

Animal health control system
in the EU,
policy and legislation, institutions,
link to international standards

Brussels
November 2009
Dr Olafur Oddgeirsson





Belgium
Germany
France
Italy
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
Denmark
Ireland
United Kingdom
Greece
Spain
Portugal
Austria
Finland
Sweden

Estonia
Poland
Hungary
Czech Republic
Slovenia
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Slovakia
Malta
Romania
Bulgaria

04/12/2009 www.food-control.com



The European Parliament

The European Court of Justice

The European Commission

European Central Bank

Institutions of the European Union

The Council of the European Union

European Court of auditors

Economic and Social Committee

Committee of the Regions

European Ombudsman

Structure



- The EU - a Union of Member States
- New legal instruments are proposed by the Commission,
- They are accepted (or not) by the EU Parliament and the EU Council (Represents the Member States)
- There are several different legal instruments used

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

4

Legal instruments



- Regulation
 - Directly applicable
- Directive
 - Directed to the Member States, they decide on implementation within limits
- Decision
 - Of Commission or Council. Directly valid
- Recommendation
 - Only a recommendation!

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

5

Statistics



- Area 4,324,782 km²
- Population 495,500,000 (2007)
- GDP (nominal)
 - Total €10.698 trillion (10,698,000,000,000)
 - Per capita €21.284
- 221 labour force
 - 60% services, 27.3% industry, 4.4% agric.
 - 7% unemployed

Member states	27
Official languages	20
Working languages	English, German and French
Import	1.4 trillion
Export	1.3 trillion

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

6

Some facts on animals (2005) – EU 25



152 million



87 million

Source: Eurostat

89 million



3.700.000

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

7

What is the Single Market?



- The Single Market came in force January 1st 1993
- External border created - internal removed!
- Allowing free movement goods including:
 - Live animals
 - Products of animal origin

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

8

Trade within EU



- All Member State are obliged to follow the same rules
- The Competent Authorities have to establish their control procedures based on the same provisions
- The players in the market have to trust each other – products placed on the market in one State are in free trade

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

9

Main legal instruments on intra-community trade in live animals



- Cattle and pigs 64/432/EEC
- Sheep and goats 91/68/EEC
- Horses 90/426/EEC
- Poultry 90/539/EEC
- Fish 2006/88/EC
- Zoo animal and others 92/118/EEC
- Movement of pets 998/2003

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

10

General on animal health and trade



- The rules main aim is to allow trade in animals and animal products, but at the same time:
 - Protect animal health to prevent financial losses
 - Protect human health against diseases, environmental contamination and residues of an ever increasing variety.

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

11

EU and Member States



- Main objective are
 - to reduce trade barriers and promote trade without lowering animal health status
- Terminology
 - "Trade" or "intra-community trade" refers solely to movement of animals and animal products between EU Member States

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

12

More specific objectives



- Establish procedures for movements of animals and products of animal origin:
 - between EU Member States
 - from OIE Member Countries outside the EU to EU Member States
 - from EU Member States to other OIE Member Countries

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

13

Barriers to trade



- Based on mistrust and economic interest – aim at allow export and restrict import
- Barriers to trade were (and are) commonplace, but not within the EU
- Sanitary barriers – sometimes called “veterinary barriers to trade” are some of the more common barriers used to restrict trade

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

14

Trade in animals / EU policy



- Internal market
 - Fundamental objective: Free movements of goods, persons, services and capital
 - This includes: Free movement of animals and animal products, except if subject to (Veterinary) Community restrictions e.g. due to outbreak of disease

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

15

EU Animal Health Policy



- Main aim of the veterinary policy in the EU:
 - An uniform high standard of health and hygiene, to reduce the risk associated with free movement of animals and animal products
 - A harmonized disease control system

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

16

Scope of the animal health policy



- Covers basically 2 types of diseases:
 - Compulsory notifiable epizootic diseases
 - using disease freedom and stamping out
 - Endemic diseases subject to mandatory or voluntary control/eradication measures
 - using control and eradication programmes

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

17

Rules on EU's Intra-community trade



- Checks at the place of origin – certificates official vet.
- Control and eradication - stamping-out policy for all former OIE list A diseases
- Programs for endemic diseases (TB, IBR, AD)
- Regionalisation or Zoning policy, also crossing borders
- Identification, registration and movement control

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

18

Rules on EU's Intra-community trade



- In advance notification on movements (TRACES)
- Trust and confidence building, ADNS database on notification of diseases.
- Checks during transport and at the place of destination – non-discriminatory
- Veterinary controls of animals/animal products carried out in BIPs at import from Third Countries
- Financial assistance from Community.

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

19

Common rules for disease control



- Notification
- Harmonised control measures
- Uniformity for diagnostic procedures
- Contingency plans
- Epidemiological unit
- Financial support

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

20

Harmonised control measures



- Arrange for investigation to confirm or rule out the presence of disease
- Place holding/flock under surveillance
- Apply stamping out when disease has been confirmed
- Establish protection and surveillance zones
- Perform epizootiological inquiry

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

21

Additional provisions



- Designation of national laboratories
- Contingency plans
- Emergency vaccination plan
- Written plan in case of CSF in wild boar

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

22

Some problems encountered in disease control



- High density of (farm-) animals in certain geographical areas
- Complicated trade patterns
- Movement control, cleaning and disinfection, identification & registration rules
- Feeding of swill

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

23

Problems encountered in disease control, proc..



- Infection of wild boar - CSF
- Poor sign of disease – difficult diagnosis
- Susceptible hobby-animals outside commercial farms
- Epidemiological investigations

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

24

Diseases subject to specific control measures



- African horse sickness
- African swine fever
- Foot-and-mouth disease
- Avian influenza
- Bluetongue
- Certain fish diseases (List I and II)
- Certain mollusc diseases
- Classical swine fever
- Newcastle disease
- EXOTIC DISEASES
 - PPR, lumpy skin, Rift valley, Rinderpest, Sheep & Goat pox, Swine vesicular, vesicular stomatitis

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

25

Eradication and Monitoring Programmes



- Group 1
 - Bovine tuberculosis
 - Bovine brucellosis
 - IBR/IPV (Artificial Insemination + embryo units)
 - Ovine and caprine brucellosis (B. melitensis)
 - Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)
 - Aujeszky's disease
 - For complete list see:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/index_en.htm

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

26

Eradication and Monitoring Programmes



- Group 2
Zoonoses or epizootics not covered elsewhere - measures on a herd or flock basis:
 - Rabies
 - Echinococcosis
 - Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or any other slow developing disease

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

27

Some final considerations of importance



- Awareness of disease
- Active surveillance in risk areas
- Regionalisation policy
- Cleaning and disinfection of trucks leaving risk areas
- Standstill – authorisation before departure

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

28

Programme 2007-2013



04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

29

Underlying principles of partnership and communication



- Partnership
 - Everyone involved in animal health works together and with all interested citizens.
 - The EU will take advantage of existing collaborative efforts, encourage new initiatives and make more use of non-legislative alternatives to regulation.
 - An "Animal Health Advisory Committee" spanning the animal health sector, consumers and governments.
- Communication
 - The Commission is committed to pursuing its objectives of clarity and transparency when communicating with consumers and stakeholders.
 - It will include participation in international or national events, developing relationships
 - There will be annual reporting on the strategy's progress and wider communication of policies and initiatives.

04/12/2009

www.food-control.com

30


