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**NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD
STANDARD SETTING**

Comments in reply to CL 2010/23-EURO – Part B

**(comments of Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, Georgia, Poland, Slovak
Republic, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey)**

1. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

(i) Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control

ARMENIA

Armenia has integrated food safety system with the leading role of the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

The main mandate for implementation of food control falls into the following three institutions:

1. Ministry of Agriculture with its Food Safety and Veterinary State Inspectorate and Phytosanitary State Inspectorate;
2. Ministry of Health with its State Hygienic and Anti-Epidemiological Inspectorate;
3. Ministry of Economy with its National Institute of Standards.

According to the Government Decree “On recognition of the authorized bodies for implementation of state control over food and food additives safety at all stages of production and circulation” (No. 557-N, 05.06.2008), the Ministry of Agriculture is recognized as an authorized body for state control over food safety. At the same time, the Ministry of Health is recognized as an authorized body for state control over sanitary and hygienic requirements for employees who are in direct contact with food at all stages of foodstuffs and food additives production and circulation. Besides, Ministry of Health is recognized also as an authorized body for state control over advertising of medical properties of the foodstuff and foodstuff intended for particular purposes.

CROATIA

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAFRD) have responsibility for veterinary inspections and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MHSW) have responsibility for sanitary inspections in Croatia.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAFRD)

In accordance with the current internal organisation of MAFRD, the competent authorities in the veterinary field are the Veterinary Directorate and the Veterinary Inspection Directorate.

The ***Veterinary Directorate*** has four organisational units:

1. Animal Health Protection Sector;

2. Veterinary Public Health Sector;
3. Department for General Affairs, International Cooperation and EU Accession;
4. Department for Central Veterinary Information Systems

The Animal Health Protection Sector performs activities related to animal health protection and animal welfare, control of zoonoses, contingency planning, financing of control measures, the identification of animals and registration of their movements and performs tasks regarding the organisation and functioning of the veterinary service. The Sector comprises three departments: the Veterinary Epidemiology Department, the Veterinary Service and I&R Department, and the Animal Protection Department.

The Veterinary Public Health Sector is competent for the safety of food of animal origin and feed, veterinary medicinal products and veterinary medical devices, monitoring of residues, animal by-products, drafting of legislation and other programmes falling within this area and legal, administrative and other activities related to its scope of work. The Sector consists of two departments: the Department for Hygiene of Products of Animal Origin and Disposal of Animal By-Products and the Department for Veterinary Medicinal Products and Feedstuffs.

The Department for General Affairs, International Cooperation and EU Accession is competent for monitoring and co-ordination of work on the alignment of legislation in the veterinary field and international agreements in the veterinary field.

The Department for Central Veterinary Information System is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Central Veterinary Information System (CVIS) designed to provide a unified system of all registers, registries and software in the veterinary field.

The ***Veterinary Inspections Directorate*** has three organisational units:

1. Veterinary Inspection Sector;
2. Border Veterinary Inspection and International Trade Sector
3. Department for Legal Issues and Financing of Official Controls.

The Veterinary Inspection Sector has seven departments: the State Veterinary Inspection Department, which is situated at the headquarters of the Veterinary Inspections Directorate, and six Regional Veterinary Inspection Departments – veterinary offices, located in Zagreb, Varaždin, Bjelovar, Osijek, Rijeka and Split. These six Regional Veterinary Inspection Departments have 65 branch offices throughout Croatia. The Veterinary Inspection Sector is responsible for implementation of official controls of animal health, animal welfare and production and trade of food and feed in line with the Veterinary Act, the Food Act, the Animal Protection Act, and the Act on the Veterinary Medicinal Products.

The Border Veterinary Inspection and International Trade Sector has two departments: the Border Veterinary Inspection Department and the International Trade and Risk Analysis Department. The Border Veterinary Inspection Department is responsible for veterinary checks and controls at border inspection posts (BIPs) on consignments of animal shipments, products of animal origin and feed of animal origin and other objects consignments that may transmit infectious or parasitic diseases or jeopardise human and animal health. The International Trade and Risk Analysis Department is competent for legal and administrative activities in the field of international trade and risk analysis. These activities include determining veterinary conditions for the import and transit of animal consignments of animal shipments and products of animal origin and drafting models of export and import veterinary certificates, keeping abreast of international legislation, drafting of legislation concerning the control of trade of animals and products of animal origin and other activities within its scope of work.

Department for Legal Issues and Financing of Official Controls is responsible for legal issues and activities related to financing of official controls conducted in the veterinary field.

The ***Food Safety and Quality Directorate*** has two sectors: Sector for Food Safety and Sector for Labelling and Quality of Food. The Sector for Food Safety is responsible for co-ordination of all activities related to food safety within MAFRD as well as the activities of other bodies (MHSW, SI, control bodies) and institutions in the Republic of Croatia that are involved in the food safety system, in particular official control activities that are carried out by authorities responsible for carrying out official controls, i.e. MAFRD, MHSW and SI. It oversees the harmonisation of legislation on food and feed; coordinates an

annual plan of official controls; and prepares an annual report on official controls. It is also responsible for: the designation of official laboratories; establishing a rapid alert system for food and feed; handling emergencies and crisis management; giving transparent information to consumers about food safety; and acts as contact point for cooperation with the European Commission. The Sector for Labelling and Quality of Food is responsible for drafting and implementing legislation on foodstuffs (labelling, quality requirements, geographical indications, recognition of natural mineral waters and spring waters, etc.).

As part of reorganisation of MAFRD, the former Agriculture Directorate was replaced by two Directorates: **Directorate of Agriculture and Food Industry** for policy and legislation, and **Directorate of Agricultural and Phytosanitary Inspection** for implementation of official controls in the phytosanitary area including the supervision of regional control units.

a) Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MHSW)

Within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Directorate for Sanitary Inspection is responsible for food safety. Directorate is responsible for inspectional supervision of food of non-animal origin, novel and GMO food. The Directorate co-ordinates activities of county sanitary inspectors and border sanitary inspectors. The Directorate is organised into three Services:

The State Sanitary Inspection Service consists of seven departments: the Department for Food, Department for GMOs; the Department for Chemicals; the Department for Articles of General Use; the Department for Irradiation; Department for Administrative Supervision and Appellate Proceedings and the Department for Administrative and Legal Affairs and Expert Assistance.

The State Sanitary Inspection Service is responsible for preparation and interpretation of regulations on: additives; aromas; solvents; enzymes; food supplements; food for special purposes; nutrition and health claims, quick frozen food; contaminants; novel food; GM food; food treated with ionizing radiation and items which can come in close contact with food. The State Sanitary Inspection Service issues instructions and guidelines for state, border and county sanitary inspectors and conducting professional supervision of the sanitary inspectors.

