7th Annual European Food Safety and Quality Summit

Food Safety in the EU: Securing consumer protection and fostering innovation throughout the Agri-Food chain

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The food chain overview

1. Primary production
   - Agriculture (food & feed)
   - Livestock
   - Aquaculture / Fisheries
   - Milk, eggs

2. Harvesting / Slaughtering / Fishing
   - Harvesting
   - Slaughtering
   - Fishing
   - Collecting

3. Processing / Manufacturing
   **1st stage:**
   - Cutting, milling, brewing, juicing
   **2nd stage:**
   - Blending, smoking, preservation, mixing

4. Packaging / Labelling
   - Canning
   - Packaging
   - Modified atmosphere
   - Labelling (B2B / retail)

5. Storage
   - Storage length
   - Storage conditions (temperature, atmosphere, humidity)

6. Placing on the market / Distribution
   - Retail
   - Wholesale
   - Direct sale of small amounts of products
   - Internet sale

7. Consumption / Consumer handling
   - Household
   - Catering / Restaurants
   - Home storage

8. Transportation

Inputs:
- Plant reproductive material
- Plant protection products
- Veterinary medicinal products
- Water
- Soil, fertilisers, manure

Chemical ingredients

Imported products

Animal by-products

Waste

Modified from: Commission SWD (2013) 516 final 'A fitness check of the food chain: State of play and next steps'
The General Food Law (GFL): 15 years old!
General Food Law Objectives

1. High level of protection of human health and consumers' interests

2. Effective functioning of the internal market
Key features of the General Food Law

• From ‘farm’ to ‘fork’
• Common definitions, general principles and requirements underpinning EU and MS food law

Risk Assessment <-> Risk Management <-> Risk Communication

• Science-based legislation - Creation of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
• Focus on the prevention and management of crises through a set of tools and procedures
Ongoing "REFIT" exercises

REFIT: Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme. Action is taken to make EU law simpler and to reduce regulatory costs, thus contributing to a clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework supporting growth and jobs.

➢ Plant Protection Products Regulation

➢ Regulation on Pesticides MRLs

➢ General Food Law
Legislative packages on food/feed/plants adopted in 2015-2016

- AHL Animal health law
- OCR Official control
- PHL Plant health law
- NF Novel food

- ~ 16 acts of tertiary legislation in 3 years
- ~ 22 acts of tertiary legislation in 3 years
- 7 activities
- 10 activities

Increased coherence in food, feed, and plant legislations
Main goals of the OCR revision:

- **Simplify and clarify the legislative context** to cover the whole agri-food chain (plants + animal-by-products included in the scope)
- **Increase the quality of official controls**, to keep ensuring food safety
- **Modernise the legislation** (more coherent rules on imports, streamlined + digitalized exchange of information among Member States) and **strengthen legal basis against food frauds**
- Having a legal basis **to adapt the legislation to the future changes** in technology and trade patterns (legislation "future-proof")
Timing of tertiary legislation

- **EU Reference Laboratories (notably plant health) + EU Reference Centre for animal welfare**
  - 1 year from ~March 2017
  - By ~March 2018

- **Meat inspection, border inspections posts, CHED, IMSOC**
  - 3 years
  - Before 14/12/2019

- **inter alia, rules on animal transport**
  - 6 years
  - By 2022

- **Standardisation of official certificates, sampling rules, lab analysis & diagnoses**
  - Open timeline
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ref. Centres Animal Welfare (IA, Art. 95.1)</td>
<td>EURL Plant health (DA, Art. 92.4)</td>
<td>Multiannual control plan reports (IA, Art. 113.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat inspection (DA+ IA, Art. 18.7, 18.8)</td>
<td>(IA, Art. 93.1)</td>
<td>Commission Control Programme (IA, Art. 112)</td>
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<td>Entry into the Union (4 DA+ 3 IA)</td>
<td>IMSOC (IA, Art. 103.6, 134)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Control Frequencies (IA, Art. 22)</td>
<td>Entry conditions 1 (IA, Art. 126)</td>
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<td>Residues in Food (IA, Art. 19)</td>
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</table>
EU FIGHT AGAINST FOOD FRAUD
Fraudsters have no interests in creating public health incidents!
A COOPERATIVE APPROACH BASED ON TRUST

The EU Food Fraud Network

Promoting cooperation between authorities

Expertise/Enforcement

Investigative legal powers

Intelligence

Member States

Police / customs

Administrative (inspectors)

