

Food and Veterinary Office

Annual Report 2008



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The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)

Mission



The Commission, in its role as guardian of the European Community Treaties, is responsible for ensuring that Community legislation on food safety, animal health, plant health and animal welfare is properly implemented and enforced. The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) plays an important role in fulfilling this task. The mission of the FVO is, through its audits, inspections and related activities, to:

- check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, animal health and welfare 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 European Community policy in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors;
- contribute to the development and implementation of effective control systems in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors; and
- inform stakeholders of the outcome of its audits and inspections.

The FVO is Directorate of the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers, and is based in Grange, County Meath, Ireland.

Activities

The FVO works to ensure effective control systems and to evaluate compliance with EU standards within the EU, and in third countries in relation to their exports to the EU. The FVO does this mainly by carrying out audits and inspections aimed at verifying the effectiveness of national control systems for enforcing the relevant Community standards in the fields of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health. Each year a programme of FVO inspections is developed, identifying priority areas and countries subject to audit and inspection. These programmes are published on the website of the Health and Consumers Directorate-General. In order to ensure that the programme remains up to date and relevant, it is reviewed mid-year. New inspections may need to be programmed, for example, in response to emerging risks such as disease outbreaks. These new inspections are reflected in modifications to the inspection programme.

The findings of each inspection carried out under the programme are set out in an inspection report, together with conclusions and recommendations. The competent authorities of the country visited are given the opportunity to comment on the reports, at draft stage.

The FVO makes recommendations to the country's competent authorities to deal with any shortcomings revealed during the audits and inspections. The competent authorities are requested to present an action plan to the FVO describing how they intend to address any shortcomings. Together with other Commission services, the FVO evaluates this action plan and monitors its implementation through a number of follow-up activities. General review missions, follow-up inspections, requests for written reports and high-level meetings can be used by the FVO to ensure that improvements in the control systems are achieved. In general review missions, the FVO and authorities from each Member State meet on a regular basis to review, across the board, progress made on recommendations. Persistent problems may be the subject of high-level meetings between the Commission and the authorities concerned. As a last resort, legal action under EU law may be taken by the Commission to ensure that Member States meet their obligations under Community law.

Where an inspection identifies an immediate threat to consumer, animal or plant health, the Commission may take emergency ("safeguard") measures. These 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 competent authority fails to take satisfactory corrective action, the Commission may use the inspection report as one element in deciding to start infringement proceedings against a Member State or, in the case of a third country, to refuse, withdraw or modify authorisations for exports to the

EU.

Where appropriate, reports may highlight areas where the Commission may need to consider clarifying or amending legislation or areas where new legislation might be required. In this way, the results of FVO inspections contribute to the development of EU legislation.

In addition, the FVO produces other reports, such as general overview reports that summarise the results of a series of inspections to a number of Member States on the same subject.

The FVO also publishes this annual report on its activities, which reviews the progress of its inspection programme and presents the global results. It should be understood that this report presents the picture at the time of the inspection/audit, and provides some indication of subsequent actions until the end of the year under consideration. Where deficiencies identified during inspections are described in the following pages, the above follow-up activities will continue into the next year and beyond, as necessary. Likewise, subsequent remedial action will be taken by the competent authorities concerned.

FVO Inspections 2008

Objectives

AREA	INSPECTIONS	%
Food safety	156	69
Animal health	19	8
Animal welfare	14	6
Plant health	17	7
General review	22	10
Total	228	100

In 2008, the FVO carried out 228 inspections. An FVO 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.

On this basis, 69% of the inspection objectives in 2008 concerned food safety. However, following the “farm to fork” approach, many food safety inspections also cover some animal health and welfare elements. The table opposite gives the breakdown of inspection objectives in 2008.

Countries

Member States	160	70%
Candidate countries	8	3%
Third countries (ex. CC)	60	27%
Total	228	

In 2008, 255 inspections were planned¹ by the Food and Veterinary Office. Of those, 228 were completed, 58 were removed from the programme, for a variety of different reasons, and 31 added. The total number of completed inspections was therefore 228, of which 160 took place in Member States, 8 in candidate countries and 60 in third countries.

The drop in the number of inspections/audits compared with previous years is due to a higher than usual staff turn-over in the FVO in 2008. This situation has been addressed and for 2009, the planning foresees a number of inspections/audits comparable to that pre-2008.

Candidate countries are those countries that have applied for EU membership and whose application has been accepted by the Council. At present, there are three candidate countries, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey. Of the 8 inspections in candidate countries carried out in 2008, 3 took place in Croatia, 1 in FYROM and 4 in Turkey

Of the 60 inspections carried out in third countries in 2008, India and the United States received the most inspections (4 each), followed by Argentina, Israel, South Africa and Thailand (3 inspections). In contrast, in 2007 the most frequently inspected third countries were Brazil (7 inspections) followed by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Switzerland (3 each).

The percentage of inspections in the Member States decreased (from 76% in 2000 to 70% in 2008 in EU-27 and from 58 % to 38 % in EU-15, respectively), while the percentage of inspections in third countries was 30% in 2008.

A full list of all the countries inspected in 2008 and the subjects of those inspections is presented in Annex 2 of this report.

¹ As published in the "Programme of Inspections 2008 by the Food and Veterinary Office" which includes some provisionally planned inspections in third countries. This document can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/inspectprog/2008-year_en.pdf

General Audit



Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004² of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules introduced the General Audit as a new Community control instrument.

General Audits are intended to provide a global view of the operation of official controls at national level in member States and to determine whether:

- Controls are carried out in accordance with the Multi-Annual National Control Plan; and
- Controls ensure compliance with relevant EU requirements.

The FVO approach establishes a General Audit and review cycle, whereby all Member States will have such an audit on a regular basis, with follow-up reviews undertaken in the intervening years to monitor progress with implementation of any necessary corrective actions. The General Audit itself is comprised of a sequence of integrated sector-specific audits.

In 2008, FVO carried out General Audits in Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Slovakia and Spain. The sector-specific audits forming part of these General Audits are detailed under the relevant headings in the following pages. The results from the sector-specific audits provided an overview of the 'horizontal' aspects of the relevant control systems in the Member States visited and contribute to the final General Audit report for these Member States. The 'horizontal' aspects include factors such as human resources, training, guidelines, legal powers etc. These audits resulted in specific reports being issued to the Member States concerned on the 'vertical' or sector specific issues. The final outcome of the General Audit is presented in a report, which is published.

² 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. Official Journal, L 165, 30/04/2004 pp. 1 – 52, corrected and republished in Official Journal, L 191, 28/05/2004 pp. 1-52.

Food and Feed Safety

The work undertaken by the FVO concerning the evaluation of official control systems, both in Member States and other countries, encompasses the total food chain “from farm to fork”, including primary production, through processing of animal and non-animal origin foodstuffs, to retail and catering.

Official control systems are evaluated to verify that the feed and food safety requirements established in EU law are being applied by the competent authorities in the Member States and in the third countries that export feed and food to the EU. In the case of candidate countries, such evaluations are performed in the context of the process of accession.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Belgium Bulgaria Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Greece Hungary (as part of a General Audit) Italy Latvia Lithuania Poland Romania Slovakia (as part of a General Audit) Spain (as part of a General Audit) United Kingdom	<p>Inspections were carried out in fourteen Member States to assess the application of the Regulations governing the hygiene of red meat and milk.</p> <p>These inspections were carried out to follow-up the 2006 inspection series in seven Member States, the re-visits in 2007 in five of the seven Member States (Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain) where immediate remedial action was required in 2006 and the 2007 inspections in Bulgaria and Romania. Three of the fourteen inspections formed part of General Audits.</p> <p>In the case of Hungary and Spain, these inspections were carried out together with inspections on official controls over infant formulae, follow-on formulae, cereal-based food and baby food. The results of the latter part of the scope are reported below.</p>	<p>Progress was observed on the implementation of the action plan in Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain, but the implementation of the Italian action plan, in particular at local level was unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Official controls and enforcement in some establishments in Italy, Poland and Spain were unsatisfactory. In particular in Italy and Spain most slaughterhouses visited did not comply with the hygiene requirements.</p> <p>Guarantees were required from the Spanish, Italian and Hungarian competent authorities regarding HACCP based procedures and microbiological sampling.</p> <p>The control of the criteria for raw milk had improved in Spain, but further guarantees were required regarding the control of compliance with EU requirements for the total plate count and somatic cell count.</p> <p>The control of the criteria for raw milk was unsatisfactory in Hungary and further action regarding the criteria for raw milk was also required from the Polish competent authorities.</p> <p>In comparison to the 2007 follow-up inspections, only limited progress was made in Greece.</p> <p>In Belgium, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia some progress was noted; nevertheless, deficiencies with regard to general and specific hygiene requirements and official supervision persisted.</p> <p>Bulgaria made good progress in all areas, but further guarantees were needed, in particular regarding laboratory testing, food business operators' own controls and HACCP based procedures.</p> <p>Some progress was noted in Romania, but further improvement, in particular on the performance of official controls is necessary. The situation regarding the controls for raw milk and raw milk criteria remains a concern and no progress was made as regards the implementation of the strategic programme for the improvement of the milk sector.</p>
Germany Hungary Spain (all as part of General Audits)	<p>The inspection series to Member States concerning the official controls over infant formulae, follow-on formulae, cereal-based food and baby food continued in 2008.</p>	<p>The food business operators visited achieved compliance with regard to traceability and HACCP based procedures, and all but one complied with hygiene requirements.</p> <p>Deficiencies were noted with regard to sampling and analysis of pesticides, contaminants and for</p>

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Member States	Activities	Findings
United Kingdom		<p>microbiological contamination for specified food. Official laboratories in Hungary and Spain carrying out analyses of baby food were not accredited.</p> <p>In Germany shortcomings were identified regarding co-ordination and co-operation between the official laboratories and officials carrying out controls. In Hungary there were no controls on labelling and compositional criteria.</p>
Romania	An evaluation of official controls in relation to a proposed system to authorise trade of pig meat and their products from Romania was carried out as a fact-finding mission.	<p>In order to prevent the spread of classical swine fever from Romania to other areas of the EU, the dispatch of live pigs, their meat and products thereof is prohibited for intra-Community trade unless the products have undergone sufficient heat treatment to destroy any virus present. The Romanian competent authority proposed a system allowing specially approved establishments to receive pigs or fresh pork meat from CSF free areas in other Member States for slaughtering, cutting and processing and after processing to release the products into intra-Community trade.</p> <p>The proposed system did not offer sufficient guarantees to ensure that intra-Community trade of pork and pork products from Romania but produced from EU eligible pork or pigs would not cause the spread of classical swine fever to other Member States. The proposed system therefore was not authorised.</p>
Belgium Bulgaria Czech Republic Italy Slovakia (as part of a General Audit)	The series of inspections in Member States concerning the risk of <i>Salmonella</i> in the table egg sector, continued in 2008.	<p>These inspections covered the whole table egg sector, from farm to fork. In general terms, the controls at establishment level were adequate overall, although with some deficiencies. Concerning the <i>Salmonella</i> controls at farm level, significant deficiencies were noted in some Member States, such as delays in the implementation or inadequate sampling/testing protocols. Another issue of concern in some cases was the lack of communication between relevant competent authorities in the context of investigation of human outbreaks. Appropriate corrective measures were requested from the national authorities concerned.</p>
France Hungary (twice) Ireland Slovakia (all as part of General Audits, except the second visit to Hungary)	<p>As part of General Audits, four specific audits were carried out in Member States to evaluate controls on poultry meat and poultry meat products.</p> <p>The findings of the specific audit to Hungary indicated that a follow up inspection was required, and this was also carried out in 2008.</p>	<p>In Slovakia and Ireland the control system was satisfactory overall, although in the case of Ireland the situation in smaller establishments under the control of local authorities was considered inadequate. In Slovakia some problems were noted in several establishments, as well as certain weaknesses in enforcement actions.</p> <p>In France, although establishments were in compliance overall, significant deficiencies were noted regarding ante and post-mortem inspection. This was linked to some extent to official staff shortages. The Commission services have been following this matter closely with the</p>

