



The Food and Veterinary Office



Overview – February 2008



Second Round Negotiation
EU-CA Association Agreement
SPS Chapter

Brussels, 25 – 29 February 2008

Tuesday, 26 February – Exchange of Information

15:30 – 16:30 EC Policy on Inspection and Control. EC Inspection Procedures.

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Overview of presentation

Brief history

General information

Mission statement & areas of activity

Structure

Key functions/core activities

New developments



Brief History

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



General information – Location & Staff

■ Location : Grange, Co. Meath, Ireland
(Since 2002)

■ Staff:

✓ 171 posts (shortly to be augmented)

✓ 90 Inspectors

Qualifications:

✓ Veterinarians

✓ Agronomists

✓ other qualifications



2. Mission statement:

Through its audits, inspections and related activities, to

- check on **compliance** with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the European Union and on compliance with EU import requirements in third countries exporting to the EU,
- contribute to the **development of EU policy** in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors,
- contribute to the **development of effective control systems** in the food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health sectors,
- **Inform stakeholders** of the outcome of its audits and inspections.



3. How does the FVO accomplish the mission statement?

- Assess the performance of national Competent Authorities (CA) and compliance with EU requirements
- Carry out ON-THE-SPOT inspections
"Eyes and ears of the Commission"
- Report on findings to CS, MS, EP/Council, and other stakeholders via internet publication
(http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/index_en.html)
- Recommendations to CA and CS
- Follow-up with CA and CS



3. Legal basis for the on-the-spot inspections (missions)

Missions are carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation and in particular:

- Art. 45 (MS) and Art. 46 (TC) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.
- For plant health, Articles 21 and 27(a) of Council Directive 2000/29 on the protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