The Border Sanitary Inspection Service consists of four departments: the Department for North-Western Croatia; the Department for Eastern Croatia; the Department for Istria and Northern Coast; Department for Dalmatia.

Service is responsible for inspections of people, their issues and traffic across the border in order to protect the population from the infectious diseases; supervision of the food safety and raw materials for their production, as well as items of common use; import and transport of toxic and radioactive substances in the Republic of Croatia and their transit through the Republic of Croatia.

The County Sanitary Inspection Service consists of seven departments: the Department for the City of Zagreb; the Department for Central Croatia; the Department for North-Western Croatia; the Department for Eastern Croatia; the Department for Istria and Northern Coast; the Department for Northern Dalmatia; the Department for Southern Dalmatia. The County Sanitary Inspection Service operates at regional/local levels. County sanitary inspectors carry out on-the-spot inspections according to the regional/local distribution.

CZECH REPUBLIC

By means of a Government Resolution adopted in December 2004, the Ministry of Agriculture (MA), in co-operation with the Ministry of Health (MH), updated the Food

Safety Strategy in the Czech Republic.

Food Safety Co-ordination Unit

The Food Safety Strategy consolidates the role of the inter-ministerial Food Safety Co-ordination Unit, in place since 2002. The objective of this unit is to co-ordinate activities of the ministries (especially MA and MH), the supervisory bodies (CAFIA, SVA, CISTA and SPA) and non-government organisations within their specified competences. This body is not responsible for the collation or analysis of official control results.

The Co-ordination Unit meets several times a year. Minutes of these meetings are published on the Food Safety Information Centre website (www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz) and on web site of MA www.eagri.cz. In order to support Co-ordination unit, 4 working groups have been set up (for communication with consumers,

RASFF, feedstuffs and laboratories). Four Scientific Committees make risk-assessment contributions to this co-ordination unit.

Ministries

In the Czech Republic, the two Ministries with responsibilities for legislation regarding food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health are the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) and the Ministry of Health (MH).

The Czech Republic has two levels of administration for food control, which comprise Ministries or central administrations, and regions. The central administration is in charge of managing national food controls and co-ordination between services.

Ministries usually adopt laws on the basis of consultation with competent authorities, other ministries or parties outside government, submission to inter-departmental commissions, followed by submission to the government legislative council, the parliament, the senate and finally, signature into law by the President. (Veterinary legislation is usually drafted by SVA and agreed and adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture). Decrees follow a similar procedure up to the point of submission to inter-departmental commissions, following which they return to the lead ministry and are signed into law by the lead Minister.

At MH, draft laws are prepared by officers of MH, while draft decrees are prepared by experts from National Institute of Public Health and officers of MH.

Ministry of Agriculture (MA) is responsible for national legislation for animal health, animal welfare and plant health. In addition, under the Food Act 110/1997, responsibility for foodstuffs is shared between MA and MH. Five bodies (SVA, CBI, CAFIA, CISTA and SPA) operate under the authority of MA. MA drafts veterinary and phytosanitary legislation and legislation associated with the production and labelling of foodstuffs. Within the Commodities Section (17000) of MA the principal sections are: the Agricultural Commodities Section (17200) co-ordinates control activities, the performance of supervisory control bodies and the harmonisation of legislation in the field of **agricultural production**. It co-ordinates, through Department No. 17211 (the Department of the Central Register for Animals), activities of the

State Veterinary Administration (SVA) for animal health and identification, and activities of the Czech Breeding Inspectorate (CBI) for animal identification. It co-ordinates through Department No. 17220 (the Plant Commodities Department) activities of the State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA), for plant health. It is responsible for risk assessment in relation to animal identification and holding registration.

The Food Production Section of MA, also known as the Food Authority (Section 17400), established in April 2005, co-ordinates control activities and performance

of supervisory control bodies and the harmonisation of legislation for **food and feed hygiene**. It manages the Executive Commission of MA Supervisory Bodies (SVA, CISTA, CAFIA and SPA), which meets every two months. The Food Authority is the MA partner for communication with MH. It is sub-divided into:

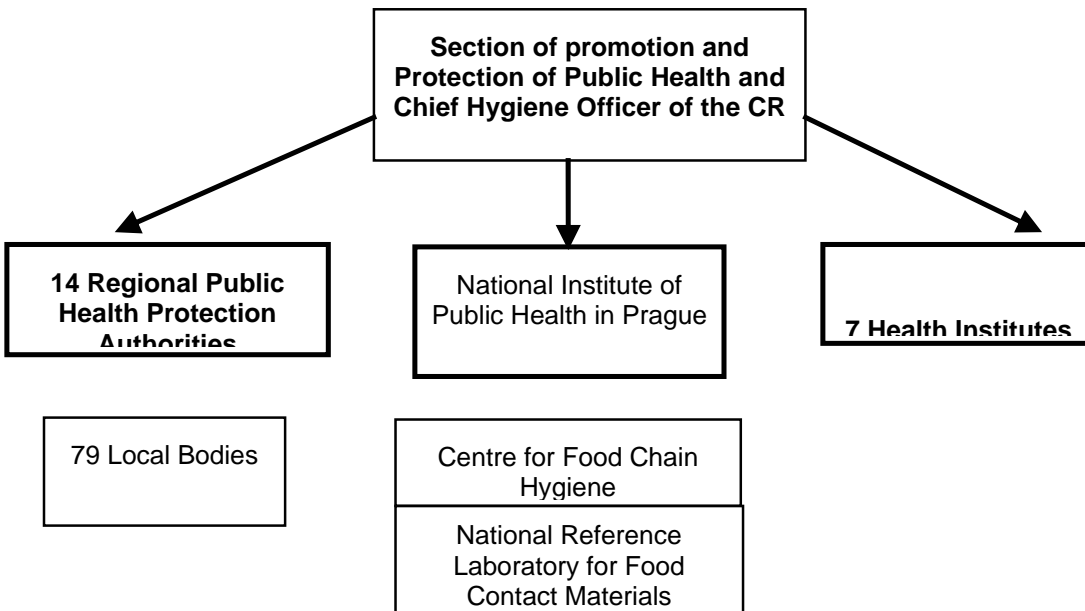
- The Food Safety, Environment, Development and Pollution Prevention Department (17410) is responsible for risk assessment and risk communication, for co-operation with EFSA, for the Food Safety Information Centre and for coordination of RASFF.
- The Food Production and Legislation Department (17420 - which has three sub-departments: Non-Animal Food Unit, Animal Food Unit and Control Division over the Market for Food. Department is responsible for drafting legislation (often with the Ministry of Health), for policy development, for risk management, for contact with international bodies such as Codex Alimentarius and the European Commission, for overseeing food production in the Czech Republic and for co-ordination of consumer protection within MA, co-ordinate activities of MA competent authorities performing official controls.
- Detached Department number 11020 (Central Commission for Animal Welfare), which reports directly to the Minister, recommends measures and coordinates animal welfare activities.