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Member States	Activities	Findings
Estonia Ireland Spain (all as part of General Audits)	<p>Specific audits were carried out in two Member States to assess the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of fishery products.</p> <p>In addition, one specific audit was carried out in Spain to follow-up the outcome of a previous inspection of 2004 on the same topic.</p>	<p>French authorities.</p> <p>In Hungary, the team detected that although a control system was in place, two of the seven establishments visited did not comply with Community requirements. As a consequence, a follow up inspection was conducted later in the year, during which it was noted that the deficiencies had been corrected and that the competent authority had carried out inspections of all similar poultry establishments.</p> <p>In Estonia and Ireland, the specific audits revealed that the systems in place were not entirely satisfactory. Several shortcomings were identified including deficiencies in some establishments, sampling schemes not respecting the legal requirements, and inadequate follow up of deficiencies by the relevant authorities. Corrective action plans were received from the national authorities after the audits.</p> <p>In Spain, significant progress was noted in some areas but a number of deficiencies identified in the previous inspection were still present (e.g. problems in coordination and harmonisation of official controls). Other deficiencies noted included weaknesses in the implementation of HACCP plans and insufficient enforcement measures by the official authorities in cases of non-compliance. The competent authorities were requested to establish an action plan to address the above deficiencies.</p>
Czech Republic Estonia (as part of a General Audit) Finland Germany (as part of a General Audit) Hungary (as part of a General Audit) Ireland (as part of a General Audit) Romania Slovakia (as part of a General Audit) Spain (as part of a General Audit)	<p>As part a series started in 2007, nine Member States were visited in 2008 to evaluate official control systems relating to the general hygiene requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004³. In particular, the inspections looked at the production of non-animal origin foodstuffs not covered by specific veterinary legislation. The inspection series also has as its objective the evaluation of the transposition and implementation of Directive 80/777/EEC⁴ and Directive 98/83/EC⁵, in particular the recognition procedure of natural mineral water sources and official inspections and controls carried out in relation to bottled water for human consumption.</p> <p>Specific audits with the above scope were carried out in Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Slovakia and Spain, as part of the General Audits in those countries, and three further inspections with the same scope were carried out in to Romania, the Czech Republic</p>	<p>The evaluation of the general food hygiene control systems was generally positive. However, a number of deficiencies in the implementation of Community legislation were noted. These involved particularly the level of enforcement, which varied considerably between Member States, and in the Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland and Germany, in some cases, targets established centrally were not met.</p> <p>Community legislation concerning the approval of bottled water facilities was generally implemented but there were some issues with the interpretation of labelling requirement for natural mineral water, and in two cases inadequate sampling (Finland and Romania)</p> <p>In Hungary and Romania the level of implementation of HACCP is either unknown or low.</p> <p>In a number of Member States laboratories in use were not accredited to ISO 17025 and in Spain not progressing satisfactorily towards</p>

³ Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, pp. 1–54.

⁴ Council Directive 80/777/EEC of 15 July 1980 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters OJ L 229, 30.8.1980, pp. 1–10.

⁵ Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, pp. 32–54.

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Member States	Activities	Findings
	and Finland.	<p>accreditation within the timescale provided for in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) 2076/2005⁶.</p> <p>In Finland, Spain and Romania the competent authorities had inadequate procedures for the control of allergens (either inspection or sampling) and in Spain inspectors did not check traceability.</p> <p>Some horizontal issues regarding training, co-ordination and auditing were also noted.</p>
Belgium Bulgaria France Romania	<p>There were four inspections in Member States to assess controls systems for the prevention, control and eradication of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Inspections concentrated on the implementation of Community requirements in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemio-surveillance and measures following the detection of suspect/confirmed cases. • Removal of specified risk material (SRM) • Official controls on the total feed ban. 	<p>The system of BSE controls was largely satisfactory in the Member States visited, although there were shortcomings regarding epidemio-surveillance in fallen animals.</p> <p>There were also minor shortcomings in SRM controls.</p> <p>The total feed ban was in place but there was still some room for improvement in official controls, notably concerning their targeting.</p>
Bulgaria Greece Romania	<p>There were three inspections to Member States to assess controls systems for the prevention, control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) in small ruminants. Inspections concentrated on the implementation of EU rules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemio-surveillance and measures following the detection of suspect/confirmed cases. • Removal of specified risk material. 	<p>Controls on TSEs were largely satisfactory in the Member States visited, although the target set out in Community legislation for the testing of small ruminants were not fully met.</p>
Poland Portugal	<p>There were two inspections to Member States to assess feed ban controls and compliance with requirements for organic fertilisers and soil improvers (OF/SI). Inspections concentrated on the controls measures in place in order to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of the total feed ban, in particular how the risks posed by the use of OF/SI are considered in the organisation of these controls. • The capability of the authorities to ensure the correct production, flow and use of OF/SI. 	<p>In Poland the situation found was largely satisfactory, while in Portugal there were serious deficiencies in the organisation of controls concerning the total feed ban and OF/SI. Following the latter inspection, a meeting between the competent authorities and the Commission services was organised, and as a result actions aimed at addressing the said deficiencies were proposed; these actions were considered satisfactory overall.</p>

⁶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005 of 5 December 2005 laying down transitional arrangements for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004 OJ L 338, 22.12.2005, p. 83–88.

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Member States	Activities	Findings
Bulgaria Estonia (as part of a General Audit) Germany (as part of a General Audit) Malta Romania	<p>There were five inspections concerning animal by-products (ABP). The inspections concentrated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking the general elements of the systems in place for the handling of ABP. • Reviewing the operation of the relevant controls systems, in particular the capability of the authorities to verify the correct flow and traceability of ABP from the moment they are produced, deemed unfit or imported, until their safe disposal or allowed use. 	<p>Malta was still developing the necessary ABP infrastructure, and there were some weaknesses in official controls for ABP. The other Member States had adequate arrangements and sufficient infrastructures in place to handle most of the ABP in accordance with the Community legislation. However, in Bulgaria and Romania there was room for improvement concerning the collection of fallen stock, and in Estonia there was a need to improve official controls over the use of organic fertilisers and soil improvers.</p>
Germany (as part of a General Audit)	<p>One of the above inspections also focused on official controls in the gelatine production chain, notably in the sourcing of raw materials for gelatine production to ensure that only material fit for human consumption was used in the production of gelatine intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>The systems in place were largely satisfactory, with only minor deficiencies.</p>
France Italy United Kingdom	<p>There were three inspections concerning alternative methods for the disposal or use of animal by-products (ABP). The inspections concentrated mainly on the possibilities provided for by Regulations (EC) No 878/2004⁷, 92/2005⁸ and 181/2006⁹.</p>	<p>The only alternative disposal means that the Member States visited were availing of was the use of Category 1 fat in thermal boilers, which was largely satisfactory with minor deficiencies. However, there were some deficiencies in official controls concerning the production and use of organic fertilisers and soil improvers (OF/SI). In particular, in France, the OF/SI from Category 3 processed animal proteins were not produced using processing method 1; following contacts with the authorities concerned, the situation was rectified.</p>
United Kingdom	<p>One of the above inspections also focused on the rules concerning the composting of Category 2 and 3 animal by-products.</p>	<p>Composting plants were found to be operating largely in accordance with the requirements set out in Community legislation, although a number of deficiencies were noted in the effectiveness of pathogen reduction and procedures based on the system of hazard analysis and critical control points.</p>

⁷ Commission Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 of 29 April 2004 laying down transitional measures for certain animal by-products defined as Category 1 and 2 materials, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council. OJ L 162, 30.04.2004, p. 62.

⁸ Commission Regulation (EC) No 92/2005 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards means of disposal or uses of animal by products and amending its Annex VI as regards biogas transformation and processing of rendered fats. OJ L 19, 21.01.2005, p. 27.

⁹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 181/2006 of 1 February 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards organic fertilisers and soil improvers other than manure and amending that Regulation. OJ L 29, 2.02.2006, p. 31.

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Member States	Activities	Findings
Greece Hungary (as part of a General Audit) Ireland (as part of a General Audit) Slovakia (as part of a General Audit) Slovenia Spain (as part of a General Audit)	<p>There were six inspections to Member States concerning feed safety. These inspections focused on the implementation of the requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls on feed, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004¹⁰. • Feed hygiene as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 183/2005¹¹. • The phasing out of antibiotics and feed additives, as set out by Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003¹². • Undesirable substances, as laid down in Directive 2002/32/EC¹³ in feed. • Prohibited materials¹⁴ in feed. 	<p>In the Member States visited, good progress had been made in the implementation of the relevant Community legislation, which was largely complied with. However, in most cases there was room for improvement in the organisation of official controls in accordance with risk, and there were weaknesses in the design and implementation of procedures based on the system of hazard analysis and critical control points.</p>
Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
Turkey	<p>An inspection was carried out in Turkey to evaluate the official controls over the production of milk and milk-based products for export to the EU. This inspection was a follow-up to one carried out in 2007. Currently no establishments are approved for export of milk and milk based products from Turkey to the EU.</p>	<p>Three out of four establishments seeking EU approval were visited. The three establishments visited continued to improve and were close to operating in line with the EU requirements. The competent authority continued their efforts to address the recommendations made during the previous inspection, but further guarantees were still needed in relation to finalising the adjustment of the Turkish legislation, supervision of its implementation, official controls and certification. Guarantees were required in relation to the maintenance of the disease free status (especially brucellosis and tuberculosis), raw milk quality testing and HACCP based procedures to guarantee full separation between EU production and other production of milk-based products from non-EU compliant raw milk or milk products, and traceability.</p> <p>In reply to the recommendations of the inspection report, the Turkish competent authorities provided satisfactory guarantees.</p>
Croatia	<p>In view of future accession, an inspection was carried out in Croatia to review the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls, in particular the upgrading of red meat and milk establishments.</p>	<p>At the time of the inspection, the planned reorganisation of the competent authority had not yet taken place and a conflict of interest relating to official controls at establishment level, still carried out by private organisations, could not be excluded.</p> <p>Based on the evaluation of establishments</p>

¹⁰ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. OJ L 165, 30.04.2004, p.1; corrected and republished in OJ L 191, 28.05.2004, p. 1.

¹¹ Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. OJ L 35, 8.02.2005, p. 35.

¹² Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on additives for use in animal nutrition. OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29.

¹³ Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed. OJ L 140, 30.05.2002, p 10.

¹⁴ Commission Decision 2004/217/EC of 1 March 2004 adopting a list of materials whose circulation or use for animal nutrition purposes is prohibited. OJ L 67, 5.03.2004, p. 31.