4. Areas of activity

Food safety
Animal health
Animal welfare
Plant health

In MS, CC and TC

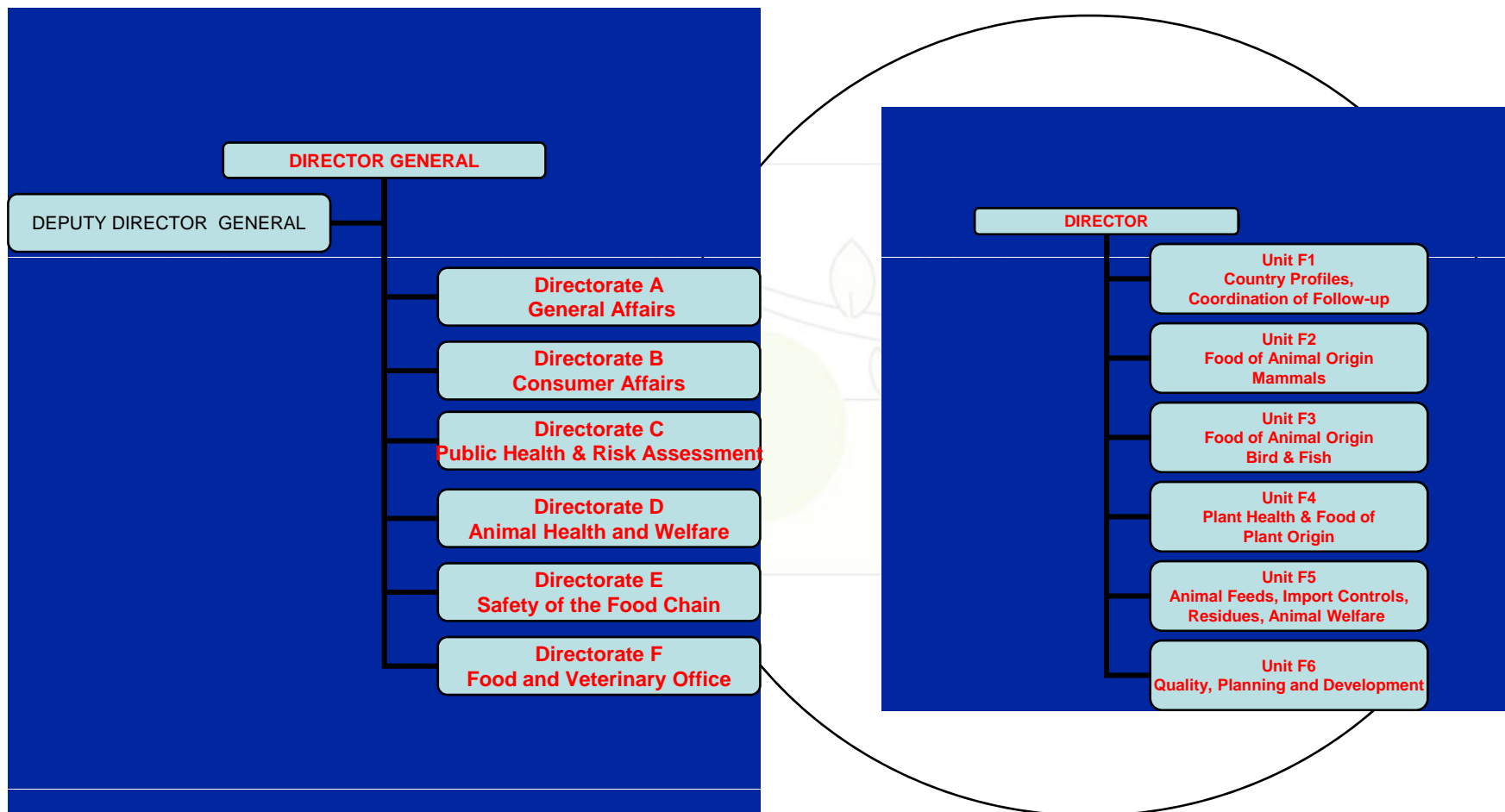


Farm to table
Food+Feed



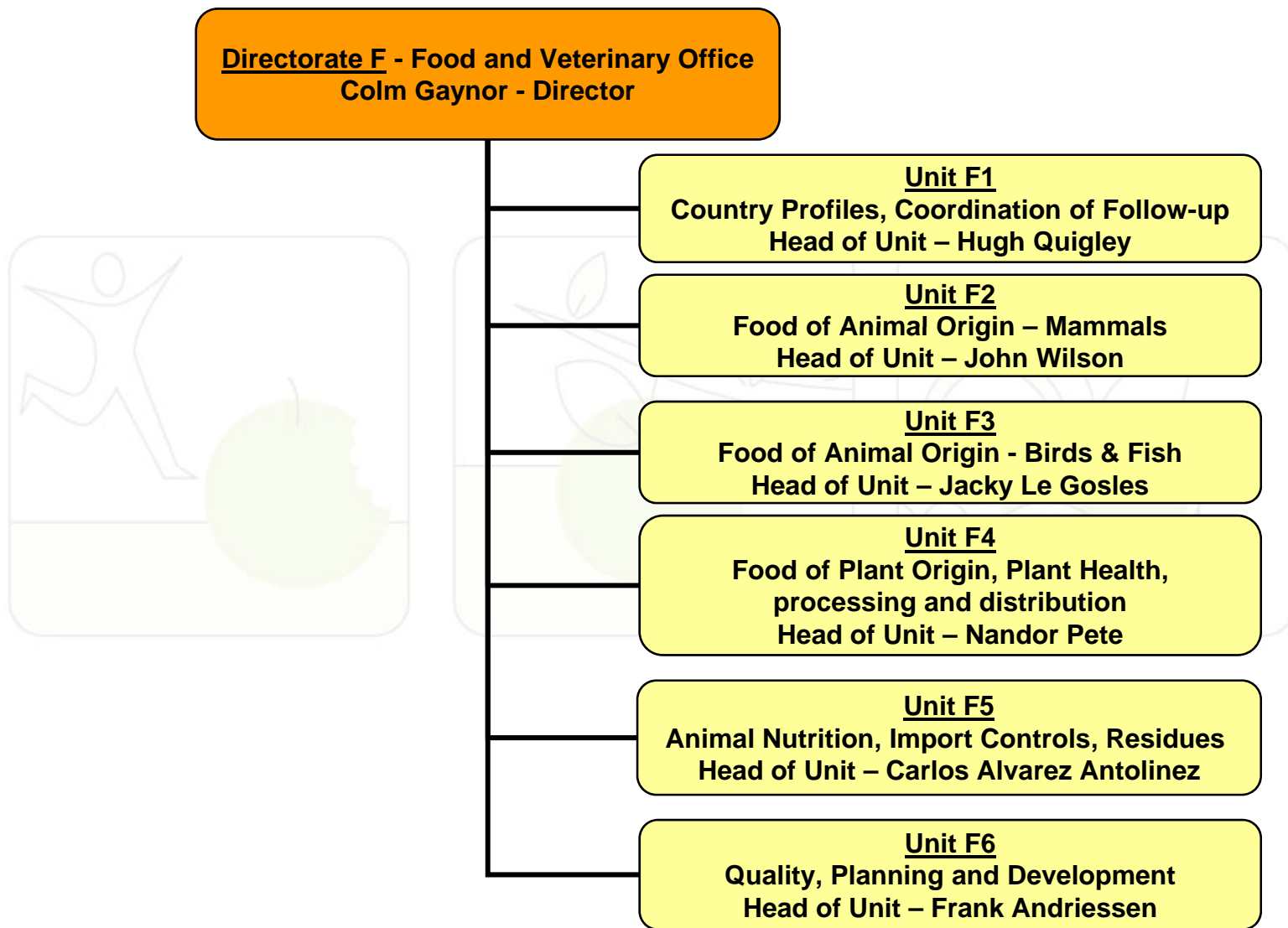


SANCO Structure





FVO Structure





Structure – cont.

6 FVO Units:

■ 4 inspection Units (F2-F5)

- Food of animal origin: Mammals
- Food of animal origin: Birds/Fish
- Food of non-animal origin & plant health
- Horizontal: Feed (TSEs), Residues, Welfare, Import Controls

■ 2 non-inspection Units (F1&F6)

- Follow-up, Country Profiles
- Quality, Planning, Development



Key functions/core activities

- 1. Performance of missions
- 2. Report on the Results
- 3. Follow up on corrective action
- 4. Country Profiles (CP)