Structure of the Ministry of Health Authorities

The MoH within the framework of food chain is responsible for carrying out inspections in the field of communal catering and articles and materials intended to come into contact with food which it carries out through its 14 Regional Hygiene Stations. It is also responsible in relation to food production and consumption, for setting requirements for food and for elaboration of legal regulations in the field of

microbiology, additives, food supplements, enriching foods, labelling related to the nutrition, food of new type, improvers and flavourings, contaminants, pesticide residues and veterinary medicines in foods and the conditions for irradiating foods. It is generally responsible for evaluating the health risks stemming from exposure to hazardous agents from foods and from articles and materials intended to come in contact with food. Likewise the MoH is responsible for identifying sources of illness in relation to food and for this purpose it can use the Regional Hygiene Stations to carry out investigations in facilities other than communal catering, without regard to the competencies of the other supervisory authorities. It appraises the possible health risk when approving new types of food and genetically modified food. The Ministry of Health is engaged in monitoring the health status of the population in relation to the environment, the health consequences of human exposure to xenobiotic substances in the food chains and diet.

The Ministry of Health, in accordance with Article 30 of EP & C Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005, is responsible for processing the multi-annual national control programme for pesticide residues and for updating it annually. Apart from this it annually compiles a report on the results of official controls for pesticide residues at the national level. In the area of official controls of pesticide residues the controls are made in the area of public catering and in cases of investigating suspicions of damage to public health caused by pesticide residues.



Catering Services

In communal catering the inspection activity is set out in Act No. 258/2000 Coll., as amended, on Public Health Protection, in Decree No. 137/2004 Coll., as amended by the Decree 602/2006 Coll., on the hygiene requirements for catering services and the principles of operational and personal hygiene during serious epidemiological activities, in section 16 of the Act on foodstuffs and Decree No. 107/2005 Coll., on school catering., and in Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and Regulation 852/2004.

Materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

The subject of the inspection is monitoring the articles of common use to the extent set out by Act No. 258/2000 Coll., as amended, on Public Health Protection, by Act No. 356/2003 Coll. on Chemical Substances and Chemical Preparations and on amendments to some related acts, by Decree No. 38/2001 Coll., as amended, on hygiene requirements for products intended to come into contact with food and viands,

which compiles relevant directives of European Communities, by Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004 of the EP and the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and on repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC, and by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1895/2005 of 18 November 2005 on the restriction of use of certain epoxy derivatives in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2023/2006 of 22 December 2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 372/2007 of 2 April 2007 laying down transitional migration limits for plasticisers in gaskets in lids intended to come into contact with foods and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 282/2008 of 27 March 2008 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2023/2006.

The same attention is given to both foreign and domestic producers of materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, especially those from third countries.

Internal organisation and structure, in general

At the head of the MoH stands the Minister, to whom the Chief Hygiene Officer of the Czech Republic is subordinated.

The Chief Hygiene Officer of the CR is responsible to the Minister for the professional leadership of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Section**, which comprises of two divisions:

- ✓ *The Strategy and Management of Public Health Protection Department*
- ✓ *The Department of Public Health Protection where the area of food safety falls*

The MoH manages 14 Regional Public Health Authorities (RPHA) the locations of which correspond to the territorial administrative units at the regional level. Each RPHA has several subunits – local authorities (LA), the total number of which is 79. The organisational structure of RPHAs and LAs is analogous to the structure of the Department of Public Health Protection of the MoH. There are 366 inspectors to carry out the official controls. Of this 119 inspectors have university education and 247 inspectors have college education. The Information System for Nutritional Hygiene and the Register for Articles of Common Use (where materials intended for contact with food are registered) are available to the workers at the regional and local level. The MoH administers both systems, it assesses the information entered and uses it when determining inspection plans.

The National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) is a subsidised organisation of the Ministry of Health. NIPH is a scientific base for MoH and is entrusted with preparing the background scientific opinions and to prepare risk assessments for all the area linked to the public health.

Submitting reports and communications channels

Every year the regional hygiene stations of the MoH submit reports on their activities for the last year. These are then summarised and compiled into the form of a general report. The report contains, among other things, the staffing situation, the results of laboratory analyses on samples taken, the results of central and regional control activities, the training and education of employees, publication and lecturing activities, etc. These reports are based on data supplied by the individual territorial workplaces that are summarised at the regional level. The annual report on the activities in the area of hygiene of food and commonly used implements is then compiled at the central level.

For day-to-day communications standard communications means are used, i.e. electronic mail, postal mail, telephones, faxes.

In the framework of the methodological management meetings are arranged throughout the year with departmental heads for hygiene of food and implements of day-to-day usage from the regional hygiene stations and a written record is made. At the regional level meetings are arranged about once a month with departments for hygiene of food and implements of day-to-day usage, where information from the centre is presented supplemented by information on the situation in the given region. Written records are made of the meetings from the regional hygiene stations, which are then sent to all of the participating employees.

The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for articles and materials intended to come into contact with food

The NRL for articles and materials intended to come into contact with food was established at the State Health Institute and is the authority responsible for assessing the risk in this sector. The NRL was established

on the basis of Article 33 of EP & C Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The NRL cooperates with the Community reference laboratory in Ispra and with the other reference laboratories of the Member States taking part in comparative tests. At the national level it coordinates the laboratories of health institutes engaged in analysing articles and materials intended to come into contact with food and it ensures information is distributed between the individual laboratories and supervisory authorities of the Ministry of Health. Another of its main activities is introducing and developing analytical methods for determining chemical substances that could migrate into food from the articles and materials intended to come into contact with food. Apart from this it takes part in professional training of both the workers of the health institutes and the control workers carrying out the state supervision of health. The NRL is an accredited Czech Institution of Accreditation according to EN ISO 17 025 e.g. for determining the overall migration and specific migration into food simulants, further, in accordance with EN 1186 and EN 13130, it determines heavy metals and primary aromatic amines. The NRL regularly takes part in FAPAS inter-laboratory comparison tests and the comparison tests organised by the Community reference laboratories.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) integrated approach to food safety aims to ensure a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health within the EU through coherent farm-to-fork measures and adequate monitoring, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market and respecting its international obligations.