Judiciary

EUROJUST

Interpol
CURRENT INITIATIVES

The EUROPEAN FOOD FRAUD NETWORK & EU COORDINATED CASES

EU-WIDE COORDINATED CONTROL PLANS

TRAINING FOR FOOD FRAUD
Five specific workshops per year on eCommerce and Investigation Techniques

NEW LEGISLATION ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS
EU Reference Centres for food authenticity, stronger sanctions and broader scope for food fraud
300+ CASES EXCHANGED VIA THE NETWORK

- 2016 - through the AAC FF
- 2016 - through the AAC AA
- 2015 - conventional means (email, phone, letters)

Recently published: EU FFN - Annual report 2016

Challenges 2017

Cooperation with Third Countries
- Contact Points
- Bilateral Agreements
- Sanctions/Imports

Enhancement of EU Coordinated Cases

IT Systems
- Data Sharing
- Data Mining

Cooperation with Stakeholders
Fighting food losses and waste at each stage of the food value chain
Food waste prevention: integral part of Circular Economy Package
Launch of EU Platform dedicated to food waste prevention

EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

We bring together all the actors involved and facilitate their work to prevent food waste & support the paradigm shift towards a circular economy and more sustainable food systems.

Food waste – we act! #FoodWasteEU
http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/eu-platform_en
Waste legislation proposal:

The proposal reflects commitment to SDG 12.3 and requires Member States to:

- reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain (including households);
- monitor food waste levels;
and
- report back on progress.
Fight Food Waste: No impact on safety of the food and feed chain

- Measure and monitor food waste
- EU guidelines to facilitate food donation
- Optimise safe use of food in feed
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking
- EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
EU food donation guidelines

The European Commission will develop in co-operation with Member States and stakeholders EU food donation guidelines. The guidelines will help food donors and food banks/charity organisations to comply with relevant EU legislation (food safety, traceability, food hygiene, labelling etc.) with adoption forecast for end 2017.

Food waste – we act! #FoodWasteEU
http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/eu-platform_en
EU guidelines: former food to feed

> Facilitate the safe feed use of former food
> Hindrance due to legal uncertainty and unnecessary administrative burden should be paved away
> Intensive consultation with authorities and stakeholders
> Publication of the guidelines scheduled for this autumn
Date marking

"Use by" informs you about food safety, whereas "best before" informs you about food quality.

58% consumers say they always look at date marking when shopping and preparing meals, but less than 1 in 2 understand its meaning.

Food waste – we act! #FoodWasteEU
http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/eu-platform_en
Looking ahead
Is our food system fit for future challenges?

➢ Food security studies/foresights: gap in food safety („integral part“)

➢ Are we sure that our direction/development is right and sustainable?

➢ Foresight analysis on “Delivering on Food Safety and Nutrition in 2050” to:
  ▪ Identify the critical challenges
  ▪ Assess their impact on food (safety) policy framework
  ▪ Define the potentially critical changes necessary to maintaining the standards of food safety and nutrition
  ▪ Provide insight and guidance towards the development of future policy responses and research needed to support EU policy response to these challenges
Drivers used for scenario building

Social cohesion

- EU economic growth
- Technology uptake
- Food values
- Natural resource depletion

EU food chain

- Agro-food industry structure
- Global population growth
- Climate change
## Driver characteristics per scenario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>&quot;Global Food&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Local Food&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Pharma Food&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global trade</td>
<td>Full liberalisation</td>
<td>Disrupted and fragmented</td>
<td>Full liberalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU economic growth</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Decoupled, GDP no longer used as indicator</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro-food chain structure</td>
<td>Concentration</td>
<td>Diversification, alternative food chains</td>
<td>Concentration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology uptake</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High with focus on environmental sustainability</td>
<td>High with focus on nutrition &amp; health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social cohesion</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food values</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High with focus on local production &amp; quality</td>
<td>High with focus on nutrition &amp; health</td>
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<td>Climate change</td>
<td>2°C threshold of temperature increase to be reached by 2050</td>
<td>Progressive natural resource depletion towards 2050</td>
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<td>Depletion of natural resources</td>
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<td>World population growth</td>
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Conclusions of the study

- The legislative framework governing food safety in the EU is robust, effective and efficient
- Action needed for improving the effectiveness of EU nutrition policies
- Harmonisation of risk assessment approaches to allow for the inclusion of other legitimate factors such as health benefits and socio-economic consequences
- A suitable and harmonised metric for benchmarking and monitoring food safety performance in the EU needs to be established
- An effective early warning system for emerging hazards at EU level is missing
- Adaptation of official control and inspection services to future needs
- Investment in providing food safety and nutrition education to the public
Thank you for your attention!