- 5. Input into legislative process
- 6. Input into SANCO policies
- 7. Information to the consumer
- 8. Additional core activities



Key Functions (1) – Performance of missions

■ Mission type:

- Inspections – verification of compliance
(official controls and application of EU standards by FBOs)
- Initial assessment & monitoring (CC)
- Fact-finding
- General review (GRM-CP) - general audit
GA (new in 2007)



The Mission Programme

In 2007 FVO carried out 252 inspections:

- 159 MS, 12 CC, 81 TC
- 176 Food Safety (70%)
- 27 Animal Health (10%)
- 17 Animal Welfare (7%)
- 17 Plant Health (7%)
- 15 GRM (6%)

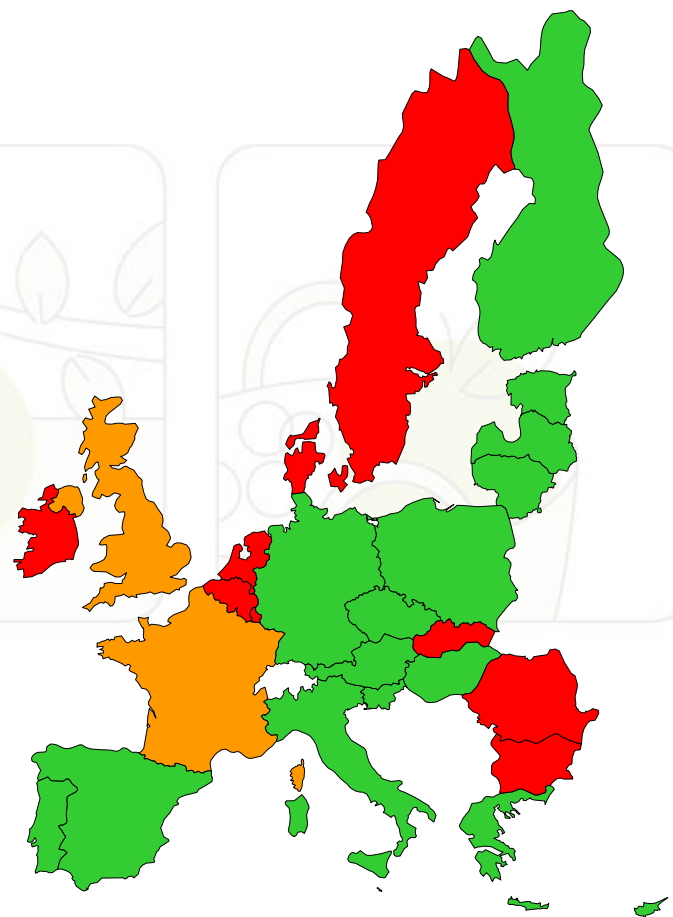
2008: 256 audits/inspections scheduled, including 20 GRM + 6 GA