The implementation of this approach involves the development of legislative and other actions, to:

- ensure effective control systems and evaluate compliance with EU standards in the food safety and quality, animal health, animal welfare, animal nutrition and plant health sectors within the EU and in third countries in relation to their exports to the EU;
- manage international relations with third countries and international organisations concerning food safety, animal health, animal welfare, animal nutrition and plant health;
- manage relations with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and ensure science-based risk management.

Food safety activities cover the entire food production chain, ranging from animal health and plant health to the labelling of food products, as well as animal welfare.

At the European Commission level, food safety legislation and food safety controls fall under the responsibility of the **Directorate General for Health and Consumers**, DG SANCO (updated organisational chart annexed). Inside DG SANCO, there are three Directorates directly in charge of food safety matters. Two of these are responsible for food legislation, i.e. by managing existing legislation and by drafting and submitting to the European Parliament and Council the EU legislative proposals, most of which fall under the co-decision procedure.

The third Directorate in relation to food safety is the **Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)**. 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. As a Commission service, the FVO plays an important role in fulfilling this task, through its evaluations to:

- promote effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors;
- check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the EU and in third countries exporting to the EU;
- contribute to the development of EU policy in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors,
- inform stakeholders of the outcome of evaluations.

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 inspections in Member States and in third countries exporting to the EU.

Each year the FVO develops an inspection programme, identifying priority areas and countries for inspection. The findings of each inspection carried out under the programme are set out in an inspection report, together with conclusions and recommendations. The FVO makes recommendations to the country's

competent authority to deal with any shortcomings revealed during the inspections. The competent authority is requested to present an action plan to the FVO on how it intends 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.

The European Commission is provided with independent scientific advice and risk assessment on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food/feed safety by the **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)**. It is a separate legal entity, independent from the other EU institutions. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. EFSA's work covers all stages of food production and supply, from primary production to the safety of animal feed, right through to the supply of food to consumers. It collects information and analyses new scientific developments so it can identify and assess any potential risks to the food chain. It can carry out scientific assessment on any matter that may have a direct or indirect effect on the safety of the food supply, including matters relating to animal health, animal welfare and plant health. EFSA also gives scientific advice on non-food and feed GMOs as well as on nutrition in relation to EU legislation. It can communicate directly with the public on any issue within its area of responsibility.

The European Commission has developed a complete set of **country profiles, covering all 27 EU Member States**. A country profile is a compilation of key information for each Member State used by the Commission to support its monitoring and enforcement activities.

The country profile includes the five most recently published FVO inspection and audit reports, the Commission's assessment of the actions taken by the Member States in response to its audits and inspections, an overview of how control systems are organised in the Member States, based on information supplied by them, the Member States' production, consumption and trade of food, animals and plants and some links to Member States' websites.

Each country profile provides a horizontal, country-based overview which facilitates the conduct of audits and inspections, supports the systematic follow up of recommendations in FVO reports, helps to identify the main strengths and weaknesses of each national control system, assists the overall prioritisation of FVO audits, inspections and other monitoring activities and serves as a basic source of background information for stakeholders

The country profiles for the 27 EU Member States are available at the following address:

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

FINLAND

Finland has four-levels of administration for food safety system comprising ministries, central administrative level, regional level and local level.

For information on structure and organization of the Finnish official services responsible for food control, please see the updated country profile on the FVO website:

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

GEORGIA

The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia is Policy maker body in the field of Food Safety of Georgia. The National Service of Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection is a subordinated Body of the Ministry of Agriculture. The National Service is only authority who can control food in Georgia. The National Service has 59 regional divisions. In each division there is one hygienist, one veterinarian and one plant protection specialist.

According to Georgian legislation the National Service carries out human and animal food products safety, quality, sanitary, hygiene, veterinary, plantations protection and agrochemical measures supervision, monitoring and state control.

The service is financed from Georgian state budget within framework of assignments granted by Ministry of agriculture of Georgia.

POLAND

The organization of official controls on food safety and quality in Poland are conducted in compliance with European Union legislations.

The Republic of Poland has an organisational structure consisting of a central level, 16 Voivodship (regions), 379 Poviats (districts) and 2478 Gminas (municipalities).

The central level has overall responsibility for the control system for food and feed safety and quality, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. Most of the implementation and activities are carried out at Voivodship and/or Poviats levels, with a vertical chain of command between central, Voivodship and Poviats levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and The Ministry of Health are the two principle central authorities. They are responsible for the policy coordination, transposition of EU legislation in the national law and presenting the relevant legislation to the Parliament. Cooperation and information exchange between the ministries is governed by cooperation agreements, which are replicated at regional and district levels.

The ministries manage and supervise, within the scope of their competences, designated authorities carrying out official control appointed in the *Act of 25th August, 2006 on food safety and nutrition* (Official Journal 2006, No. 171, Item 1225): the Sanitary Inspection, the Veterinary Inspection and other authorities in the scope of relevant competences (the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection, the Plant Health and Seed Inspection, the Trade Inspection). The Act describes requirements and procedures essential for food safety assurance according to the *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* and defines the rules of co-operation between the relevant bodies.

Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the responsibilities for the law enforcement and control belongs to: the Veterinary Inspection, the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection, the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection. They are headed by the chief inspectors being Central Competent Authorities.

Additionally, The Department of Food Safety And Veterinary Matters in The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development carries out the tasks of surveillance, opinion-making and implementing the European Union rules regarding safety and hygiene of food of animal origin into national legislation, as well as drafting national legislation and international agreements in the abovementioned scope.

Within The Ministry of Health, the State Sanitary Inspection, under the Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for controls on food of plant origin and shares responsibility with the Veterinary Inspection on certain controls on the food of animal origin.

The Veterinary Inspection is headed by the Chief Veterinary Officer appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister of the Agriculture and Rural Development. The Veterinary Inspection operates under the *Act of 29 January, 2004 on Veterinary Inspection* (Official Journal 2004, No. 121, Item 842, with amendments).

The Veterinary Inspection is operationally divided into General Veterinary Inspectorate, 16 Voivodship Veterinary Inspectorates, 304 Poviats Veterinary Inspectorates and 10 Border Veterinary Inspectorates.

