

## The work of the Food and Veterinary Office and Border Inspection Posts

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### Scope of presentation

- The FVO – history and structure
- The FVO – role and responsibilities
- Nature and scope of FVO inspection missions
- Overview of a residues inspection
- Reporting and outcomes from inspections
- Sources of further information

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### The FVO – history and structure

- Established in 1997
- Based in Grange (Ireland) since 2002
- 163 staff (81 inspectors) organised into thematic units
  - ‘Eyes and ears of the Commission’
  - Authorised to perform control missions (Official control Regulation 882/2004)



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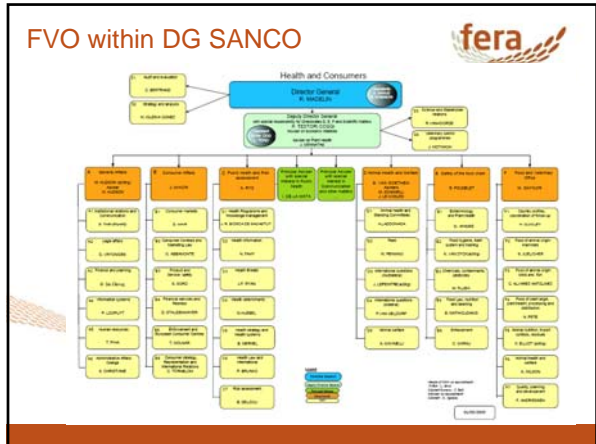
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- ### FVO Structure
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- 5 inspection Units (F2-F6) (thematic)
    - F2: Food of animal origin: Public Health – Mammals
    - F3: Food of animal origin: Public Health - Birds/Fish
    - F4: Food plant origin & plant health processing and distribution
    - F5: Animal nutrition, Import Controls, Residues,
    - F6: Animal Health and Welfare
  - 2 non-inspection Units (F1 and F7)
    - F1 Country-based Follow-up, Country Profiles
    - F7 Quality, Planning, Development

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- ### FVO - key roles
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- Promote effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors
  - Check on compliance with requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the EU and in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries exporting to the EU
  - Contribute to the development of EU policy in these sectors

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## FVO Inspections



- Inspections are the principal means by which the FVO performs its role
- Each year a programme of FVO inspections is developed, identifying priority areas and Member States/third countries for inspection
- Inspection programmes are published on the website of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection
- Reviewed mid-year. New inspections may need to be programmed, for example, in response to emerging risks such as disease outbreaks



Adobe Acrobat Document

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## Planned audits and inspections by main areas in 2008



AREA	No. of audits and inspections	%
General Audits	65	26
Food safety	139	54
Animal health	11	4
Animal welfare	8	3
Plant health	11	4
General review	22	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>

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## Planned audits by geographical region in 2008



COUNTRY	No. of audits and inspections	%
EU-27	165	64
EFTA countries	4	2
Candidate countries	11	4
Other third countries	76	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>

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## General audits in Member States in 2008



GENERAL AUDITS	Member States
<p>A capacity of 65 specific audits across all control systems</p>	Estonia
	Germany
	Hungary
	Ireland
	Slovakia
	Spain

2008 is the first year of foreseen 3 year cycle of general audits in all Member States

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## FVO Inspection programme



- Each inspection can cover a number of objectives
- Each objective is categorised into one of four broad areas:
  - food safety;
  - animal health;
  - animal welfare;
  - plant health.

AREA	INSPECTIONS	%
Food safety	176	70
Animal health	27	10
Animal welfare	17	7
Plant health	17	7
General review	15	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100</b>

- Breakdown for 2007 shown opposite
- In 2007 (70%) of the inspections concerned food safety

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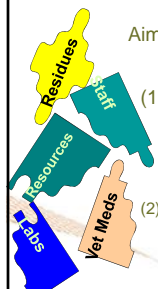
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## FVO residue missions - aims



Aim: To evaluate the performance of the system

- (1) Is there a system of control?
  - Residues and contaminants
  - Authorisation, distribution and use of chemicals
- (2) Can it work and (3) Does it work?
  - Adequate resources
  - Clear roles, responsibilities and staff instructions

Pre-mission questionnaire and evaluation plan

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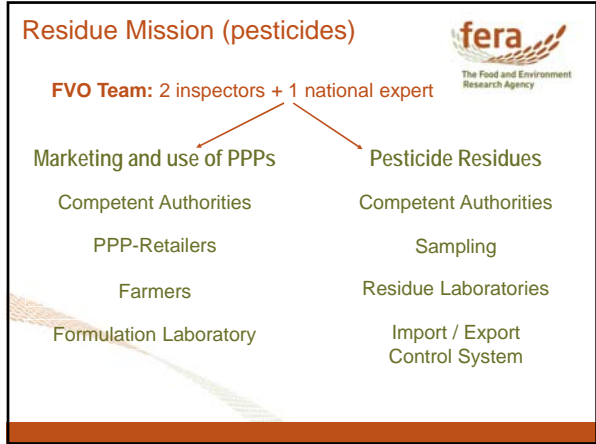
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- ### Residue Missions (veterinary drugs)
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- On-the-spot verification and document checks e.g.
    - Central Competent Authorities
    - Regional / local veterinary services / BIPs
    - Slaughterhouses / feed mills / farms / pharmacies
    - Private veterinary practitioners

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- ### FVO mission report
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- Findings
    - Main findings in each of the areas listed*
    - objective not subjective*
  - Conclusions
    - Significance of findings - e.g. do the deficiencies constitute a systematic failure or one-off?*
  - Recommendations to Competent Authorities
    - Address the specific conclusions*
    - Require actions to be taken - non prescriptive*

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### FVO mission - Report cont.



- Draft report
  - 20 working days -> competent authority
  - 25 working days -> response
- Final report
  - Takes account of competent authority comments
- Publication
  - Available to European Parliament, Member States, general public
  - [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html)
- Follow-up
  - Together with other Commission services the FVO evaluates the action plan and monitors its implementation through follow-up activities

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### FVO Inspections - information



- General overview reports are also produced e.g. the annual EU-wide pesticide residues monitoring reports.
- The FVO also publishes an annual report on the global results of its activities



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### FVO Inspections – 2007 overview



Total of 252 inspections

- 159 EU Member States
- 12 in candidate countries (Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey)
- 81 in third countries, [Brazil (7), Argentina, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Switzerland]

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## EU Traces system at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)



- An EU IT system to manage animal movements and prevent the spread of animal diseases
- Control and traceability of animals and animal products
- Import of products from outside the EU: After controlling the products, the veterinary authority at the BIP will give or refuse authorisation. If the consignment is rejected, all BIPs within the EU will be informed via TRACES

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/food\\_safety/veterinary\\_checks\\_and\\_food\\_hygiene/f84009\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/food_safety/veterinary_checks_and_food_hygiene/f84009_en.htm)

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## Further Information



### Health and Consumer Directorate-General website

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health\\_consumer/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm)

### Food Safety website

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/index_en.htm)

### FVO website

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/index_en.htm)

### Inspection reports

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ir\\_search\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm)

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## FVO missions –other actions



- If an inspection identifies an immediate threat to consumer, animal or plant health, the Commission may take emergency, or safeguard, measures
- May include legal action to prevent trade in, or imports of, animals, plants or their products
- In other cases, where serious, but less urgent, problems are found, or where a CA fails to take satisfactory corrective action, the Commission may refuse, withdraw or modify authorisations for exports to the EU

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