

# Official Controls in the EU

## Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

### "Pitchfork to Fork"

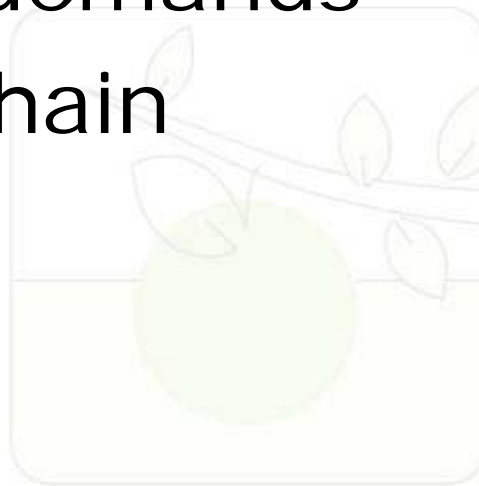
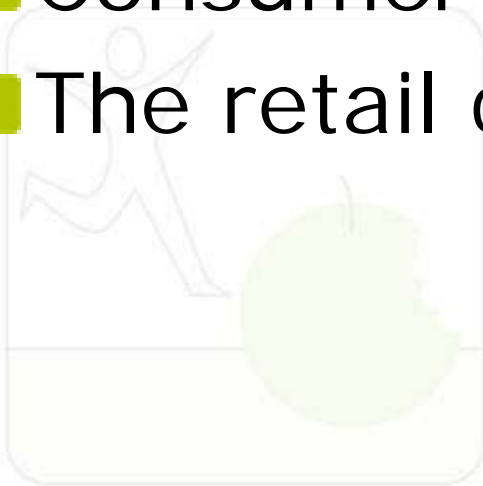
*Paris, 12 October 2009*

# Farm to Fork – Motivating Factors

- Ambition for higher levels of protection for both animal & human health
- Creation of an internal market in the EC where trade could take place on a safe basis
- Dynamics of a post-industrial society
- Lessons learned from food safety crisis
- International obligations and objectives.

# Motivating Factors (continued)

- Consumer demands
- The retail chain



# Farm to Fork - Response

- A comprehensive European Community legal framework.
- The European Community “Food Law”, “Hygiene Package” and “Food and Feed Controls Regulation”.
- Clear designation of responsibilities and close links with Member States.
- Transparency, accountability, speed of response.
- Commission Inspection Service, European Food Safety Authority and Community Reference Laboratories.

# The role of the Veterinarian

- Indispensable and irreplaceable.
- All key legislation and control measures emphasise the critical role of the Veterinarian.
- Specific role and responsibilities spelled out in detail in legislation.
- The Veterinarian's role is ambitious and wide-ranging.

# The challenges facing Veterinarians

- The Vet's work does not stop with safe food and healthy animals.
- New challenges require veterinary expertise.
- Health – Avian Flu
- Climate Change – contribution of livestock industry and land use change.
- Food Security – how to double food production by 2050.

# New Challenges (continued)

- The Economy: Europe's largest manufacturing industry and employer.
- Trade: food accounts for 6% of world trade and is very sensitive to disruption.
- Science and Society: Citizens continue to be obsessive about their food and how it is produced.
- Research, environment, competition.....

# What we look for when recruiting a Veterinarian

- Formal academic qualifications are the easiest requirement.
- Versatile, multi-disciplinary, team player, problem solver.



# Official controls in the EU

## Legal basis

**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.

(UE OJ L 165, 30.4.2004,p.1 and corrigendum in *UE OJ L 191,28.5.2004,p. 1*)

# Official controls in the EU

## Regulation (EC) 882/2004

- Aims to improve Community's system of official controls to ensure the verification of compliance with EU legislation;
- Introduces performance criteria for the competent authorities;
- Better definition of tasks;
- Harmonisation of the role of control services and integration of controls across the entire food chain.

# Official controls in the EU

## Purpose of official controls:

- To **prevent or eliminate risks** which may arise, either directly or via the environment, for human beings and animals, **or reduce these risks to an acceptable level**;
- To **guarantee fair practices** as regards trade in food and feed and the protection of consumers' interests, including labelling of food and feed and any other form of information intended for consumers.

# Official controls in the EU

## Definition and scope

Intended for the verification of compliance with:

- EU feed law,
- EU food law,
- EU rules on animal health, animal welfare and certain aspects of plant health.

# Official controls in the EU

## Definition and scope

Applies to:

- **All food**
- **All feed**
  - feed for food producing animals
  - Pet food
- **Live animals**
- **Plants\*, limited to:**
  - Multiannual national control plans
  - Community inspections

\*Official controls already covered by Council Directive 2000/29/EC

# Official controls in the EU Member States

Official controls shall be carried out taking into account:

- the **identified risks**;
- the **experience** and **knowledge** gained from **previous controls**;
- the **reliability** of the controls already carried out by the **business operators** concerned;
- a **suspicion** of possible non-compliance.