The tasks of the Veterinary Inspection include prevention of and fight against animal diseases and supervision of health aspects of foodstuffs of animal origin, and in particular:

1. examination of slaughtered animals and their meat, meat of game and other animals intended for human consumption,
2. border veterinary control,
3. supervision of safety of animal origin foodstuffs, including veterinary conditions of production, processing, storing, transporting and in limited scope the retail sale,
4. supervision of animals and animal origin products trade,
5. supervision of producing, marketing and using of feedingstuffs,
6. supervision of usage of pharmaceuticals and medical substances intended for animals,
7. control of the occurrences of chemical and biological, medicinal and radiation contamination residue in animal tissue, foodstuffs of animal origin and feedingstuffs,

8. supervision of health of animals intended for breeding and of health and quality aspects of biological material,
9. supervision of compliance with regulations on animal welfare,
10. control of compliance with rules for animal identification and registration, diagnostic laboratory research conducted by veterinary hygiene institutions.

The national contact sub-point for the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is located in the Main Veterinary Inspectorate.

Realization of the above mentioned activities is assured by analytical activities carried by Veterinary Inspection Laboratories. Analyses of food and feed raw materials and products are conducted in 16 official Regional Control Laboratories which are supervised by National Reference Laboratory i.e. National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy. Methods of analyses used by Veterinary Laboratories comply with the EU methods. Determination of methods of analyses and sampling methods in legal acts which are in force, assures that control procedures in each body of the Inspection are uniform. All Inspection's laboratories are accredited by PCA (Polish Centre for Accreditation) according to PN-EN ISO/IEC 17025.

The State Plant Health and Seed Inspection operates under the *Act on Plant Health of 18th December, 2003* (Official Journal 2004 No. 11, Item 94) and the *Act on Seeds of 26th June, 2003* (Official Journal 2003 No. 137, Item 1299). The Plant Health and Seed Inspection is managed by the Chief Inspector appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister of the Agriculture and Rural Development. At regional level, there are 16 Voivodship Inspectorates, 269 field units and 12 border inspection points.

The main objectives of the Plant Health and Seed Inspection are control of plant health and the marketing and use of pesticides, control of conditions of plants and plant products storage, control on existence and spreading of pests and in particular:

1. evaluation of how plants are threatened by pests,
2. notifying plant protection authorities in exporting countries of holding or destroying sick plants, plant products or objects,
3. examination of samples of plants, plant products, soil and grounds to state the presence or the absence of pest organisms.

Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection started its activity on 1 January 2003 under the *Act of December 21, 2000 on Commercial Quality of Agricultural and Food Products* (Official Journal 2005, No. 187, it. 1577). It was created on the basis of two inspection bodies: *Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection /CIS/* and *Inspection for Purchasing and Processing of Agricultural Products /ISiPAR/*.

The Inspection is responsible to the Minister competent for agricultural markets.

The Inspection is managed by the Chief Inspector (appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister of the Agriculture and Rural Development), and 16 Voivodship Inspectors of Agricultural and Food Quality.

The Chief Inspector coordinates and supervises all activities of the Inspection with the support of the Main Inspectorate.

Tasks of the Inspection are as follows:

1. Supervision of commercial quality of agricultural and food products, in particular:
 - commercial quality control of agricultural and food products during production and marketing, including exported agricultural and food products,
 - commercial quality control of imported agricultural and food products (the list of imported agricultural and food products and their minimum quantities subjected to commercial quality control is set by the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Official Journal 2002 No. 230, item 1933 with further amendments),
 - issuing certificates on commercial quality of agricultural and food products.
2. Inspection of agricultural and food products labelled, with registered protected geographical indications, protected designations of origin or certificates of specific character.
3. Inspection of agricultural and food products storage and transport conditions.

4. Co-operation with paying agencies (Agricultural Market Agency, Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture) in the scope of the Common Agricultural Policy.
5. Gathering and processing information on agricultural market situation.
6. Co-operation with other inspections bodies (Veterinary Inspection, Sanitary Inspection, Trade Inspection, State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service), customs offices and local governmental units.
7. Co-operation with or participation in international organisations working in the area of commercial quality and international marketing of agricultural and food products (**FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission - acting as Codex Contact Point for Poland**, United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe - acting as the Polish Secretariat for co-operation with Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – cooperation within the OECD Scheme on Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables).
8. Conducting trainings in the scope of provisions and commercial quality requirements, setting quality classes and methods of analyses of agricultural and food products.
9. Co-operation with foreign official inspection services on commercial quality of agricultural and food products.

Additionally, the Inspection has competences for carrying out control in the following areas: fruit and vegetables market and hop market, genetically modified organisms (GMO), wine products, organic farming, fertilisers and fertilisation, store houses and surplus stocks of agricultural products.

Proper realization of the abovementioned activities is assured by analytical activities carried by Inspection's laboratories. Analyses of agricultural and food products are conducted in 8 official Inspections' laboratories – Central Laboratory and 7 specialized laboratories at the national level in the structure of the Main Inspectorate.

Methods of analyses used by our laboratories comply with the EU methods. Determination of methods of analyses and sampling methods in legal acts which are in force, assures that control procedures in each body of the Inspection are uniformed.

All Inspection's laboratories are accredited by PCA (Polish Centre for Accreditation) according to PN-EN ISO/IEC 17025. The accreditation scope covers 553 selected analytical, instrumental and microbiological methods related to certain groups of products such as: milk and milk products, juices and their concentrates, beer, cereals and cereal products, oils and vegetable fats, vegetable products, drinks and mineral waters.

To uphold high quality level on every stage of performing tasks, according to the PN-EN ISO 9001:2008 standard, quality management system has been implemented in the Inspection.

The Inspection is the first official food control body in Poland which in 2005 gained conformity certificate on the ISO 9001:2000 standard. In 2010, the British Standards Institution, Management Systems (CEMA) - certification body - confirmed that quality management system implemented in the Inspection fulfils requirements set by the ISO 9001:2008 standard by issuing the Quality Management System Certificate.

State Sanitary Inspection. The tasks, the scope of activity and the organisation of the Sanitary Inspection are set out in the *Act on State Sanitary Inspection of 14th March 1985* (Official Journal 2006, No. 122, Item 851, with amendments).

The State Sanitary Inspection (SSI) carries out public health tasks by supervising disease control, food and nutrition safety, environmental hygiene, health promotion and other issues related to public health. In particular it is responsible for fulfilling tasks as follows: official control of foodstuffs hygiene, pesticide residues in food, contaminants, import of food of non-animal origin, materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, food additives, GMO in food, food supplements and novel food, fortified food, food for special nutritional purposes, and nutrition and health claims. Moreover the SSI provides the national contact point for the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) established according to the EC General Food Law to exchange information with the European Commission.