General Review Missions

- 27 Country Profiles on website
- 20 update GRMs in 2008

General Audits

- 2 Pilots in 2007 (AT and NL)
- 6 first round in 2008 (SK, HU, EE, ES, IE + DE)





Mission Prioritisation

■ The Process:

- SANCO planning process starts early in year chaired by DDG.
- Detailed proposals agreed mid-year. (various inputs including identified risks, policy/legal priorities, trade considerations etc).
- Proposed programme presented to MS at Heads of Service and CVOs meeting (before summer break).
- Further refinement and input from other related DGs (e.g. DG AGRI).
- Programme submitted to DG & DDG (and Commissioner) for approval.
- Detailed programme distributed to MS in final quarter of year.
- Forwarded to EP and **published on SANCO Europa**
- Programme adjusted to deal with emergencies/cancellations/political issues etc.

Key Functions (2) – Report on the Results

■ Report type:

- 1- Individual reports (draft/final*)
- 2- General reports (end/interim). For example:
 - *Animal Welfare,*
 - *Animal Nutrition,*
 - *TSEs,*
 - *Plant protection products,*
 - *GMOs, food hygiene.*
- 3- More recently, production of the Country Profile and from 2008, the GA reports.

* Distribution of final report to CS, CA, EP/Council, stakeholders



Report writing

■ The process:

- Manual of Procedures
- PMQ & evaluation plan for mission series
- LI produces draft report on return from mission
- Review by HOU and report co-ordinator
- Legal & compliance checks pre/post mission (F6)
- Clarity, coherence & consistency (i.e. is consistent approach being taken in comparison with similar missions to other countries, or earlier mission to the same country)
- Draft report to CA for comment & action plan
- Finalise report (repeat points 4 to 6)



Key functions (3) - Mission Follow-up

- ✓ Initial phase in Inspection Units (individual reports). Assessment of CA action plans, request for further information/clarification (where required) & final unit assessment + CN;
- ✓ Subsequently co-ordinated in Unit F1 (on a country basis) – see Country Profile for MS;
- ✓ Ongoing correspondence, F1 meetings with CA, “high level meetings”;
- ✓ Co-ordination with A/D/E : SANCO Management Committee on Follow-Up.



Key function (4) – Country profiles (MS)

- Meeting with all CA on 11 control systems →
- Description of control systems: who is doing what
- Follow up: progress on FVO recommendations

Animal health
Food of animal origin
Imports of animals/food of anim.
Feedstuff
TSE/ABP
Residues
Food hygiene
Imports of food of plant origin
Pesticides
Animal welfare
Plant health



