

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)



Presentation to AFSSA/EFSA Seminar in Paris
**HEALTH RISKS ASSESSMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD, ANIMALS
AND PLANTS IMPORTS INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

- 1979: Commission controls/inspections organised in AGRI (veterinary and plant health matters) and ENTR (general food hygiene)
- 1996: BSE crisis
- 1997: Commission response: a new Food Safety Policy
- April 1997: FVO established (September 1997 in Ireland)
- 2000: White Paper on Food Safety
- April 2002: FVO in Grange

- Location : Grange, Co. Meath, Ireland
- Staff (Includes FVO + Dir A)
 - ✓ 177 staff (+ 30 support staff)
 - ✓ 106 AD, 61 Asst, 6 Contractors, 4 Stagiaires
- 24 Nationalities
- Backgrounds of AD staff:
 - ✓ Veterinarians (majority)
 - ✓ Agronomists
 - ✓ Scientists
 - ✓ Other qualifications (Law, Economics, etc)

FVO Structure

Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office
Colm Gaynor - Director

Unit F1

Country Profiles, Coordination of Follow-up
Head of Unit – Hugh Quigley

Unit F2

Food of Animal Origin – Mammals
Head of Unit – Sabine Juelicher

Unit F3

Food of Animal Origin - Birds & Fish
Head of Unit – Carlos Alvarez Antolinez

Unit F4

**Food of Plant Origin, Plant Health,
processing and distribution**
Head of Unit – Nandor Pete

Unit F5

Animal Nutrition, Import Controls, Residues
Head of Unit – Ken Elliott

Unit F6

Animal Health and Welfare
Head of Unit – Andrew Wilson

Unit F7

Quality, Planning and Development
Head of Unit – Frank Andriessen

- to monitor compliance with the requirements of EU food safety, veterinary and plant health legislation in Member States and third countries exporting to the EU
- to promote effective control systems in food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health
- to contribute to the development of EU policy in the food safety, veterinary and plant health sectors
- to inform stakeholders of the outcome of evaluations

- Assess the performance of national authorities and compliance with EU requirements – desk analysis and field work
- Carry out on-the-spot audits and inspections
- Report on findings, MS, EP/Council, and other stakeholders via internet publication (http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.htm)
- Make recommendations to national authorities
- Follow-up implementation of action plans

- Food of Animal origin
 - Meat / poultry meat / fish
 - Fishery products
 - Milk & milk products
- Animal feedstuffs
- Animal Health
- Animal Welfare
- Veterinary medicines
- Import controls
- Plant Health
- General Food Hygiene
- Pesticides
- Contaminants
- Novel Foods/GMO
- Food additives, etc

Total Audits/Inspections (1998 to 2007): 2,250

Annual average: +/- 250

Member States

Candidate Countries (enlargement)

Third Countries

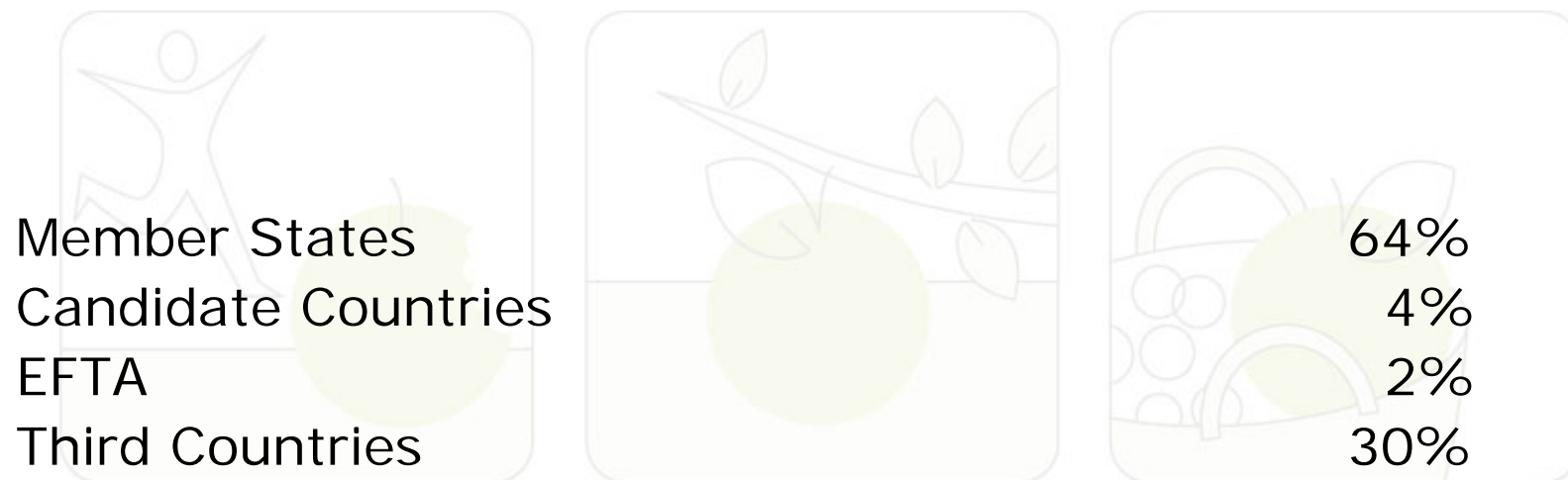
58%

21%

21%

* Mission team size and duration vary

Total Audits/Inspections 2008: 256 planned



ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

General context:

- Legal framework
 - Initial request from the third country
 - Desk evaluation of the request based on the detailed questionnaire concerning
 - the structure and the powers of the competent authorities
 - the legal framework in place
 - the current situation in relation to animal health, public health
 - On the spot visit by FVO to be decided case by case.
 - If all this is found satisfactory
 - Third country listing
 - Establishments in third country listing
 - Certificate as requested in EU legislation

ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

■ SANCO annual inspection programme

Specific context:

- Inspection at prelisting stage
- Routine inspection
- Emergencies
- Follow-up

ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

INSPECTION PRIORITISATION

- Emergencies
- Routine inspections:
 - quantities of live animals / animal products sent to the EU
 - type of live animals / animal products sent to the EU
 - results of previous missions / inspections
 - information / complains collected by the EU Member States
- Inspections at prelisting stage

ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

KEY ELEMENTS CHECKED DURING INSPECTIONS

Control systems put in place by the competent authorities:

- Holding registration
- Animal identification
- Animal movement controls
- Traceability
- Vaccination
- Border controls
- Maturation
- Certification:

- ✓ Consignments to be exported to the EU
- ✓ Consignments to be introduced in the EU (transit – ship supplies)

ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

FOLLOW-UP TO CONTROLS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

- Measures taken on-the-spot:
 - **Withdrawal of establishments' approval**
 - **Stop to the certification (auto-ban)**
 - **Other corrective actions**
- Measures taken based on the reporting
 - **Back to office Note (Safeguard cell)**
 - **Urgent report**
 - **Sensitive report**
 - **Routine report**
- Safeguard measures

} => Action plan



BORDER INSPECTION POST

■ Import and transit controls

- Supervision and implementing measures
- Veterinary checks (procedures, staff, training...) in Border Inspection Posts
- Facilities and equipment of Border Inspection Posts
- Personal imports – Illegal imports

■ Evaluation of BIP plans

FVO Web-site

- Mission programme
- Audit/Inspection reports
- Special reports (e.g. pesticides)
- FVO annual report
- Country profiles

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.htm