The Inspection is managed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister of Health. The activities mentioned above are discharged at regional level by 16 Voivodship

Sanitary and Epidemiological Stations, 318 Poviats Sanitary and Epidemiological Stations and 10 Border Sanitary and Epidemiological Stations.

The official controls of foodstuffs are conducted under regulation 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.

Moreover, a separate authority - **The Trade Inspection** is responsible to the President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection. The Trade Inspection operates mainly under the *Act on the Trade Inspection of 15th December 2000* (Official Journal 2009, No. 151, Item 1219).

The Trade Inspection structural consists of 16 Voivodeship Inspectorates of Trade Inspection and 34 of their sub-regional units. President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection supervises and monitors the Voivodeship Inspectorates.

In relation to food the Trade Inspection carries out:

1. control of products in retail food trade taking into account the labelling and misleading information to consumer,
2. control of legal compliance and reliability of operators engaged in business activities in the area of production, trade and services,
3. mediation in disputes between consumers and operators to protect consumer interests and rights,
4. consumer counselling.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The structure and organization of official services responsible for food control remain unchanged in comparison with an information set out in the questionnaire for the 26th session of CCEURO. The Slovak Republic (SR) as a member state of the European Union is within integrated approach to food safety covering the entire food chain. At the European Commission level, the Food and Veterinary Office carries out inspections and audits in Member States to ensure effective control systems and to evaluate compliance with EU standards within the EU.

The compilation key information how food control system in the SR is organised and other relevant facts relating to FVO audits and inspections in the SR can be found on the FVO's Web Page http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm.

SWEDEN

For an overview on how the control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health are organized in Sweden, please see the updated country profile on the FVO website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/controlsystems_en.cfm?co_id=SE

TADJIKISTAN

Safety of foodstuffs is mainly under responsibility of three organizations: Agency for standardization, certification, metrology and trade inspection (Tojikstandard), State Sanitary and Veterinary Service and State Service on Phitosanitary and Plants Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture (SSVI and SSPPQ), State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service of the Ministry of Health (SSESS).

TOJIKSTANDARD:

Structure and organization in National level:

Department on state control over following standard's requirements and quality products/goods.

Department on metrology and unification of measurements and accreditation

Department on Certification of products /goods

Department on certification of performances and service

Department on Human Resources (HR) and legislation afire

Management:

Central Administration:

Center on standardization, metrology, certification and trade inspection of Khatlon , Sogd, Badacshan regions and Kuliab city.

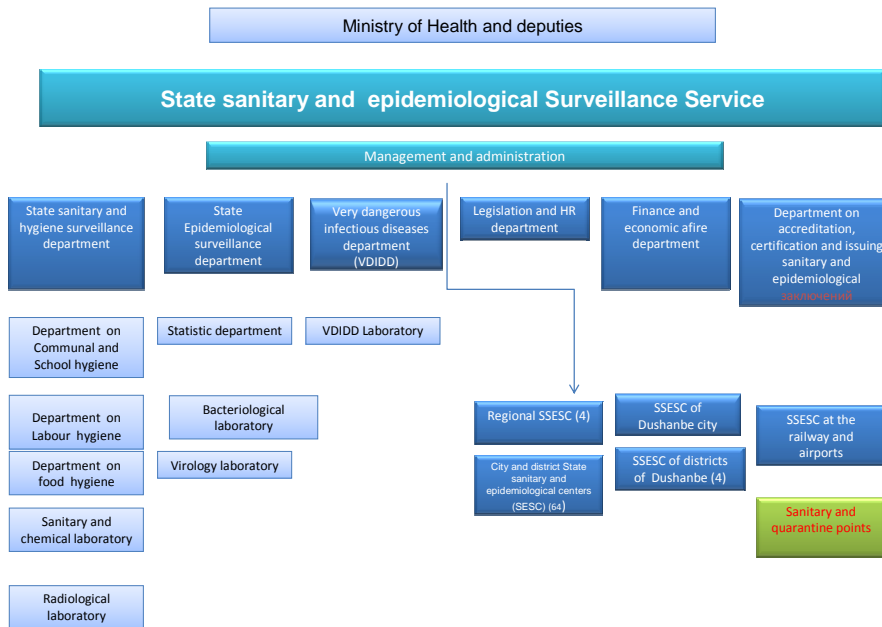
The trade inspection:

Inspection on testing, certification, and control of cotton and silk products

Regional and district testing centers

SSESS

Structure and organization:



SSVS and SSPPO

SSVS

Administration and management:

Central office:

Epizootological Surveillance department

Inspection department

Finance and economic department

Department of sanitary and veterinary surveillance

Juridical and HR department

Structure

Central office

Center of Veterinary stuff surveillance

State veterinary surveillance at the state border and transport department

State veterinary surveillance at the state of regions and districts

The special state quarantine police of the Ministry of internal affairs.

SSPPQ

Administration and management:

Central office:

Managers

Department on Phitosanitary control and Plants Quarantine
Juridical and HR department
Finance and economic department

Structure and Organization:

Department on Phitosanitary control and Plants Quarantine in regions, Dushanbe and districts.

Fumigation group at national level and regions

The phitosanitary and Plants quarantine at the state border

Phytopsanitary and Plants Quarantine points at airports, railway and automobile stations, terminals and post offices.

TURKEY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) is responsible for developing policy, legislation and enforcement measures for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in Turkey. MARA consists of 5 General Directorates at the central level, 81 Provincial Agricultural Directorates (PADs) at the regional level (with 4331 food inspectors and assistants) and 846 District Directorates (DDs). Most implementation and enforcement activities are carried out at provincial and district level, with a vertical chain of command between the two. The General Directorate of Protection and Control (GDPC) within MARA is the main executive unit responsible for the coordination of controls carried out by PADs. The GDPC is also the contact point for international organizations in these areas. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) have some limited responsibilities in relation to food safety and work permits respectively.

