plant products



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Regionalisation



- The key concept is recognition that an exporting region (all or part of a country or a border-straddling zone) is disease-free or pest-free (or has a lower incidence), enabling:
  - The importing countries to recognize different situations in different regions and their restrictions on products from areas with disease do not apply to whole countries.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Procedure



- The exporting country identifies an area with an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease, based on surveillance and monitoring
- The exporting country identifies the procedures to distinguish such an area epidemiologically from other parts of its territory, in accordance with the measures stipulated in the Terrestrial Code;

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Procedure proc..



- The exporting country provides the information to the importing country, explains that the area can be treated as an epidemiologically separated zone for international trade purposes
- The importing country determines whether to accept the zone for the importation of animals and animal products, taking into account:
  - an evaluation of the exporting country's Veterinary Services;
  - the result of a risk assessment based on the information provided by the exporting country and its own research;
  - its own animal health situation with respect to the disease(s) concerned; and
  - other relevant OIE standards

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Procedure proc..



- The importing country notifies the exporting country of the result of its determination and the underlying reasons, within a reasonable period of time, being either:
  - recognition of the zone;
  - request for further information; or
  - rejection of the area as a zone for international trade purposes;

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Procedure proc..



- An attempt should be made to resolve any differences of opinion over the definition of the zone by using an agreed mechanism to reach consensus (such as the OIE dispute settlement mechanism)
- The importing country and the exporting country may enter into a formal agreement defining the zone

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Examples FMD – free zones



- Disease free zones are e.g. recognized by the OIE in parts of Brazil, Argentina and Colombia;
  - the zone situated south of the 42° parallel in Argentina is recognized as FMD free without vaccination,
  - In Brazil, the States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and the Federal District are recognized as FMD free with vaccination.
  - In Colombia both a zone free with vaccination, and a zone free without vaccination are recognized, in addition to zones not considered free

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Examples FMD – diseased/ free zones in the EU - proceed



- Based on the examples above
  - The EU does acknowledge the existence of regionalisation in Third Countries exporting to the EU, however
  - Based on extensive and continuous assessment of that Country.
  - The EU expects the same from Countries the Member States exports to –that these countries accept regionalisation in the EU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### EU rules on regionalisation - Disease control measures - Additional guarantees



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Disease control measures



- Measures are harmonised based on transposed disease control (EC) directives
- Disease control measures are applied in an affected area only to minimise effect on trade – establishing zones – see later.
- Policy of stamping-out animals in the infected farms and dangerous contact / neighbouring farms
- Decision making powers of Competent Authorities of major importance

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Legal measures / audits



- Numerous Commission Decisions on Animal Health & Welfare every year
- Fast track/emergency procedure in case of outbreak
- Commission own decisions
- FVO carrying out audits in Member States
  - Verifying implementation of EU legislation
  - Checking on e.g. disease measures, in particular during outbreak of infectious disease

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Imports



- Harmonized legislation on imports
- Import rules on regionalization reflect EU internal rules and OIE standards
- Veterinary controls (verification) at EU external borders
- FVO Inspections checking on import conditions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Regionalisation in a Third Country



- Measures on regionalisation suggested by Third Country
- Verified by FVO audit checking e.g.:
  - Legal instruments and structures of supervision
  - Power of authorities, procedures and manpower
  - Laboratory facilities, disease and residue control.
  - Rules on import in the Third Country
  - Guarantees afforded – animal I&R, movement control
- Regionalisation based on conditions in some cases

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Additional guarantees



- Based on:
  - Disease freedom
  - Program for eradication of disease
- Procedures:
  - Member State has to verify either of above
  - Not sufficient to state: "That disease has never been identified"
  - A thorough research has to be carried out to verify disease freedom

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Additional guarantees - continue



- Disease freedom or program for eradication of a disease application submitted to the Commission
- Evaluated, visits and verification
- If successful, adopted by a specific decision
- Continues supervision of application and progress
- Products/ animals moved to zone must fulfil requirements

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

AI as an example OIE - Code



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AI status



- NAI (Notifiable avian influenza) free establishment
- NAI free country, zone or compartment
- HPNAI free country, zone or compartment

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Measures for AI



- when importing **live poultry** from an NAI free country or zone/compartment, Veterinary Administrations should require an international veterinary certificate attesting that the poultry:
  - showed no clinical sign of NAI on day of shipment;
  - were kept in an NAI free country, zone or compartment since hatched or for past 21 days;
  - either have not been vaccinated against NAI, or have been vaccinated (and the details provided)
  - required surveillance within past 21 days

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Measures for AI



- when importing from a country, zone or compartment free from HPNAI infection, ... should require for **fresh meat** of poultry, an IVC attesting that the consignment comes from birds:
  - which have been kept in an establishment since they were hatched or for the past 21 days in which there has been no evidence of NAI in the past 21 days;
  - which have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir and have been subjected to AM and PM inspections for NAI with favourable results

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Measures for AI



- when importing from a country or *zone/compartiment* regardless of its NAI status, ... should require for **meat products** of poultry, an IVC attesting that:
  - the commodity is derived from fresh meat, meat products and/or viscera which meet the requirements of Articles [dealing with those commodities]; or
  - the commodity has been processed to ensure the destruction of the NAI virus, and the necessary precautions were taken after processing ...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## BSE as an example – OIE Code



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## BSE status of a country



- negligible BSE risk
- controlled BSE risk
- undetermined BSE risk

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Measures for BSE



- When importing from a country, zone or compartment posing a controlled BSE risk, ... should require for **cattle** an IVC attesting that:
  - cattle are identified by a permanent identification system enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin, and are not BSE exposed cattle
  - in the case of a country, zone or compartment with an indigenous case, cattle selected for export were born after the date from which the feed ban had been effectively enforced

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Measures for BSE



- When importing from a ... posing a controlled BSE risk ... should require for **fresh meat and meat products** from cattle an IVC attesting that:
  - AM and PM inspections on all cattle from which the fresh meat and meat products originate
  - special stunning requirements were carried out the fresh meat and meat products do not contain "prohibited tissues"

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Websites of interest



- WTO  
[http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm)
- SPS  
[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/spsagr\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsagr_e.htm)
- Standards and Trade Development Facility  
<http://www.standardsfacility.org/>
- Codes Alimentarius  
[http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index\\_en.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp)
- OIE  
[http://www.oie.int/eng/en\\_index.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm)
- WTO Distance Learning  
[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/d\\_learn\\_e/d\\_learn\\_e.htm#sps](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/d_learn_e/d_learn_e.htm#sps)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---