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Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
		<p>against EU requirements, the competent authority produced a list of establishments divided into different categories. However, due to the absence of a national upgrading plan, the next steps to be followed were not fully clear and deadlines for establishments to comply with EU requirements were not specified. The competent authorities confirmed during their own audits that the evaluation of establishments was in many cases incorrect and they were downgraded accordingly.</p> <p>Serious shortcomings were identified in one EU approved game establishment. The competent authority reacted and suspended export from this plant. Basic structural requirements were also not met in two other small game establishments and the competent authority initiated corrective actions.</p>
Third countries	Activities	Findings
Israel	An inspection took place in Israel concerning exports of live poultry, poultry meat and poultry meat products to the European Union.	The control system was found to be well organised and generally effective. However, some shortcomings were noted. These included hygiene deficiencies in some establishments and control measures not equivalent to Community requirements concerning surveillance of <i>Salmonella Gallinarum</i> and <i>Pullorum</i> . Other weaknesses related to the restriction measures for Newcastle disease, and the inadequate use of anti-microbial treatments in certain cases. Appropriate corrective measures were requested from the competent authorities after the inspection.
Argentina, Australia Brazil, India Japan Mexico Moldova New Zealand Paraguay The Republic of South Africa The Russian Federation Singapore Switzerland Ukraine.	<p>A total of fourteen inspections were carried out in fourteen third countries in order to evaluate certain public health aspects of the controls on the production of food of mammalian origin (meat and milk) for export to the European Union.</p> <p>Paraguay, India, Japan, Moldova and Ukraine were not exporting meat or milk or their products to the EU at the time of the inspection.</p>	<p>In Argentina the situation was found to be generally satisfactory with regard to horse meat and ovine meat. However, the entire chain of the production of wild game meat (hares) was not controlled in a consistent way and deficiencies in stunning and slaughter hygiene of rabbits were noted. A slaughterhouse for farmed deer was delisted and certification for the export of rabbit and hare meat was temporarily suspended.</p> <p>In Brazil, a significant effort to address the recommendations concerning holding registration, animal identification and animal movement was noted. However, some shortcomings remained, mainly in the control of the application of the system.</p> <p>In Paraguay, improvements were made in the consistency of meat inspection. The Paraguayan official controls and the controls over the traceability system for bovine animals provided sufficient guarantees in order to lift the suspension of exports of fresh bovine meat.</p> <p>In South Africa competent authorities have in general adequately addressed the relevant recommendations. Although a high priority was</p>

Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Bangladesh China Eritrea Faeroe Islands	<p>The following inspections were carried out in relation to fishery and/or aquaculture products and/or live bivalve molluscs in exporting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of inspections evaluating the 	<p>given to the use of their existing human resources on the controls over the game export sector with generally satisfactory results, staff recruitment had still not reached its targets.</p> <p>In India, although an effort to develop dairy exports was undertaken, the conditions for the production of milk products for export did not meet Community requirements. Major deficiencies were identified in respect of certification.</p> <p>In the Russian Federation progress was achieved in relation to own control systems, HACCP and testing of raw milk for export of milk and milk-based products to the European Union. However, the specific Community requirements for production of heat-treated milk products were not fully met. Several deficiencies were noted in relation to certification.</p> <p>In Moldova, except for the National Database and animal identification, only limited progress was made since the previous FVO inspection. Moldova is currently not in a position to ensure that potential exports to the European Union would fulfil the relevant Community requirements.</p> <p>In Australia, the situation was found to be generally satisfactory in relation to the controls of meat and milk products with the exception of the official supervision of one wild game establishment and the control of the raw milk criteria in particular with regard to residues of inhibitory substances.</p> <p>In Switzerland, the situation in relation to the controls of milk, meat and their products was satisfactory. Weaknesses were noted in identification marking and the monitoring of performance of the competent authorities and certain food business operators.</p> <p>In the Ukraine, the situation was satisfactory overall, with the exception of the coordination of the competent authorities, approval and certification procedures, and some aspects of water testing. The main shortcoming was the quality of raw milk with only a small percentage of raw milk meeting the criteria established in the EU.</p> <p>In Mexico, the level of official supervision of establishments exporting horse meat to Europe was not adequate, in particular in relation to HACCP principles, post-mortem examination and animal welfare. However, no immediate animal and public health risk was identified.</p> <p>The situation in Singapore, Japan and New Zealand was found to be generally satisfactory.</p> <p>Most of the countries visited did not fully comply with the relevant conditions for exporting fishery and/or aquaculture products and/or live bivalve molluscs to the European Union, although significant differences between</p>

Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Ghana Greenland Iceland India Israel Korea Mauritius Namibia New Zealand Papua New Guinea The Russian Federation South Africa Taiwan Thailand Turkey The United States (2) Uruguay	<p>control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union carried out in nine third countries: Faeroe Islands, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Mauritius (follow-up), Namibia (follow-up), Papua New Guinea (follow-up), the Russian Federation (follow-up) and two inspections to the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of inspections evaluating the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union carried out in seven countries: Bangladesh, China, Eritrea, India (follow-up), Taiwan (follow-up), Turkey and Uruguay (follow-up). • An inspection in South Africa to follow-up a previous inspection evaluating the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and abalone intended for export to the European Union. • Two inspections (Korea and Thailand) to follow-up previous inspections evaluating the control systems in place governing the production of wild and farmed fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the European Union. • An inspection in New Zealand concerning the evaluation of the control systems and certification procedures in place governing the production of fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the European Union. • An inspection in Greenland evaluating the control systems in place governing the production of live bivalve molluscs (scallops) intended for export to the European Union. 	<p>standards were noted. The deficiencies observed included failures in the control system at approval and inspection level, problems in establishments and food business operators' own-checks, and shortcomings in the laboratories. Where necessary, the competent authorities took immediate action including the suspension or de-listing of non-compliant establishments and vessels. In all cases, appropriate corrective actions were requested from the national authorities.</p>
Barbados Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	<p>Two inspections in countries not approved for exporting to the European Union were carried out in order to assess the control system under which fishery products are certified for export.</p>	<p>During the inspections, neither of the countries was found to be in a position to ensure that the Community standards could be achieved for products intended for export to the European Union. As a result, neither country has been added to the list of third countries from which Member States may import fishery products.</p>
Malaysia	<p>One inspection was carried out in Malaysia in relation to fishery products, live fish, their eggs and gametes.</p>	<p>This inspection, which was a follow-up of a previous inspection carried out in 2005, noted that most of the recommendations from the previous report had not been addressed. Following the inspection, exports of any kind of fishery products to the European Union were suspended.</p>

Food and Feed Safety

Third countries	Activities	Findings
India	An inspection was carried out in India to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning gelatine, covering materials which can be exported to the European Union, namely gelatine, intermediate gelatine products and raw materials for the production of gelatine. The inspection focused on the sourcing and traceability requirements and certification procedures, with particular attention to rules on specified risk material (SRM).	There were workable arrangements to ensure that gelatine and gelatine products derive only from animals that have been slaughtered following <i>ante</i> and <i>post mortem</i> inspections, and that neither fallen animals nor SRM are used in the gelatine chain. However, there were some weaknesses in official controls over the gelatine chain which could impact official certification.

Non-inspection Activities

Training "Traceability" in Brazil

One FVO inspector participated for four weeks in the training programme of the Brazilian Authorities to train federal inspectors auditing EU eligible holdings in Brazil. The training course focussed on the traceability system applied to cattle and beef.

SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food"

FVO staff participated as observers in six training seminars under the SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food" regarding HACCP, Food Hygiene and Controls (milk and dairy products, and meat and meat products).

Animal Health



Animal health controls are important for three reasons:

- The protection of consumers from zoonotic diseases (i.e. transmissible from animals to humans) such as rabies, brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis;
- The protection of animals from diseases (foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, bluetongue) with serious economic effects;
- To facilitate intra-Community trade, imports and exports of animals and animal products in accordance with the relevant EU health standards and international obligations.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Belgium Lithuania	The application of the veterinary legislation covering intra-Community trade in live farm animals was assessed in Lithuania. In Belgium this was part of an inspection which included identification of sheep and goats (see below).	Shortcomings were found in different fields in both Member States visited. These concerned issues such as identification of animals, movement controls, traceability and transposition of legislation. These issues are being followed up by Commission services.
Belgium	The application of Community rules on the identification and registration of sheep and goats was checked in Belgium.	The recent Community traceability requirements for sheep and goats were partially applied. Operators did not regularly use all of the documents necessary for traceability, and local competent authorities did not enforce their use. The Belgian authorities undertook to improve the situation.
Ireland Spain (both as part of General Audits)	Specific audits to assess the application of the veterinary legislation covering intra-Community trade in bovine semen, and embryo collection centres were carried out as part of General Audits.	While significant shortcomings were found in both the Member States visited, such as insufficient supervision and problems with certification and the health status of donor animals, adequate guarantees to correct the situation were received from Ireland. The situation in Spain is the subject of further follow-up by Commission services.
Estonia (as part of a General Audit) Poland Spain (as part of a General Audit)	Inspections on disease outbreak preparedness, i.e. the implementation of Community rules regarding contingency plans for certain animal diseases, were carried out in three Member States. The animal diseases covered varied according to the Member State.	While generally disease preparedness was at an acceptable level in two of the three Member States visited, the inspection teams found a number of weaknesses and shortcomings in adjacent fields such as animal identification, traceability, disposal of carcasses (Estonia), animal movement controls and pig registration (Spain). In Poland, some further improvements to the existing contingency plans are needed.
Estonia (as part of a General Audit) France Germany Poland Spain	Three inspections were carried out regarding vaccination against bluetongue (Spain, France and Germany). In addition, the surveillance for this disease was evaluated as part of the contingency plan inspection in Poland and as part of a General Audit, in Estonia (see above).	The inspections regarding bluetongue vaccination were carried out partly because of the fact that the relevant programmes in the Member States concerned are co-financed by the Community. A variety of shortcomings were found, such as the lack of uniform implementation in Germany, mainly as regards the granting of exemptions from compulsory vaccination, or the fact that replacement lambs are not vaccinated in due time in Spain. In France, where vaccination programmes against different serotypes follow different rules and apply in different regions, the

Animal Health

Member States	Activities	Findings
<p>Poland</p> <p>Spain (as part of a General Audit)</p>	<p>A specific audit was carried to assess the application of the programmes to eradicate bovine brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i>) and tuberculosis. A further inspection with the same scope was carried out in Poland.</p>	<p>main issues concerned supervision on the part of the authorities.</p> <p>Action plans were provided by France, Spain and Germany and are being followed up by the Commission services.</p> <p>While the specific audit in Estonia revealed a number of shortcomings regarding the surveillance actions for the bluetongue vector, the competent authorities of that Member State provided guarantees to correct them.</p> <p>Surveillance on the vector distribution was found to be adequate in Poland but the lack of use of sentinel animals in the restricted areas may delay the detection of the disease and, hence, facilitate its spread. The authorities provided commitments after the inspection to improve this situation.</p> <p>While in Spain considerable efforts to eradicate both zoonotic diseases were noted, a major deficiency was detected: unclassified fattening holdings, which represent a relatively large proportion of the national cattle herd, are excluded from the programmes. Moreover, shortcomings in the <i>post mortem</i> inspection of cattle could result in tuberculosis infected beef reaching the consumer and pose a potential health risk. An additional problem found was due to a translation error in the Spanish text of the relevant Council Directive 64/432/EEC.</p> <p>In Poland shortcomings were detected with regard to inconsistency of quality of <i>post mortem</i> inspection of cattle, unsatisfactory supervision of holdings and insufficient notification of bovine abortions. After the inspection the competent authority provided an action plan to correct these deficiencies.</p>
<p>Greece</p>	<p>In Greece, an inspection took place covering the programmes to eradicate bovine brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i>) and tuberculosis and ovine and caprine brucellosis (<i>Brucella melitensis</i>).</p>	<p>While many shortcomings were noted, such as the failure to identify vaccinated animals or the low frequency of testing combined with inaccurate records, procedures to prevent ineligible milk from being distributed on the market or for the slaughter of reactor animals were satisfactory. To date, no action plan has been provided. In order to exclude any risk for the consumer, these issues are the subject of followed up by Commission services.</p>
<p>Bulgaria</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>Hungary</p>	<p>Inspections were carried out in three member States to assess controls on and eradication of classical swine fever.</p>	<p>In Bulgaria, major improvements had been noted compared to a previous inspection. However, concerns remained regarding the health status of so-called "type B" family farms and backyard holdings as well as the efficacy of the wild boar vaccination programme. An action plan was provided in response to the recommendations made in this respect.</p> <p>In Germany, the situation was found to be largely satisfactory, while in Hungary a number of issues needed improvement, such the</p>

Animal Health

Member States	Activities	Findings
Italy	An inspection took place in Italy to assess the evaluation of the disease situation regarding African swine fever and swine vesicular disease.	<p>auditability of traceability in game collection centres and the sampling protocol used on wild boars shot outside infected areas. The action plans for both Member States are still outstanding and the Commission services are following up the matter.</p> <p>A number of issues were noted, such as the fact that the National Pig Database was not yet fully operational and the difficulty of controlling grazing of pigs in a certain areas of Sardinia. However, in the area concerned, improved communication between the interest groups involved and the authorities was found. This should lead to progress in the control and eradication of African swine fever in that region. The action plan provided after the inspection covered all recommendations.</p>

Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
Turkey	Certain animal health aspects were evaluated during the inspections in Turkey on milk and milk-based products for export to the EU, (already referred to under "Food and Feed Safety").	<p>The situation regarding animal health issues remained unsatisfactory after a previous inspection carried out in 2007. Certification problems had not been resolved and, although some progress was made in some fields, issues such as the correct implementation of legislation regarding separation of eligible from ineligible milk had not been addressed.</p> <p>The competent authority provided an action plan in response to the report's recommendations.</p>

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Argentina	A total of seven inspections were carried out in third countries in order to evaluate certain public and animal health aspects of controls on the production of food of mammalian origin for export to the EU (already referred to under "Food and Feed Safety" above).	<p>In relation to animal health aspects, the emphasis depended largely on the nature of commodities exported or expected to be exported by the countries concerned. In South American countries, the inspections were mainly in relation to beef exports and, hence, the focus was mainly on the foot-and-mouth disease situation and controls. The inspection in Brazil concentrated mainly on traceability.</p> <p>While the situation in Paraguay and Argentina was generally good, with efficient controls in place, the inspection in Brazil demonstrated that certain issues from previous inspections to that country were still partially outstanding.</p> <p>As the two Central European countries were interested in exporting both fresh milk and dairy products, the inspections also included control of zoonotic diseases, such as bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. While for Ukraine the situation was relatively favourable with some outstanding issues, Moldova is still some way from reaching the European Community standards.</p> <p>While in India the situation regarding animal health control was largely unsatisfactory, with</p>
Brazil		
India		
Japan		
Moldova		
Paraguay		
Ukraine		

Animal Health

Third countries	Activities	Findings
The United States of America	An inspection was carried out to evaluate the animal health control systems in place in relation to exports of live pigs and pig semen to the EU.	<p>insufficient respect of principles of good certification, the main issues in Japan were the notification of disease outbreaks to the European Commission, the use of unaccredited laboratories and the weaknesses in relation to certain animal health controls in farms, including the intradermal tuberculosis test procedures. No action plan has yet been received from India, which remains unapproved for export of dairy products.</p> <p>The United States is on the list of countries from which the Member States may import pig semen, although it is not on the list for import of live pigs. The inspection was undertaken following a request from the United States to be approved for export of live pigs.</p> <p>With regard to semen collection centres, some shortcomings were found with regard to application of Community requirements, certification procedures and training of certifying officials.</p> <p>With regard to the export of live pigs, the inspection concluded that certain issues would prevent the import of live pigs from the United States into the European Union,</p>

Animal Welfare



The European Commission's activities in this area start with the recognition that animals are sentient beings. The general aim of Community legislation is to ensure that animals do not endure avoidable pain or suffering and to oblige the owner/keeper of animals to respect certain minimum welfare requirements.

FVO Inspections dealt with EU animal welfare legislation applicable on farms, during transport and at slaughter and killing.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Estonia Germany Hungary Ireland Slovakia Spain (all as part of General Audits)	Six specific animal welfare audits were carried and included an evaluation of the control systems for animal welfare standards on farms, during transport and at slaughter.	Documented procedures and training for CA staff were found to be mostly adequate. There were some notable exceptions for certain sectors, particularly controls at poultry slaughterhouses, where important technical requirements, such as parameters for stunning had not been adequately addressed. There was a wide variation between the six Member States regarding the effectiveness of follow up actions when non compliances were identified. This was most effective in Germany where there were procedures in place to assist the local competent authorities in deciding the action to take and to support them in taking such action. In addition, the competent authorities were in direct contact with prosecution officials and, as the prosecution officials had a better understanding of the impact of the breaches of legislation on animal welfare, this proved more effective in ensuring that sanctions were imposed. Supervision of the effectiveness of official controls continues to be one of the weakest areas. Reporting of inspections at slaughterhouses is limited. Where reporting has been established, as has been the case for farm and transport checks, the competent authorities were able to determine whether targets have been met and assess differences between different regions. Often there had been insufficient investigation to establish the cause of these differences.
Bulgaria Estonia (as part of a General Audit) Germany (as part of a General Audit) Hungary (as part of a General Audit) Ireland (as part of a General Audit) Lithuania Poland Slovakia (as part of a General Audit) Spain (as part of a General Audit)	The welfare of laying hens was included in the evaluation of control systems for animal welfare on farms undertaken during the six specific audits referred to above. In addition an inspection in Lithuania was exclusively on the welfare of laying hens and this topic was also included in inspections in Poland and Bulgaria.	As transitional arrangements, which were obtained by most of the New Member States in relation to the operation of non-compliant cages, will run out at the end of 2009, and the deadline for all Member States to phase out conventional cages is 1.1.2012, action in this sector is a priority in the coming years. Conditions for laying hens in conventional cages continued to be a problem in a majority of Member States visited. Some progress had been made in Lithuania, where serious deficiencies had been previously highlighted, but only Germany had highly effective controls in place in relation to laying hens and has imposed a deadline on this sector for phasing out conventional cages in advance of the EU deadline. Major deficiencies such as insufficient height of cages had not been adequately addressed in Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary.

Animal Welfare

Bulgaria
 Belgium
 Estonia (as part of a General Audit)
 Germany (as part of a General Audit)
 Hungary (as part of a General Audit)
 Ireland (as part of a General Audit)
 Italy
 Lithuania
 Poland
 Slovakia (as part of a General Audit)
 Spain (as part of a General Audit)
 The United Kingdom

The welfare of animals during transport was included in the six specific audits, and in addition this topic was included in inspections in Bulgaria, Belgium, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Recently installed cages in Slovakia did not have the required enrichment and there was gross overstocking of cages in Spain.

Germany and the United Kingdom had a more multi-disciplinary approach to controls on transport of animals which resulted in better enforcement. In these Member States, joint training sessions have allowed an opportunity for the personnel from the different services involved to share experience and knowledge. The multi-disciplinary approach also addressed the requirements for vehicle approval by using the services of inspection bodies, such as those already involved in vehicle testing, which allowed equipment for ventilation and temperature monitoring to be better assessed. The control of feeding, watering, resting intervals and journey times was effective in these two Member States but in the others this issue has still not received sufficient priority. The transport of seriously injured animals to slaughterhouses was a problem in Ireland, Italy and Poland. This was much less of an issue in those Member States which had implemented procedures for emergency on-farm slaughter and imposed sanctions where such unfit animals were transported.

Belgium
 Estonia (as part of a General Audit)
 Germany (as part of a General Audit)
 Hungary (as part of a General Audit)
 Ireland (as part of a General Audit)
 Italy
 Slovakia (as part of a General Audit)
 Spain (as part of a General Audit)

The welfare of animals at slaughter was included in the six specific audits. In addition it was included in inspections in Belgium and Italy.

Procedures for daily inspections were generally sufficient but these did not ensure that animal welfare was adequately respected as in Hungary, Italy, Slovakia and Spain as there was insufficient supervision of the effectiveness of these checks. One region in Spain had made notable progress in setting up an effective system of supervision. In Germany inspectors made use of the expert bodies available to them to obtain advice on issues such as electrical or gas stunning which resulted in effective controls of slaughter. In Italy and Ireland the exemption from stunning for animals subject to certain religious rites had been extended to all animals killed in certain slaughterhouses. As a result, contrary to Community requirements, the competent authorities had not ensured that animals, which are not required to be slaughtered according to certain religious rites, are stunned appropriately.

Animal Welfare

Candidate Countries	Activities	Findings
Croatia	An inspection was carried out to evaluate controls on the welfare of animals on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter.	The Croatian competent authority has made significant progress towards setting up effective controls on animal welfare since the previous FVO inspection in December 2006. Training has been extensive but it has not yet covered all staff carrying out checks. Documented procedures are available for all the relevant checks and are starting to be used. Major organizational changes, which were on going, have led to delays in implementation of checks on the spot.

Plant Health



Plant health controls are important to prevent the introduction and/or the spread of organisms that are harmful to plants, in particular those that do not already exist in the Community. The introduction of such organisms could result in:

- reductions in the yield or quality of agricultural and horticultural crops;
- damage to the environment, for example Forests and public green areas;
- increased use of plant protection products;
- damage to the EU's export markets for agricultural and horticultural crops.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Estonia Germany Ireland (all as part of General Audits) The Netherlands	The series of inspections of import controls for plant health, which was started in 2005 following extensive revisions of Community legislation, was continued. Four Member States were inspected, three of which included an evaluation of the action taken to address shortcomings found during previous inspections on the same subject.	The inspections found that some of the shortcomings found in previous inspections had not been fully addressed and that certain aspects of the revised legislation are not being fully implemented. Action has been requested in order to address the problems found and the Commission continues to assess progress in their implementation.
Estonia (as part of a General Audit) Ireland Cyprus	The series of inspections of the implementation of the plant passport system, which was started in 2005, was continued. Two Member States were inspected in the context of General Audits. In addition, one Member State was visited in order to evaluate the general situation of its Protected Zones.	The audits identified problems relating to the use and format of plant passports, the control of consignments moving in Customs transit between Member States, and the recognition and maintenance of protected zones. Specific action was requested in order to address areas of immediate concern. The Commission continues to monitor progress in their implementation.
Austria Germany (as part of a General Audit) Ireland Italy The Netherlands Portugal (3) Spain The United Kingdom	<p>Nine inspections were carried out to assess the situation and control measures taken by Member States for those organisms that are the subject of emergency measures (there are currently nine such Commission Decisions).</p> <p>The nine inspections included four to evaluate the controls for Pine Wood Nematode (PWN), three in Portugal and one in Spain; two for Red Palm Weevil (Italy and Spain), two for Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (Germany and The Netherlands) and one for Pitch canker (Spain).</p> <p>In addition, two 'outbreak' inspections were carried out; one to evaluate the situation and control of a new harmful organism <i>Phytophthora kernovii</i> (the United Kingdom) and one to evaluate the situation and control of an outbreak of Asian Longhorn Beetle (<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>) (Austria).</p> <p>The measures taken to eradicate or contain Fireblight in order to maintain the protected zone status were evaluated in two Member States (Ireland and Spain).</p>	<p>The first inspection in Portugal in relation to PWN was to evaluate the implementation of Commission Decision 2006/133/EC and the National Action Plan. The team found significant delays in the implementation of the plan, mainly due to financial constraints. The second inspection evaluated action taken after the previous inspection and the measures taken following recent findings of the nematode in new areas of Portugal. There is a substantial trade in wood packaging material (WPM) with other Member States, and the inspection found that there was a lack of capacity to treat all such material leaving the country and also shortcomings with the treatment facilities. The third inspection evaluated the treatment facilities and controls on the movement of wood and WPM in detail. The inspection found that substantial efforts had been made to address the shortcomings found previously, however significant problems remained. The Commission continues to monitor the situation and further inspections are planned for 2009.</p> <p>The inspection in Spain followed the confirmation of the first outbreak of PWN in Europe outside of Portugal. The team found that Spain had acted promptly, although eradication measures still had to be completed.</p> <p>The inspections in relation to Fireblight showed that its eradication, or even containment, is difficult, especially given the climatic conditions during 2008 which favoured the development of</p>

Plant Health

Member States	Activities	Findings
		<p>the disease. Nevertheless, recommendations for improvements were made to the Member States involved and progress will be monitored by the Commission. The FVO reports were considered during the review of the relevant protected zones by the Standing Committee on Plant Health.</p> <p>The inspections on Red palm weevil, Potato spindle tuber viroid, pitch canker, <i>Phytophthora kernovii</i> and Asian Longhorn Beetle all revealed shortcomings with the control measures taken. Recommendations for improvements were made to the Member States involved and progress is being monitored by the Commission.</p>