(ii) Legislation and regulations on food safety and quality

ARMENIA

1. **Law on Food Safety** (HO-193-N, 27.11.2006) regulates relations with respect to the safety at stages of import, export, manufacture, processing, packaging, labeling, transport, storage and placing on the market of food, materials in contact with food and food additives, as well as at stages of trading and public catering.
2. **Law on Veterinary Medicine** (HO-202-N, 24.10.05) regulates relationships in the field of veterinary between state authorized body responsible for veterinary and physical and legal entities acting on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
3. **Law on Phytosanitary** (HO-209-N, 27.11.06) regulates relationships in the field of phytosanitary between state authorized body of the Republic of Armenia and physical and legal entities acting on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
4. **Law on Trade and Services** (HO-134-N, 24.11.2004) regulates state management basis for trade, catering and personal services on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, powers of state management and local self-government bodies in these fields. The Law regulates implementation of the activities in trade and services, as well as ensures protection of consumers' rights.
5. **Law on Ensuring Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety of the Population** (HO-43, 12.12.1992) defines legal, economic and organizational basis for ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population. It describes general requirements for production, transportation, storage and marketing for foodstuffs and primary production.
6. **Law on Protection of Consumers Rights** (HO-197, 26.06.2001) regulates relationship between consumers and producers (implementing agents, sellers) arisen during sale of products (implementation of works, provision of services). It defines consumers' rights for acquiring safety products of due quality, for receiving true information on products (works, services) and producers (implementing agents, sellers). The Law defines state and public protection of consumers' rights, as well as mechanisms for implementation of those rights.
7. **Law on Standardization** (HO-81-N, 26.05.2004) provides legal basis for the system of technical regulations and standards in Armenia.
8. **Law on Conformity Assessment** (HO-82-N, 26.05.2004) regulates conformity assessment and accreditation fields.

9. State control over food safety is implemented according to the **Law on Organizing and Implementing Check-ups in the Republic of Armenia** (HO-60, 17.05.2000).
10. **Law on Animal Feed** (HO-118-N, 09.06.2008) regulates relations with respect to import, export, production, storage, transportation, utilization, sale, labelling and packaging of animal feed, materials in contact with feed and feed additives.
11. RA Government Decree “On establishment of procedures of veterinary-sanitary expertise for fish and aqua-animals” No. 2319-N, 29.12.2005
12. RA Government Decree “On establishment of procedures of expertise for food and food additives” No. 598-N, 19.04.2007
13. RA Government Decree “On establishment of procedures of veterinary-sanitary expertise for milk” No. 2305-N, 29.12.2005
14. RA Government Decree “On establishment of procedures of veterinary-sanitary expertise for honey” No. 1416-N, 05.10.2006
15. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for meat and meat products” No. 1560-N, 19.10.2006
16. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for the Armenian brandies and the Armenian brandy spirits” No. 954-N, 26.05.2006 (amended on 28.12.2006, No. 1909-N Gov. Decree)
17. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for fresh fruits and vegetables” No. 1913-N, 21.12.2006
18. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on requirements for wheat, its production, storage, processing and re-processing” No. 22-N, 11.01.2007
19. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for beer and its production” No. 44-N, 11.01.2007
20. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on requirements for milk, dairy products and their production” No. 1925-N, 21.12.2006
21. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for food providing services” No. 2313-N, 22.12.2005
22. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on requirements for juices and juice products” No. 1602-N, 13.12.2007
23. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for polymeric materials and plastics manufactured for contact with food” No. 679-N, 25.05.2005
24. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on requirements for marking information in the Armenian language for materials in contact with food” No. 1282-N, 25.10.2007
25. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on requirements for bottled mineral water” No. 491-N, 30.04.2009
26. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation on symbols and marks used for identification of the given food consignment” No. 1392-N, 28.09.2006
27. RA Government Decree “On approval of technical regulation for clayware” No. 1750-N, 16.11.2006
28. RA Government Decree “On approval of the list of products subject to mandatory certification in the Republic of Armenia” No. 1149-N, 29.07.2004
29. RA Government Decree “On approval of requirements for marking information in the Armenian language for food and food additives imported into the Republic of Armenia” No. 1838-N, 21.12.2006
30. RA Government Decree “On establishment of MRLs of pesticides and nitrates in animal and plant origin food” No. 1904-N, 14.12.2006
31. RA Government Decree “On establishment of MRLs of veterinary drugs in animal origin food” No. 1904-N, 14.12.2006
32. RA Government Decree “On approval of the list of prohibited food additives” No. 504-N, 26.04.2007
33. RA Government Decree “On establishment of timetable for HACCP introduction by products” No. 531-N, 03.05.2007
34. RA Government Decree “On establishment of procedures for re-processing and destroy of dangerous food, dangerous materials in contact with food and dangerous food additives” No. 824-N, 12.07.2007
35. RA Minister of Health Orders on Sanitary Rules and Hygienic Norms, which establish sanitary-hygienic requirements for different types of food products

CROATIA

The Food Act (Official Gazette 46/2007) is the basic framework law in Croatia on food safety. It is harmonised with Regulation (EC) No. 178/02 and covers a general overview and requirements on: food and

feed safety; the obligations of food and feed business operators; official control systems; laboratory operations; crisis and emergency situation management; the rapid alert system; hygiene of food and feed; general food and feed quality and labelling requirements; and general requirements for food and feed made from or containing genetically modified organisms.

In addition to the Food Act, the following are the other main legislative acts relating to food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health:

- Sanitary Inspection Act (OG 113/08, 88/2010);
- Veterinary Act (OG 41/07);
- Infections Disease Protection Act (OG 79/07);
- Plant Health Act (OG 75/05);
- Plant Protection Product Act (OG 70/05);
- Animal Protection Act (OG 135/06);

Veterinary Medicinal Products Act (OG 84/08)

CZECH REPUBLIC

As a member state of the EU we are obliged to fulfill requirements of the EU law and the list of national legislation and regulations on food safety and quality is possible to find on the Ministry of Agriculture websites <http://eagri.cz/public/eagri/potravinny/legislativa/>

National regulation of Ministry of Health :

- Act No 258/2000 Coll., on public health protection and on amendments of certain relevant Acts, as amended
- Decree No 38/2001 Coll., on hygiene requirements on products intended for contacts with food, as amended,

Decree No 137/2004 Coll., on hygiene requirements on catering services and on principles of personal and operating hygiene at epidemiological hazardous activities, as amended.

EUROPEAN UNION

At the 26th CCEURO, the EU already gave an overview on the EU basic legislation on food safety. More information, updated EU legislation in different areas as well as on proposals currently under consideration can be found in SANCO's Website:

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

For example on food additives and on pesticide residues, the European Union has adopted a package of legislative texts which increase very much the level of harmonisation between EU Member States

The Food information proposal is currently engaged in the co-decision process. This is a very comprehensive piece of legislation covering all aspects of food labelling including nutrition labelling ensuring that a product's essential nutritional information will be provided on its packaging in a legible and comprehensible manner thus improving the EU's food labelling rules.

FINLAND

Current Finnish Food Act entered into force on 1 March 2006. The Food Act covers issues earlier covered by the Food Act, by the Act on Food Hygiene of Foodstuffs of Animal Origin and by parts of the Health Protection Act. The Food Act applies to food, to conditions in which food is handled and to food business operators and food control at all stages in the production, processing and distribution of food.