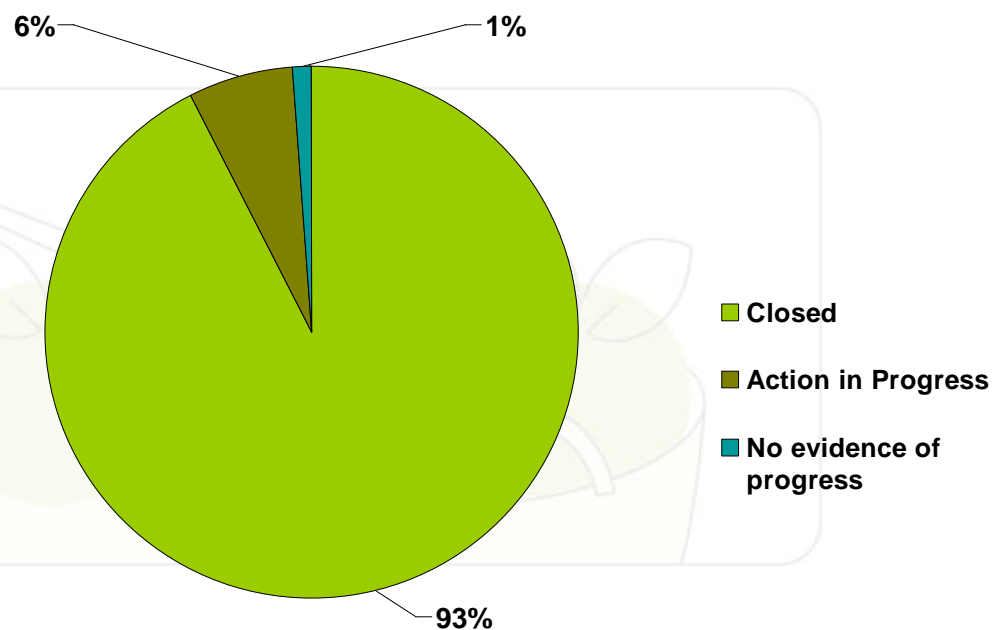
Why Country Profiles? They provide a horizontal, country-based overview which:

- helps to identify the main strengths and weaknesses of each national control system,
- assists the overall prioritisation of FVO audits, inspections and other monitoring activities,
- supports the systematic follow up of recommendations in FVO reports,
- facilitates the conduct of audits and inspections, in particular General Audits under Regulation 882/2004,
- serves as a basic source of background information for stakeholders (e.g. briefings).

Country Profiles – the work behind the scenes

For the 27 MS:

- 1200 reports
- 8000 recommendations
- 1250 reviewed in GRM
- 500 remain on radar screen
- 100 no adequate response



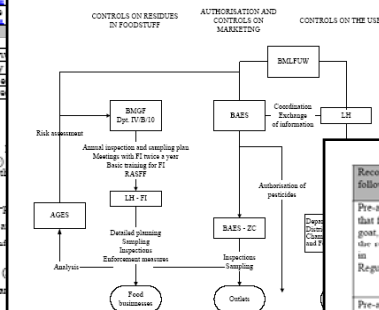
Country Profiles – Examples

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
1. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
2. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.....	13
2.1. Control system for animal health.....	13
2.2. Control system for food of animal origin.....	16
2.3. Control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin.....	19
2.4. Control system for feedingstuffs and animal nutrition.....	22
2.5. Control system for TSEs/ABP.....	24
2.6. Control system for veterinary medicines and residues.....	27
2.7. Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene.....	31
2.8. Control system for imports of food of plant origin.....	33
2.9. Control system for pesticides.....	35
2.10. Control system for animal welfare.....	38
2.11. Control system for plant health.....	40
3. FOLLOW-UP OF FVO INSPECTIONS.....	42
3.1. Animal health.....	46
3.2. Food of animal origin.....	50
3.3. Imports of animals and food of animal origin.....	53
3.4. Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition.....	54
3.5. TSEs/ABP.....	57
3.6. Veterinary medicines and residues.....	58
3.7. Foodstuffs and food hygiene.....	59
3.8. Imports of food of plant origin.....	60
3.9. Pesticides.....	62
3.10. Animal welfare.....	65
3.11. Plant health.....	68
ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS.....	69

Competent Authorities	
The following table lists the relevant authorities with responsibility for animal health, food and food safety, animal welfare and plant health. Where available, links to internet web pages are also given.	
Federal level	
BMGF	Ministry of Health and Women http://www.bmgf.gesund.at
BMLFUW	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment & Water Management http://www.bmlfuw.at
AGES/BAES	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety/Federal Office for Food Safety http://www.ages.at
BMVIT	Ministry for Traffic, Innovation and Technology http://www.bmvit.at
BMF	Ministry for Finance http://www.bmf.gesund.at
BFW	Federal Forest Office http://www.bfw.gesund.at
Provincial level and district level	
LH	Provincial Governor
DAA	District Administrative
PVS	Provincial Veterinary
PI	Provincial Food Inspector
PPS	Provincial Plant Protection
Ministry of Health and Women	
At central level Division IV Sector B of the (Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen) food and veterinary services. Within the BMLFUW is respectively responsible for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meat hygiene, residue controls, animal by-products animal health, trade of live animals, legal animal welfare, control of animal and (Department IV/B/9); novel food, FAO/WHO-Codex Alimentarius (IV/B/11). 	
They have a total of 47 staff with university degree	
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and	
The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and (Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft (BMLFUW)) is responsible for policy and legislation to pesticides and feedingstuffs. These responsibilities	