Third countries	Activities	Findings
<p>Israel Japan Thailand</p>	<p>Three inspections were carried out in third countries during 2008; relating to export controls, based on interceptions of harmful organisms on consignments exported from these countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel and Thailand were both visited to assess the action taken in response to the findings of previous inspections, as a result of ongoing interceptions by Member States; • An inspection was carried out in Japan, to evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of bonsai type plants for export to the EU, following interceptions of Citrus longhorn beetle and other harmful organisms on such plants. 	<p>The inspection in Israel found that there was a comprehensive control system in place, however not all of the shortcomings identified by the previous inspection had been addressed and in addition, the certification for Potato spindle tuber viroid was not based on systematic laboratory testing of all potential host plants.</p> <p>The inspection in Thailand found that extensive measures had been taken to address the shortcomings found during the previous inspection; however, a number of key issues remained to be addressed including the controls for plants for planting and the inspection of consignments at Bangkok airport.</p> <p>The inspection in Japan found that the system of official controls in place was largely in line with EU requirements, however there were shortcomings found in the implementation of many of the controls, including the action taken following interceptions by EU Member States. Recommendations were made to address the shortcomings found during the three inspections. The response to these recommendations and the progress in implementing corrective actions is being monitored by the Commission.</p>

Non-inspection Activities

Harmful Organism Survey Overview Reports

The plant health sector of the FVO is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the results of many of the mandatory surveys carried out by Member States. These are analysed and overview reports are compiled and presented to the Standing Committee on Plant Health, in particular as part of the regular review of emergency measures. In 2008, these overviews included reports on *Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. sepedonicus* (potato ring rot), *Ralstonia solanacearum* (potato brown rot), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode), *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death), *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), Pepino mosaic virus, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Red palm weevil) *Gibberella circinata* (Pitch canker) and *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp).

Plant Health

While there is very substantial survey activity taking place within the EU, the results also showed a significant variation between Member States in the intensity of their survey activities.

“EUROPHYT” is a web-based notification system, managed by the FVO, which enables Member States to rapidly notify interceptions of harmful organisms and non-compliant plants and plant produce either imported from third countries or moving in the internal market. The Commission and the Member States use this information to assess risk when formulating plant health policy and to optimise their controls. 2008 saw further enhancements and, under the guidance of a user group, the addition of important new functions.

All Member States use EUROPHYT to submit and distribute their notifications; the FVO ensures that the data is complete and valid. There has been a significant increase in the use of data extracts and reports by Member States and the Commission to support development of plant health policy and controls by the Member State services and the FVO.

During 2008, the FVO plant health sector developed and participated in or contributed to, nine training courses on plant health controls for EU Member States and third countries as part of the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.

EUROPHYT

Training

Chemical residues in food of animal origin



Within the EU, there is a legislative framework to monitor and control the presence of chemical residues in food derived from animals. Third Countries exporting food to the EU must have equivalent systems in place and be listed in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC¹⁵ indicating that they have approved residues plans. Inspections carried out by the residues group in the FVO enable evaluation of control systems on-the-spot. Inspections focus on the control systems for residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants in animals and animal products, including controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicines. In 2008, the FVO residues group (FVO Unit F.5.003) continued the evaluation of residue control plans from third countries exporting food of animal origin to the EU. The number of inspections carried out by the group increased (16) relative to 2007 (12) and 2006 (13).

Member States

Bulgaria
 Germany (as part of a General Audit)
 Greece
 Hungary (as part of a General Audit)
 Ireland (as part of a General Audit)
 Portugal
 Romania
 Slovakia (as part of a General Audit)
 Spain (as part of a General Audit)

Activities

Inspections were carried out in four Member States to evaluate compliance with Community requirements pertaining to residues and veterinary medicines controls. In addition, as part of General Audits, specific audits with the same scope were carried out in five further Member States.

Findings

Significant shortcomings were noted in respect of the inspections in Greece, Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria. In Greece the 2007 national residue control plan was poorly implemented due to insufficient resources allocated for this task by the competent authority. In Portugal, there was an insufficient number of staff for analytical and control functions and inadequate funding of residues controls also featured prominently in both Romania and Bulgaria. In the latter two Member States deficiencies in operation of the equine passport system were noted.

Regarding the five specific audits, the residues controls system in Germany and Ireland were judged to be in line with Community requirements and generally functioned satisfactorily. In Hungary continuing problems were observed in the laboratory network, particularly regarding validation of analytical methods. In the Slovak Republic the effectiveness of the residues control system had improved since the previous inspection in 2004 but was compromised to some extent by clustering of sampling. This latter problem was also observed in Spain and, in addition, a number of official control laboratories in Spain were not yet accredited to ISO17025.

Action plans to address the deficiencies found have been requested and received from each Member State.

¹⁵ Commission Decision 2004/432/EC of 29 April 2004 on the approval of residue monitoring plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC. Official Journal L 154, 30/04/2004, pp. 44–50.

Chemical residues in food of animal origin

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Argentina Bangladesh Brazil Ecuador Mexico South Africa	<p>Inspections in third countries evaluated their ability to satisfy Community requirements with regard to food of animal origin exported to the EU. The inspection in Bangladesh was carried out together with an evaluation of control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export. The findings in relation to the latter half of the scope are presented in the section on Food and Feed Safety.</p>	<p>In relation to the inspections carried out in Argentina and Ecuador, no significant findings were made which would have had an impact on their status in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC.</p> <p>In Brazil, much progress had been made relative to the 2005 and 2007 inspections, particularly in laboratory performance and in the implementation of the residue control plan. Brazil was subsequently re-listed in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC for honey in 2008.</p> <p>The inspection in Mexico was a follow-up to an inspection carried out in 2005. Relative to that, there had been no significant change in residues controls for horsemeat. The safeguard measure initiated following the 2005 inspection¹⁶ therefore remained in place.</p> <p>Following the outcome of the 2007 FVO inspection to Bangladesh, special import conditions had been introduced by the Commission¹⁷. Relative to the 2007 inspection, controls on veterinary medicines and laboratory capability had improved with a reduction in the number of RASFF notifications reported in the intervening period. However, a subsequent increase in the number of RASFF notifications has resulted in these special import conditions being maintained.</p> <p>In early 2008 South Africa was de-listed for wild game in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC due to an absence of residues testing. The favourable outcome of the 2008 inspection resulted in South Africa being re-listed for this commodity in late 2008.</p>

¹⁶ Commission Decision 2006/27/EC on special conditions governing meat and meat products of equidae imported from Mexico and intended for human consumption. Official Journal L19, 24/01/2006, pp 30-31.

¹⁷ Commission Decision 2008/630/EC on emergency measures applicable to crustaceous imported from Bangladesh and intended for human consumption. Official Journal L205, 01/08/2008, pp 49-50.

Chemical residues in food of animal origin

Non-inspection Activities

Evaluation of third country residue control plans

Of 78 countries submitting residue control plans to the Commission, seven were incomplete (i.e. did not include all of the commodities for which there are approved residues plans in place – an increase of three compared to 2007). In total 75% of those countries which had sent a complete plan were evaluated at least once with requests for additional information made in 15 cases.

The evaluations have resulted in a number of recommendations being made for the listing of new commodities/countries following approval of the residues plans submitted and a number of commodities/countries being proposed for removal from the list in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC. The Decision was amended four times in 2008 (in 2007 two amendments were made). There are now a total of 80 countries in the list and in the most recent amendment five countries were relisted for a total of 15 commodities and seven countries were newly listed or relisted for a total of seven commodities.

An explanation of how third countries' residue plans are assessed is available on a DG SANCO webpage in English, French and Spanish.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/third_countries_en.htm

Participation in European Free Trade Association Surveillance Authority inspection

One FVO inspector participated as an observer in an inspection in Iceland carried out by the European Free Trade Association Surveillance Authority (ESA). The objective of the inspection was to assess the competent authority's application of European Economic Area legislation in the areas of veterinary medicinal product authorisation and control and aquaculture production.

Pesticide residues in food of plant origin



The inspections in Member States examined the control systems put in place for pesticide residues in foodstuffs of plant origin. As well as following up on outstanding recommendations from the previous series, the focus was on pesticide residue controls, including laboratory capability and import controls. The inspections also focussed on the implementation of the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) regarding pesticide residues.

Member States

Bulgaria
 Germany (as part of a General Audit)
 Hungary (as part of a General Audit)
 Romania

Activities

A series of inspections was continued in 2008 concerning official controls of pesticide residues. Four inspections were undertaken to Member States in 2008.

Findings

The control systems for pesticide residues varied between the Member States visited. The effectiveness of controls in Bulgaria and Romania was restricted due to the insufficient range of pesticides covered by the analytical methods applied in the pesticide residue laboratories, the incomplete quality control procedures and lack of accreditation in many of the laboratories. Actions taken in a previous series of inspections were verified during the inspections. Recommendations were made to the Member States to address deficiencies noted.

Third countries

Argentina
 Dominican Republic
 Thailand

Activities

There were three inspections in third countries in 2008 relating to pesticides in products exported to Europe.

Findings

The inspection in Argentina found that export-oriented pack-houses and producers operate comprehensive private controls for pesticide residues, but there was no official export control system in place, and official controls on pesticide residues were at a very early stage of development.

In the Dominican Republic a very poor control system was in place; the use of plant protection products was extensive and not effectively controlled. Many pesticides not authorised for use in the EU were regularly used in products for export. There was no analytical capability and therefore further residues with toxicological risks in exported products remain highly likely.

The inspection in Thailand found that a system was in place for certification of compliance with EU legal limits for pesticide residues of consignments intended for export to the EU. However, the control system was not fully effective, and the controls did not provide sufficient guarantees that food of plant origin exported will comply with EU legal limits for pesticide residues. In addition to requesting an action plan in relation to the recommendations in the report, the Commission considered that the findings for the Dominican Republic and for Thailand warranted the proposal to include these commodities in the list of products to be subject to an elevated level of control in the

Pesticide residues in food of plant origin

Third countries	Activities	Findings
		implementing Regulation ¹⁸ to Art 15 5 of Regulation 882/2004. Follow up inspections in these countries are also proposed in 2010.

¹⁸ Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin and amending Decision 2006/504/EC. Official Journal L 194, 25/7/2009, pp 11 – 21.

Additives, flavourings, food contact materials

Food additive (FA) is defined as a substance not normally consumed as food in itself and not normally used as a characteristic ingredient of food. It is added to food intentionally for technological reasons. Council Directive 89/107/EEC¹⁹ establishes a "positive list" of additives authorised for use in foodstuffs, usually specifying the maximum content thereof allowed in food or setting the permitted limit at a level necessary to achieve the technological purpose without misleading the consumer. Before authorisation, food additives have to undergo appropriate toxicological testing and evaluation, leading to approval or rejection and to establishment of the maximum permitted levels in foodstuffs. This evaluation takes into account any cumulative, synergistic or potentiating effect of use thereof and the phenomenon of human intolerance to substances foreign to the body. It is illegal to use unauthorised additives in foodstuffs and to apply additives to foodstuffs without authorisation for each specific application.

Community requirements in relation to food contact materials (FCM) laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004²⁰ of the European Parliament and of the Council. 570 notifications, mainly concerning materials originating from Third Countries and to a lesser extent in Member States, have been notified through RASFF. These break down as follows: 192 alerts in 2006, 172 in 2007 and 206 in 2008. The following hazards were reported: primary aromatic amines (PAA), semicarbazide (SEM), di-2-(ethylhexyl) adipate (DEHA), formaldehyde, heavy metals (lead, cadmium, chromium, nickel, iron, manganese or zinc), excessive total migration, organoleptic properties, isopropyl thioxantone (ITX) and phthalates (DEHP, DIBP)

Four inspections were carried out in Member States in relation to FA and FCM, three (Germany, Slovakia and Spain) of which were part of the general audits.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Denmark Germany (part of General Audit) Slovakia (part of General Audit) Spain (part of General Audit)	The objective of these inspections was to evaluate the implementation of the Community legislation on FA and FCM and the provisions of Community law relating to official food and feed controls.	Overall, the four Member States visited were found to have official control systems in place for both FCM and FA. Major shortcomings identified include the incomplete assessment of the declaration of compliance regarding FCM in Slovakia and Germany, inadequate procedures in relation to HACCP and good manufacturing practice (GMP) regarding FA and FCM respectively in Germany, limited scope of laboratory accreditation in Spain and the lack of a monitoring system for the consumption and use of FA in Slovakia. The shortcomings raised will be addressed through the follow up of the submitted action plans, if necessary by follow up inspections. General issues raised regarding implementation of legislation will be discussed with the Member States once the inspection series is completed in 2010.