# Official controls in the EU Member States

Official controls shall be carried out:

- On a **regular basis** and with a **frequency based on risk**
- **Without prior warning** (as a general rule)
- At **any stage** of production processing and distribution
- Including **imports/exports**

# Official controls in the EU

## National enforcement measures

- National control plans: integrated multi-annual control plans, annual reports
- Effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties/sanctions
- Administrative measures for non-compliance (corrective measures, restrictions on feed and food, recall, destruction, closure etc.)



# Official controls in the EU

## Community enforcement measures

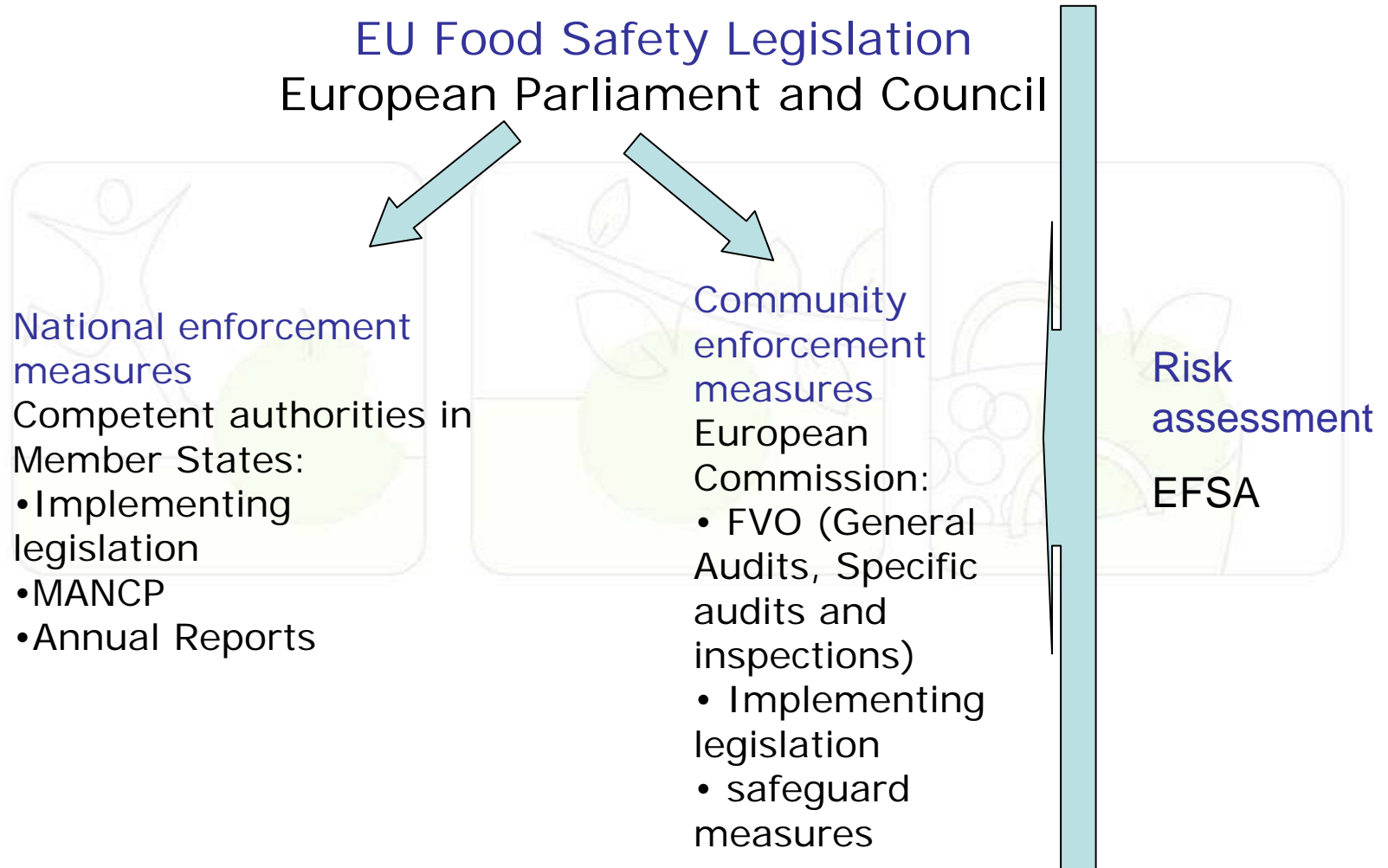
- EU control services (Food and Veterinary Office):
  - General audit of Member States' control systems
  - Specific audits and inspections in case of risk
- In case of **serious failure of control system** of a Member State:
  - Safeguard measures (In third countries, procedure Regulation (EC) 178/2002)
  - Infringement procedure (art. 226 of Treaty)

# Official controls in the EU

## Training of Official Veterinarians

- Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, Annex I, Section III, Chapter IV-A on the professional qualification of Official Veterinarians
- Training of the official veterinarians:
  - (1) The competent authority may appoint only veterinarians who have passed a test meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 as official veterinarians.
  - (2) The competent authority must make arrangements for the test.
  - (3) The test is to confirm knowledge of the subjects relevant for the private schemes/management systems.

## Main actors of the enforcement cycle



# Thank you for your attention