2.9. Control system for pesticides



Recommendations identified for follow up	Findings	Assessment
Pre-accession mission: To ensure that farm registers used for sheep, goat, pigs and cattle contain all the required information. Furthermore, CVO instruction 30402/2004 dated 23 February 2004, was issued to AHFCs regarding the practical implementation of farm registers and the control of this through spot-checks (10%).	The Hungarian authorities confirmed that the official models of farm registers contain all the required information. Furthermore, CVO instruction 30402/2004 dated 23 February 2004, was issued to AHFCs regarding the practical implementation of farm registers and the control of this through spot-checks (10%).	Action taken
Pre-accession mission: To complete the transposition and implementation of Directive 64/432 (as amended) for bovine brucellosis.	A Ministerial Decree 47/2005 was published on 23 May 2005 concerning the identification and registration of goats and sheep. This will come into effect on 9 July 2005. The database for goats and a new database for sheep will become operational on 1 January 2006. Data input will take place between July and December 2005. <i>(Note the points relating to bovine brucellosis is taken up in a recommendation in Mission Report 7/78/2004 below).</i>	In progress
Pre-accession mission: To complete the refurbishment of the CVI and to ensure that the CVI is able to perform the tests concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the rabies vaccination programme, the regularity of ring tests; and the diagnosis of <i>Brucella melitensis</i> follows Annex C of Council Directive 91/68. 	At the end of 2004, the CVI and the two regional laboratories were merged. Since then, the two regional laboratories have been under the direct control of the CVI. The CVI performs on-the-spot controls at both regional sites, six times per year. Ring tests are not planned for 2005 due to lack of positive samples. However, ring tests are planned for Autumn 2006. The CVI undertakes all analyses for List A diseases. Rabies vaccination has achieved 80% immunisation in fates sampled. Confirmation was not received that the CVI has the capacity to perform diagnosis of <i>Brucella melitensis</i> in accordance with Annex C of Directive 91/68/EEC of 28 January 1991 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals.	In progress



Key Functions (5) – Input into the legislative process

■ Examples:

- *Decisions taken on the basis of FVO inspections (e.g. 2008/61/EC on beef export from Brazil)*
- *Intra/Inter-service consultations,*
- *Guidelines for MS related to official food and feed controls, for example:*
 - *preparation of the MACP - Decision 2007/363/EC*
 - *criteria for the conduct of audits - Decision 2006/677/EC*



Key Functions (6) – Input into SANCO policies

■ Examples:

- Individual and general reports
- Follow-up activities
- Participation in SANCO and other fora
 - *SANCO Management Committees,*
 - *Safeguard cell meetings,*
 - *Commission Working Groups (e.g. BIPs, residues) and SCoFCAH,*
 - *Veterinary Agreement related work.*



Key Functions (7) – Information to the consumer

■ Information includes:

- Individual country reports available on the SANCO internet site together with CA comments + AP
- General reports
- MS Country Profiles
- FVO Annual Report (since 1997)
- i.e. The state of application of Community legislation.



Additional Core Activities (8)

- Desk-studies (questionnaires, data review)
- Other reports:
on Pesticide monitoring programme
- Operation of Europhyt
- Assessment of plans
BIPs, Third country Residue Plans



New Developments

- Reg. 882/2004, MS obligations:
 - MS to develop Multi-annual, National Control Plans (MANCP)
 - MS to develop National Audit Systems
 - National, Annual Reports + modification National Plan
 - Additional provisions for sanctions and for support measures (training)



New Developments (cont.)

- Reg. 882/2004, Com. obligations:
 - FVO to develop guidelines:
 - for the National Control Plans (2007/363/EC),
 - for the National Audit Systems, (2006/677/EC)
 - for the Annual Reports,
 - for third country information.
- Commission to submit annual report on operation of controls in MS
- New support tools: databases, country profiles (CP)



[More information - 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