¹⁹ Council Directive 89/107/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption, OJ L 40, 11.2.1989, p. 27.

²⁰ Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on materials and articles intended to come in contact with food and repealing Directive 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC, OJ L 338, 13.11.2004, p. 4.

Genetically modified food, feed and seed

Two Commission Decisions provide for specific controls to avoid imports of genetically modified (GM) rice and rice products from the United States of America (USA) and China: Commission Decision 2006/601/EC²¹ and Commission Decision 2008/289/EC²².

Third countries	Activities	Findings
The United States of America	The inspection included visits to federal competent authorities and industry, rice growing states and laboratories.	There was a system of controls in place to ensure that rice from USA exported to the EU fulfilled the requirements of Decision 2006/601/EC. This included official controls of the rice seed in some States such as legal measures to prevent use of contaminated seed in Arkansas, private sector controls and official sampling for laboratory testing by laboratories participating in the official proficiency testing programme. Limited information was available to the inspection team on the follow up of measures being considered regarding prevention of a recurrence of an incident such as the GM 'LL RICE 601'. The USA authorities submitted an action plan to the Commission addressing the shortcomings identified during the inspection.
China	The inspection included visits to central competent authorities and industry, rice growing provinces and laboratories.	There was a system of controls in place to ensure that rice and rice products exported from China to the EU fulfilled the requirements of Commission Decision 2008/289/EC. The Chinese authorities took appropriate action to prevent illegal commercialization of GM rice "Bt63", after an incident of illegal cultivation in Hubei province. There were some shortcomings regarding lack of practical simplified sampling instructions available to inspectors and lack of know-how on specific details of the methodology for "Bt63" detection in official control laboratories. Regarding the rapid alert notifications related with illegal export and fraud, the inspection team did not receive enough information to evaluate the size of the problem and possible actions. The Chinese authorities submitted an action plan to the Commission addressing the shortcomings identified during the inspection.

²¹ Commission Decision 2006/601/EC of 5 September 2006 on emergency measures regarding the non-authorised genetically modified organism 'LL RICE 601' in rice products; OJ No L 244, 7/9/2006, pp. 27-29.

²² Commission Decision 2008/289/EC of 3 April 2008 on emergency measures regarding the unauthorised genetically modified organism 'Bt 63' in rice products; OJ No L 96; 9/4/2008, pp. 29-34.

Contaminants and import controls for food of non-animal origin

The number of rapid alert (RASFF) notifications circulated within the European Union relating to the import of a wide range of products containing mycotoxins, in nuts and dried fruit, remains high. There was an increase of RASFF messages for mycotoxins in 2008 (936) compared to 2007 (754). With regard to the unauthorised dyes Sudan I-IV, there is a decreasing trend in the RASFF messages in the last four years (183 RASFF notifications in 2005, 50 in 2006, 30 in 2007 and 25 in 2008). Controls at import on food of non-animal origin are not harmonised, with the exception of certain cases (such as: aflatoxins in nuts and dried fruits from certain third countries; Sudan I-IV in some spices and palm oil). In these cases, controls are imposed by means of Commission Decisions.

An inspection series which started in 2006 evaluated, in the context of the import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin, the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulations (EC) Nos 882/2004 and 178/2002²³, and the implementation of Commission Decisions 2006/504/EC²⁴ and 2005/402/EC²⁵ concerning mycotoxin contamination and Sudan dye adulteration. This series has finished at the end of 2008 and an overview report is being prepared.

In April 2008, the presence of high levels of mineral oil in sunflower oil originating from Ukraine was notified through the RASFF system. This contamination by mineral oil was later confirmed in several consignments of crude sunflower oil originating from Ukraine imported in recent months in the Community. Given the level of risk, the Commission adopted Commission Decision 2008/433/EC²⁶ imposing special conditions governing the import of sunflower oil originating in or consigned from Ukraine. An inspection to verify the control and certification system in place by the Ukrainian authorities was undertaken.

Inspections in Member States and third countries evaluated controls relating to products notified under the RASFF system.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Romania Bulgaria	Controls in two Member States were evaluated in 2008 as part of ongoing series of inspections.	Overall, major shortcomings identified were the lack of analytical capability, inadequate assessment of procedures on HACCP, rejected consignments at the points of import were not always notified to the Commission under the RASFF system and lack of audit systems in place. Outstanding recommendations will be re-evaluated in inspections planned in 2010.

²³ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1–24.

²⁴ Commission Decision 2006/504/EC of 12 July 2006 on special conditions governing certain foodstuffs imported from certain third countries due to contamination risks of these products by aflatoxins, OJ L 199, 21.7.2006, p. 21–32.

²⁵ Commission Decision 2005/402/EC of 23 May 2005 on emergency measures regarding chilli, chilli products, curcuma and palm oil, OJ L 135, 28.5.2005, p. 34–36.

²⁶ Commission Decision 2008/433/EC of 10 June 2008 imposing special conditions governing the import of sunflower oil originating in or consigned from Ukraine due to contamination risks by mineral oil, OJ L 151, 11.6.2008, p. 55–56.

Contaminants and import controls for food of non-animal origin

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Egypt Turkey Ukraine	A significant number of alerts were circulated concerning the import of the products into the EU from three third countries. These included peanuts from Egypt and hazelnuts, dried figs and pistachios from Turkey. In the case of Ukraine the presence of mineral oil in sunflower oil intended for export to the EU.	With regard to inspections in Egypt the team found that the shortcomings identified with regard to legislation, the design of facilities, storage conditions and poor implementation of procedures on HACCP might lead to contamination of the peanuts. Regarding Turkey, the CAs have made big efforts to control mycotoxins formation by implementing measures at all levels. However, some shortcomings in drying and storage at farm level could have an impact on mycotoxins formation. The control system in Ukraine established to prevent the contamination with mineral oil of sunflower oil intended for export to the EU has been implemented satisfactorily and the recommendations have been fully addressed.

Import Controls on live animals and products of animal origin



Import and transit controls on live animals and products of animal origin are almost fully harmonised in the EU. These controls take place at specific EU-approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at the external borders (land borders, ports and international airports) of the EU.

Inspections of the BIPs take place at regular intervals, to verify that they meet Community requirements, together with an assessment of the systems put in place by the Member States to ensure that the controls are carried out as foreseen. Inspectors also check, where appropriate, if previously identified shortcomings have been corrected through the implementation of action plans.

Member States	Activities	Findings
Bulgaria Czech Republic Estonia (as part of a General Audit) France Germany (as part of a General Audit) Greece Hungary (as part of a General Audit) Ireland (as part of a General Audit) Latvia Portugal Romania Slovakia (as part of a General Audit) Spain (as part of a General Audit) United Kingdom	<p>Inspections were carried out in fourteen Member States to evaluate the import and transit control system in place and to verify compliance with Community requirements in 46 approved BIPs and two proposed BIPs.</p> <p>These inspections followed up the series inspections in relation to illegal imports carried out during recent years and the evaluation covered what measures have been put in place to detect illegal introductions, including those for personal consumption as well as checks for non-commercial pet animals.</p>	<p>In most of the Member States visited the import and transit control system has improved further and a number of corrective actions taken in relation to the recommendations of the previous inspections were observed.</p> <p>In general, progress was noted with supervision of BIPs, training of staff and working procedures; improved co-operation between the veterinary services and other services involved in import/transit controls was noted in the Member States. Nevertheless, common shortcomings in general of a minor nature were found in the areas of identification and selection of consignments, checks on non-commercial pet animals, BIP facilities including equipment and hygiene and for destruction of animal-by-products (galley waste). Some previously identified shortcomings continued to exist in some Member States.</p> <p>In each inspected Member State the system in place to detect illegal imports in the luggage of travellers was further improved. However, in some Member States further measures for improvement are needed to minimise the likelihood of illegal introduction of relevant consignments.</p> <p>All non-compliances are being pursued with the relevant authorities in the Member States concerned. As a consequence of the outcome of the inspections and of the action plans the approvals of a number of BIPs have been modified accordingly.</p>
Greece	<p>The inspection evaluated the implementation of Council Decision 79/542/EEC²⁷ as regards the imports and transits of bovine fresh meat and to evaluate the import and transit control systems in place for products of animal origin.</p>	<p>The inspection confirmed the persistent shortcomings at the Border Inspection Post (BIP) of Thessaloniki port in relation to import and transit controls on veterinary consignments – in particular bovine meat – and the lack of supervision by the competent authority.</p> <p>The competent authority failed to implement the action plan based on the recommendations of a previous inspection report and deficiencies regarding the BIP of Thessaloniki port continue to exist. Guarantees were required regarding the supervision</p>

²⁷ Council Decision 79/542/EEC - Council Decision of 21 December 1976 drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat. OJ L 146, 14.6.1997, p. 15-17

Import Controls on live animals and products of animal origin

of BIPs, training of staff and co-operation with Customs officials and port operators.

To a lesser extent, deficiencies with regard to transit controls and operational procedures were also identified at another BIP visited.

The Commission Services requested urgent corrective measures from the Greek authorities.

Third countries	Activities	Findings
Switzerland	One inspection was carried out to a third country to evaluate the import/transit control system in place and to verify the application of EU requirements as laid down in the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation.	Progress was noted in fulfilling the commitments give to implement an import control system equivalent to that in the European Union and in correcting previously identified shortcomings. All remaining non-compliances are being pursued with the relevant authorities.
Candidate countries	Activities	Findings
Turkey	One inspection was conducted to evaluate the status of the implementation of the import/transit control system in accordance with Community requirements and to assess facilities and operations at proposed BIPs	Community import control requirements were not yet applied, and the national system in place differs in many respects from that which applies in the European Union. Outstanding matters are being pursued with the relevant authorities.

Non-inspection Activities

SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food"

FVO staff participated in five training seminars for BIPs under the SANCO programme "Better Training for Safer Food". At the seminars held in the BIPs at two ports (The Netherlands) and one airport (Austria) BIP, and at two road/rail BIPs (Latvia), the main outcome of FVO BIP inspections was presented and discussed with the participants.

Inspection-related Activities

Enlargement of the European Union

Candidate countries are those countries that applied for EU membership and whose application has been accepted by the Council. At present, there are three candidate countries, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

In 2008, the FVO continued the pre-enlargement monitoring in the three candidate countries which began in 2005.

The FVO performed nine inspections in the candidate countries in 2008, as detailed in the preceding pages of this report. Six inspections were carried out as part of the Commission's overall monitoring of the progress of candidate countries in their preparations for EU membership. The remaining inspections were carried out as part of the export approval process.

The responses of the competent authorities to the recommendations made by the FVO in the inspection reports in candidate countries since 2006 were generally positive, with a satisfactory response in 95% of cases. However, the level of action taken in response to these recommendations was low. This is mainly due to the fact that the majority of commitments received had a deadline for delivery linked to actual accession.

In general, the national competent authorities have made a good start in preparing for accession in the area of food safety. However, financial constraints as well as political, legal and institutional factors continued to impinge on the effective implementation of official controls in particular as regards imports, animal health and upgrading of agri-food establishments. The FVO will continue to monitor progress in these countries.

Country Profiles

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, sets out a framework for control activities conducted by national authorities and the Commission. The FVO developed country specific profiles for 27 Member States, two candidate countries (Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), three potential candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro) and started developing country profiles for 15 third countries, to complement its inspection activities and provide a baseline for future audits of national control systems.

The country profiles for Turkey (the candidate country) and Albania (the potential candidate country) were under development.

Each country profile is a repository of data on control systems for the country concerned and provides a horizontal perspective of the structure and organisation of the relevant control authorities and their responses to FVO recommendations.

Country profiles provide a basis for assessing overall compliance with EU requirements, ensuring effective follow-up to FVO reports and recommendations, and facilitating the prioritisation of future FVO audits and inspections. The country profile also constitutes a valuable source of relevant material in cases where more formal enforcement measures require to be taken against a country.

In regard to follow up to FVO reports and inspections in Member States, candidate countries and potential candidate countries, the preparation and updating of country profiles involves inter alia meetings between the FVO and the relevant national authorities to review, across the board, progress being made by the authorities on recommendations made in FVO inspection reports. These "general reviews" are a vital component in the process of monitoring compliance of the countries with EU law. There were 19 "general reviews" organised in 2008 to the following Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; 2 "general reviews" to candidate countries: Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 1 "general review" to potential candidate country: Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Country profiles for all 27 Member States are published on the Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm

Inspection-related Activities

Technical Assistance

The FVO contributes to the Commission technical assistance for third countries to help them meet EU food safety, animal and plant health standards. The FVO inspections to African, Caribbean and Pacific and least developed countries aim to identify shortcomings to food safety, their causes and possible measures to address them. These findings are used as a basis to develop and fund technical assistance initiatives by the Commission's Directorate General for Development and the EuropeAid Co-operation Office. The FVO input is an important tool which helps to reach EU food safety objectives in the poorest countries while helping them to overcome their deficiencies and avoid possible restrictions to their exports to the EU. In 2008, there were seven inspections which contributed to identifying areas for technical assistance. They concerned the fishery sector in the following countries: Bangladesh, Barbados, Eritrea, Ghana, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Guidelines for multi-annual national control plans

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules requires Member States to prepare a single integrated multi-annual control plan (MANCP) for the performance of these controls and to audit and report annually on the implementation of this plan. The Commission is required to produce guidelines to facilitate this process. The FVO has been leading the preparation of these guidelines, which are being developed through an incremental process which will take account of experiences in the application of this new approach to official controls, in consultation with the Member States. The first of these guidelines laying down criteria for the conduct of audits of national competent authorities were adopted as Commission Decision 2006/677/EC on 29th September 2006. The Guidelines to assist Member States in preparing the single integrated multi-annual national control plan were adopted as Commission Decision 2007/363/EC on 21 May 2007.

The guidelines for annual reporting on the multi-annual control plan were adopted as Commission Decision 2008/654/EC on 24 July 2008 and published in the Official Journal L 214 on 9 August 2008. This completed the first phase of the MANCP related guidelines.

Work on guidelines on information to be provided by third countries on the general organisation and management of their sanitary control systems continues. This information will form the basis of Community controls in third countries to verify compliance or equivalence of their legislation and systems with Community requirements with respect to goods intended for export to the Community.

Other FVO Activities

In addition to inspection, audit and related activities, FVO also carries out the following activities:

Hosting visiting delegations

The FVO welcomes visitors from a variety of national and international bodies throughout the year and provides information on relevant activities to visiting delegations. In the case of delegations from national and international control bodies, these visits also provide a useful opportunity for exchanges of experience.

In 2008, visiting delegations included representatives of different national control or professional bodies having a particular interest in the work of the FVO from four Member States (Denmark, Germany, Italy and Sweden), representations of inspection and control bodies from four third countries (China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Switzerland) and a study tour by government officials from all the Mercosur countries.

Hosting trainees

During 2008 the FVO hosted a total of 8 trainees, for periods of time ranging from 1 to 5 months, from a total of eight different countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Italy, Spain, Russia and Taiwan). Most were part of the official Commission in-service training scheme, while two were employees of national administrations temporarily seconded to the FVO. Such trainees are university graduates, in some cases having a number of years of professional experience. During their time with FVO they were attached to Units undertaking areas of work relevant to their expertise and had the opportunity to learn, at first hand, how the FVO operates as well as gaining experience of the workings of the European Commission services as a whole.

Glossary of terms used in the Report

ABP (Animal by-products)	Animal by-products are the parts of a slaughtered animal that are not directly consumed by humans, including dead on farm animals and catering waste (i.e. waste food originating from restaurants, catering facilities and kitchens) that contains or has been in contact with meat products, whether cooked or uncooked.
Aflatoxins	A group of toxins (poisonous chemical compounds) that are produced by two fungi called <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> . These toxins occur naturally and have been found in a wide range of commodities used for animal and human consumption. Depending on the levels, the toxins can severely affect the liver and they are a known cause of cancer in humans.
Audit	A systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives.
BIP (Border inspection post)	A facility approved for the carrying out of veterinary checks on live animals and products of animal origin arriving from third countries for import into the EU.
BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy)	See "TSE"
Candidate countries	From 17.12.2005, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey
Competent authority	A domestic government body made responsible under that country's national law for the control or regulation of a particular area of legislation.
Contaminant	Any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production, manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food, or as a result of environmental contamination.
EEA/EFTA/ESA	The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation promoting free trade and strengthening economic relations. EFTA's Member States are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The European Economic Area (EEA) is an agreement between EFTA and the EU, designed to allow EFTA countries to participate in the European Single Market without having to join the EU. Switzerland is a member of EFTA but chose, by referendum, not to participate in the EEA. The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) ensures that Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway respect their obligations under the EEA Agreement.
EUROPHYT	Article 21(6) first indent of Council Directive 2000/29/EC ²⁸ states that "the Commission shall establish a network for the notification of new occurrences of harmful organisms". EUROPHYT is an electronic rapid alert system between the Member States and the Commission. Its aim is to transmit information concerning plant quarantine matters (notifications of interceptions of plants, plant health legislation, documents of the Standing Committee on Plant Health).
GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice)	Those aspects of quality assurance which ensure that materials and articles are consistently produced and controlled to ensure conformity with the rules applicable to them and with the quality standards appropriate to their intended use by not endangering human health or causing an unacceptable change in the composition of the food or causing a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof.

²⁸ Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community, OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, pp. 1-112.

HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system for monitoring food processes to reduce the risk of food contamination. HACCP focuses on how food flows through the food processes – be it food production, distribution or retail – and identifies potential hazards at each step. By identifying “critical control points” (CCPs) where bacteria may grow or food may be contaminated, HACCP provides a framework for implementing control procedures for each hazard.
Illegal imports	The introduction onto the territory of the Community of products of animal origin or live animals that, either accidentally or intentionally, have not been subject to, and cleared following, the veterinary checks foreseen in Community legislation.
Infringement proceedings	Treaty infringement proceedings form a procedure for establishing whether a Member State has failed to fulfil an obligation imposed on it by Community law. The procedure starts with a pre-litigation phase, involving contacts between the Commission and the Member State, and may conclude with a legal action before the European Court of Justice.
Mycotoxins	A group of naturally occurring toxic metabolites produced by some species of fungi – especially strains of <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> . These fungi grow on many plant-based foodstuffs, such as grains, cereals, nuts and fruit, and mycotoxins may be produced by these fungi under certain conditions.
Phytosanitary	Pertaining to the health of plants.
RASFF	The Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) is a network of national authorities, managed by the Commission, that exchanges information on the presence of potential health risks to consumers presented by a food product.
Residue	That portion of the administered dose of a veterinary medicine or other substance present in the tissues, body fluids, products or excreta of an animal arising from treatment of the animal. The total residue includes the parent compound plus any metabolites.
SRM (Specified Risk Material)	Tissues designated as specified risk material in connection with TSE are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended, and comprise mainly: the skull including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months; the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages; the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum; the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages. (See “TSE”)
Sudan dyes	Sudan I, II, III and IV are industrial dyes normally used for colouring plastics and other synthetic materials. Sudan dyes may have a carcinogenic effect. The presence of these dyes in food contravenes EU legislation.
Traceability	The ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food-producing animal or substance intended to be, or expected to be incorporated into a food or feed, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.
TSE	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), of which bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is one. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle. Also known as prion diseases, TSEs are a group of rare degenerative brain disorders characterised by tiny holes that give the brain a "spongy" appearance.
Zoonoses / Zoonotic diseases	The World Health Organisation defines zoonosis as an infectious disease that is transmissible under natural conditions from animals to humans.

List of FVO inspections completed in 2008

Member State	Title	Report No.
Austria	To evaluate the situation and control for <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	2008-8305
Belgium	To evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table egg sector	2008-7626
	To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7688
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7712
	To evaluate measures concerning Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	2008-7731
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7938
	To evaluate the implementation of European Union animal health requirements for intra-Community trade in live animals and the systems in place and proposed for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and to assess their conformance with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) N° 21/2004.	2008-7945
Bulgaria	To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare of laying hens and animal welfare during long distance transport	2008-7687
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7710
	To evaluate control measures on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	2008-7728
	To evaluate protective measures against Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2008-7732
	To evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2008-7736
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7747
	To evaluate the surveillance, control and eradication of classical swine fever in domestic and feral pigs.	2008-7800
	To evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2008-7837
	To evaluate import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin	2008-7847
	To evaluate official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin and animal welfare at the time of slaughter	2008-7950
	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-8013
	To evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table egg sector	2008-8023
	Cyprus	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile
To evaluate the status of protected zones for <i>Daktulosphaira vitifoliae</i> , <i>Ips sexdentatus</i> and <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> and the status of <i>Seiridium cardinale</i>		2008-7871
To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk		2008-7935

Czech Republic	evaluate the systems in place to control the Salmonella risk in the table egg sector	2008-7628
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7700
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7746
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2008-7838
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7939
Denmark	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7714
	To assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact materials	2008-7832
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7942
Estonia	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of fishery products	2008-7640
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2008-7739
	To carry out a specific audit to assess import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7756
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter.	2008-7765
	To evaluate the disease contingency plans for epizootic diseases (in particular foot and mouth disease & classical swine fever) and surveillance activities for bluetongue	2008-7785
	To assess the official control systems in place for food of non-animal origin	2008-7842
	To evaluate the system of import controls for plant health, the implementation of the plant passport system and the situation of <i>erwinia amylovora</i> (Burr) and its protected zone	2008-7898
Finland	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2008-7839
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7966
France	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7703
	To evaluate control measures on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	2008-7730
	To evaluate the implementation of health rules on certain animal by-products	2008-7741
	To evaluate import / transit controls and border inspections posts	2008-7757
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry meat	2008-7827

	To evaluate the emergency vaccination against Bluetongue.	2008-8309
Germany	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7686
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products and official controls for gelatine	2008-7740
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7755
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7764
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7775
	To evaluate the classical swine fever eradication control programme.	2008-7797
	To evaluate the official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2008-7818
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2008-7835
	To assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact materials	2008-7841
	To assess the official control systems in place for pesticide residues in and on food of plant origin	2008-7852
	To evaluate the import controls for plant health, the situation of potato spindle tuber viroid and the implementation of Commission Directive 95/44	2008-7909
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7980
	Greece	To evaluate the emergency vaccination against Bluetongue.
To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products		2008-7695
To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile		2008-7704
To evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene		2008-7724
To evaluate protective measures against Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in sheep and goats		2008-7735
To evaluate the operation of the bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis and the ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes		2008-7793
To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk		2008-7813
To evaluate the implementation of Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the imports and transits of bovine fresh meat and to evaluate the import and transit control systems in place for products of animal origin		2008-8206
Hungary	To evaluate a proposed border inspection post	2008-8311
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the food safety control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry meat and poultry meat products	2008-7629

	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2008-7720
	To carry out a specific audit to assess import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7754
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7767
	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7774
	To evaluate the classical swine fever eradication control programme.	2008-7798
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk as well as to evaluate the official controls over infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2008-7817
	To evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2008-7849
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2008-7866
	To evaluate the food safety control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry meat and poultry meat products (follow-up)	2008-8009
Ireland	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the food safety control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry meat and poultry meat products	2008-7631
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of fishery products	2008-7641
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2008-7721
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7750
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter.	2008-7768
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7780
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of European Union animal health requirements for intra-community trade in semen and embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species	2008-7802
	To assess controls on food of non-animal origin	2008-7843
	To evaluate the system of import controls for plant health	2008-7891
	To evaluate the implementation of the plant passport system, the situation of <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> (Burr) and its protected zone and the control of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	2008-7893
Italy	To evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table egg sector	2008-7627
	To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter and killing	2008-7691

	To evaluate the implementation of health rules on certain animal by-products	2008-7743
	To evaluate the situation concerning African swine fever and swine vesicular disease.	2008-7801
	To evaluate the situation and controls for <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> (Olivier)	2008-7870
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7930
Latvia	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7701
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7936
	To evaluate a proposed border inspection post	2008-8073
Lithuania	To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare of laying hens	2008-7689
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7702
	To evaluate the implementation of European Union animal health requirements for intra-community trade in live animals	2008-7806
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7940
Luxembourg	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7707
Malta	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7715
	To evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2008-7738
Netherlands	To evaluate the situation of potato spindle tuber viroid and the implementation of Commission Directive 95/44/EC	2008-7921
Poland	To evaluate the system of controls in relation to animal welfare during transport and on laying hen farms.	2008-7693
	To evaluate the disease contingency plans for epizootic diseases (in particular foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever) and to follow-up surveillance activities for bluetongue	2008-7789
	To evaluate the bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programmes	2008-7794
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7810
	To evaluate feed ban controls and compliance with requirements for organic fertilisers and soil improvers	2008-7987
Portugal	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7696

	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7698
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7745
	To assess the implementation of Commission Decision 2006/133/EC and the National Eradication Programme for <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (pine wood nematode)	2008-7869
	To evaluate feed ban controls and compliance with requirements for organic fertilisers and soil improvers	2008-7986
	To assess the implementation of Commission Decision 2006/133/EC and the National Eradication Programme for <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (pine wood nematode)	2008-7991
	To assess the implementation of Commission Decision 2006/133/EC, in particular the controls on the movement and treatment of susceptible wood and wood packaging material	2008-8008
Romania	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7709
	To evaluate control measures on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	2008-7729
	To evaluate protective measures against Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in sheep and goats	2008-7733
	To evaluate the implementation of health rules on animal by-products	2008-7737
	To evaluate the import/transit control system and border inspection posts	2008-7748
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7820
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability and labelling	2008-7833
	To evaluate controls of pesticide residues in food of plant origin	2008-7859
	To evaluate import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin	2008-7920
	To evaluate official controls in relation to a proposed system to authorise trade of pig meat and pig meat products from Romania	2008-7997
	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-8003
Slovakia	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the systems in place to control the <i>Salmonella</i> risk in the table egg sector	2008-7634
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the food safety control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of poultry meat and poultry meat products	2008-7635
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2008-7722
	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7751
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7769
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7776

	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk	2008-7815
	To assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact materials	2008-7850
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene, within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 and other issues related to food production and distribution.	2008-7861
Slovenia	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7706
	To evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2008-7998
Spain	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production and placing on the market of fishery products (follow up)	2008-7642
	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7697
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed and compliance with requirements for feed hygiene	2008-7723
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the import/transit control system and border inspection posts	2008-7752
	To carry out a specific audit to evaluate the implementation of controls for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter	2008-7766
	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7781
	To evaluate the disease contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever and bluetongue.	2008-7787
	To evaluate the bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programme	2008-7792
	To evaluate the implementation and controls in respect of European Union requirements regarding animal health conditions applicable to intra-community trade in semen and embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species	2008-7803
	To evaluate the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to official controls related to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular meat and milk as well as to evaluate the official controls over infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain	2008-7816
	To assess the official control systems in place for food additives and for food contact materials	2008-7844
	To assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability, labelling and bottled water	2008-7856
	To evaluate the situation of <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> (Burr) and its protected zone and the controls for <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> (Olivier) and <i>Gibberella circinata</i> (Nirenberg & O'Donnel)	2008-7907
	To evaluate the monitoring and eradication programme in place for Pinewood Nematode	2008-8007
	To evaluate the emergency vaccination against bluetongue.	2008-8308
Sweden	To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile	2008-7705
United Kingdom	To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare during	2008-7690

transport

To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile 2008-7713

To evaluate the implementation of health rules on certain animal by-products 2008-7742

To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts 2008-7761

To evaluate official controls over the production and placing on the market of infant formulae, follow-on formulae and baby foods, including the supply chain 2008-7819

To evaluate the situation and controls for *Phytophthora kernoviae* and *Phytophthora ramorum* 2008-7868

Candidate Countries

Title

Report No.

Croatia To evaluate the system of control in relation to animal welfare on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter and killing. 2008-7694

To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile 2008-7717

To assess the situation with regard to veterinary public health controls in view of future accession 2008-7877

Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile 2008-7719

Turkey To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union 2008-7644

To assess import/transit controls and border inspection posts related issues 2008-7749

To assess the control systems in place to prevent mycotoxin contamination in hazelnuts, pistachios and dried fruit intended for export to the European Union 2008-7858

To evaluate the situation with regard to animal health and veterinary public health controls of milk and milk-based products intended for export to the European Union 2008-7878

Third Countries

Title

Report No.

Argentina To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products 2008-7779

To evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export to the European Union 2008-7845

To evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures 2008-7887

Australia To evaluate public health control systems and certification procedures for red meat, milk and products thereof applicable to imports into the European Community 2008-7897

Bangladesh To evaluate the control of residues in aquaculture products and the public health conditions for the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union 2008-7655

Barbados To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union 2008-7654

Bosnia and Herzegovina To review control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in order to prepare a country profile 2008-7718

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Brazil	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7770
	To evaluate the traceability system in place for cattle eligible to be slaughtered for export of their meat to the European Union	2008-7967
China	To evaluate the control system for food, feed and seed containing or consisting of Genetically Modified Organisms for export to the EU	2008-7834
Dominican Republic	To evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export to the European Union	2008-7848
Ecuador	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7771
Egypt	To assess the control systems in place to prevent aflatoxin contamination in peanuts and to follow up recommendations made in report SANCO 3329/2001	2008-7853
Eritrea	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7637
Faeroe Islands	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7658
Ghana	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7659
Greenland	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of live bivalve molluscs (scallops) intended for export to the European Union	2008-7638
Iceland	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7666
India	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7660
	To evaluate the implementation of measures concerning requirements for gelatine	2008-7734
	To evaluate food irradiation facilities	2008-7854
	To evaluate the animal and public health controls over the production and processing of dairy products intended for export to the EU	2008-7913
Israel	To evaluate the control systems in place (including animal and public health aspects) governing live poultry, poultry meat and poultry meat products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7648
	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7661
	To evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of plants for export to the European Union	2008-7872
Japan	To evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of bonsai type plants for export to the European Union	2008-7874
	To evaluate the implementation of EU requirements regarding animal and public health controls over the production of red meat intended for export to the EU (prelisting evaluation) and over the controls in place for export of casings to the EU and certification procedures	2008-8024
Korea, Republic of	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of wild and farmed fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7663

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Malaysia	To evaluate the public and animal health controls and the conditions of production of fishery products, live fish, their eggs and gametes intended for export to the European Union	2008-7679
Mauritius	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7668
Mexico	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7772
	To evaluate public health control systems and certification procedures over production of horse meat intended for export to the EU	2008-7979
Moldova, Republic of	To evaluate the general animal health and food safety situation in the context of possible export of live animals and products of animal origin to the EU	2008-7885
Namibia	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7669
New Zealand	To evaluate the public health control systems and certification procedures in place governing the production of fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the European Union	2008-7671
	To evaluate public health control systems and certification procedures for red meat, milk and products thereof applicable to imports into the European Community under the auspice of the agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products	2008-7899
Papua New Guinea	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union (Follow-up)	2008-7646
Paraguay	To evaluate animal health controls in place in particular over foot and mouth disease and public health control systems and certification procedures	2008-7890
Russian Federation	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7673
	To evaluate the operation of controls over the production of milk, heat-treated milk and milk -based products destined for export to the European Union	2008-7884
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7676
Singapore	To evaluate the operation of the controls in place, over the production of meat products, heat treated milk and milk based products intended for export to the European Union as well as their certification procedures	2008-7883
South Africa	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products and abalone intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7677
	To evaluate the operation of the controls in place, over the production of meat products, and wild game intended for export to the European Union as well as their certification procedures	2008-7892
	To evaluate the control of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products	2008-7932
Switzerland	To evaluate import/transit controls and border inspection posts	2008-7758
	To evaluate control systems pertaining to food safety aspects in relation to certain animal products under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products	2008-7900

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Taiwan	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union (follow up)	2008-7674
Thailand	To evaluate the equivalence with Community standards of the control systems in place governing the production of wild and farmed fishery products and bivalve molluscs intended for export to the European Union (follow-up)	2008-7650
	To evaluate controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export to the European Union	2008-7840
	To evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of plants for export to the European Union	2008-7875
Ukraine	To evaluate the animal and public health controls over the production and processing of dairy products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7901
	To assess the control systems in place to prevent the contamination with mineral oil of sunflower oil intended for export to the European Union	2008-8005
United States	To evaluate the public health control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-7675
	To evaluate the control activities in the US for Commission Decision 2006/601/EC as amended regarding emergency measures for rice exports to the European Union	2008-7857
	To review the animal health and certification procedures applicable to imports of pigs for breeding and production, and semen of pigs, under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public health and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animal products	2008-8001
	To evaluate the public health control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union	2008-8004
Uruguay	To evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery and aquaculture products intended for export to the European Union (follow-up)	2008-7985



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Further Information

Websites

Further information on the subject matter contained in this Annual Report can be found on the Internet, on the following websites:

EUROPA website

<http://ec.europa.eu>

The EUROPA website is the official website of the European Union. It provides a guide to what the EU does and how it works, with links to the activities and institutions of the EU, as well as many items of interest to EU citizens.

Health and Consumers Directorate-General website

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

The website of the Health and Consumers Directorate-General of the European Commission provides information on the three main areas of activity within the Directorate-General – public health, consumer affairs and food safety, the area with which the FVO deals.

Food Safety website

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

The Food Safety website provides information on the EU's approach to food safety and on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as well as all the latest news within the food safety sector. The website of the FVO can be found within the Food Safety website.

FVO website

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

This gives a brief description of the work and role of the FVO, and contains separate sections on feed and food safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health. These sections provide a detailed overview of a range of topics within each area. There is also a section containing the inspection reports published by the FVO.

Inspection Reports

The FVO website includes a search tool that enables visitors to the site to look up published FVO inspection reports more easily:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm

The tool provides a number of options, some of which can be combined:

- If you know the relevant inspection report number (which, for 2006, can be found in the list of inspections given in annex 2 of this Annual Report), you can simply type this number into the search engine to access the report directly.
- If you are interested in finding out about inspections in a particular country, you can click on the name of the country to access all the inspections that were carried out in that particular country.
- If you prefer to see the reports for a particular period, you can select the month and year for the start and end of the period that interests you.
- If you would like to see reports for a particular topic, you can enter words and search for reports that contain these words.
- If you want to know what reports were published during a particular month, you can select a single month.
- You can also see the comments from competent authorities on the draft report and at the actions they intend to take in response to the report's recommendations (action plan).

Other Reports

There are a number of special reports on the FVO website. Reports published under this heading give an overview of a specific theme based on a series of inspections carried out in Member States or third countries. They can be found here:

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

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