GEORGIA

New Georgian Law of Food Safety and Quality was adopted in 2005. The Basis of the law was Regulation (EC) 852/2004 on Hygiene of Foodstuffs.

POLAND

The area of food safety and quality is covered by the provisions of:

- ♦ the Act of 25th August, 2006 on food safety and nutrition (OJ 2010, No. 136, Item 914) which is harmonized with the EU legislation. There are also executive regulations to this Act which specify the requirements on the safety of foodstuffs.
- ♦ the Act of 21st December 2000 on the agricultural and food products quality (OJ 2008, No 214, Item 1346, with amendments)
- ♦ The Act of 16th December 2005 on products of animal origin (OJ 2006, No. 17, Item 127, with amendments)
- ♦ The Act of 11 March 2004 on animal health care and animal contagious diseases control (OJ 2008, No. 213, Item 1342, with amendments)
- ♦ The Act of 10th December 2003 on veterinary inspection in trade (OJ 2004, No. 16, Item 145, with amendments)
- ♦ The Act of 27th August 2003 on veterinary border inspection (OJ 2003, No. 165, Item 1590, with amendments)
- ♦ The Act of 29th January 2004 on veterinary inspection (OJ 2010, No. 112, Item 744, with amendments)

and adequate executive acts

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Member states of the EU has obligatory implemented *acquis communautaire*. Regulations and Decision of EU legislation are directly applied in the SR;

European Directives and national requirements are transposed by national legislation, which is available on the relevant competent authorities' web sites (see country profile mentioned above) and on the website: [http://www.zbierka.sk.](http://www.zbierka.sk;);

New act e.g.:

Act 114 of 10 March 2010 amending and supplementing Act of the Slovak Republic on foodstuff (Act No. 152/1995 amended by the Act No 195 /2007) Coll.

Legislation and regulations of EU are available on the <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

SWEDEN

This question concerns EU harmonized issues.

TADJIKISTAN

- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on providing sanitary and epidemiological security for the population No 49 of December 2003 (is under review)
- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on quality and safety of food No 54 of December 2002
- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on veterinary matters No 73 of December 2003 (is under review)
- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Iodised Salt No 264 of May 2007
- Decree of the Republic of Tajikistan on Food safety programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for period till 2015 No72 of February 2009
- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on food quality and safety No 176 of March 2006 and No 305 of July 2007
- The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Protection consumer rights No 72 of January 2004

- law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Certification of products/goods and services No 313 of January 1996
- law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Standardization No 333 of January 1996 (is under review)

TURKEY

The relevant duties and organisation of MARA are laid down in: Decree Law no. 441; the Animal Health Control Law no. 3285; Feed Law no.1734; Food Law no. 5179; Fisheries Law no. 1380; and Plant Protection and Quarantine Law no. 6968.

(iii) establishment of equivalence and/or other trade facilitation agreements with other governments

ARMENIA

Armenia is WTO Member since 5 February 2003.

Armenia has Free Trade Regimes with Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Armenia has Most-Favoured-Nation Trade Regimes with Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, EU, Iran, India, Hungary, Lebanon, Poland, Romania, Syria, Switzerland, Vietnam and USA.

Under the terms of free trade agreements, tariff exemptions are extended to goods traded between Armenia and Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. Excise taxes are charged at various rates on the import or production of some goods, including alcohol and tobacco.

CROATIA

Croatia have no establishment of equivalence and/or other trade facilitation agreements with other governments

CZECH REPUBLIC

CAFIA, as an organizational part of the government, has no agreements with other governments. State Veterinary Administration shall conclude agreements with certain third countries in matters related to market with products of animal origin. Import certificates for most countries on these types of products have been harmonized with the EU. Non harmonized parts are mostly based on the Codex Alimentarius.

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU has already signed Agreements with: Andorra, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Chile, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Mexico and San Marino.

Since the last session of CCEURO the EU has not concluded any new trade Agreement on SPS issues but is constantly improving the implementation of the existing agreements. At present the EU is negotiating trade Agreements with the following countries/regions: India, South Korea, ASEAN, Andean Community and Central America.

Economic Partnership Agreements are also currently being negotiated with African countries.

GEORGIA

Most of trade partners are members of WTO, so trade relations proceeds within the Most Favored Nations (MFN) regime. The regime considers law border tariffs for WTO members. Georgia has MFN with all WTO members. Besides, Georgia has Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) system with EU, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Japan and Turkey.

POLAND

1. This task is mostly realised by the co-operation within the European Community. At the governmental level, Polish officials have regular contact with their colleagues from other EU Member States.

They meet within various working groups of the Council of the EU as well as European Commission committees in Brussels where issues concerning food legislation and food trade are discussed and developed.

2. This objective is also fulfilled by co-operation of Poland with other food-relevant international organisations such as:

- ♦ Codex Alimentarius Commission which elaborates and develops a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations related to food, food production and food safety aimed at protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade,
- ♦ UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Working Party for Agricultural Standards which develop global agricultural quality standards to facilitate international trade. The standards encourage high-quality production, improve profitability and protect consumer interests. UNECE standards cover a wide spectrum of agricultural products: fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce, seed potatoes, meat, cut flowers, eggs and egg products and they are used internationally by governments, producers, traders, importers, exporters and international organizations,
- ♦ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – co-operation through the OECD Scheme on Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables facilitates the adaptation of quality standards to present production, trade and marketing conditions, promotes uniform quality control procedures and disseminates quality assurance guidelines.
- ♦ International Standard Organisation (ISO). ISO mission is to elaborate globally and market-relevant international standards covering product specifications, services, test methods, conformity assessment, management and organizational practices.
- ♦ WTO – Poland is a signatory both of SPS Agreement and TBT agreement.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The SR has not any other agreements than those of treated through the European Union – EU harmonized issues.

SWEDEN

This question concerns EU harmonized issues.

TADJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is the member of EurASEC and monitors the developments regarding the Customs Union of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. There are no concrete dates or actions set in respect of either EurASEC or the Customs Union.

In addition there are several bi-lateral agreements including trade facilitation:

- Agreement on legal collaboration on citizenship, trade and crime between the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkey. 14.12.1196. №370.№24\96. M-396
- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Islamic Republic of Iran on avoiding bi-lateral taxation and prevention of tax avoiding 15.05.97c. №437.№10\97c.M-133
- Agreement on general requirements and mechanisms for support of industry institution's cooperation and state sectors of Commonwealth states (CIS) 13.12.97. №534. №23-24\97c.M-367.
- Agreement on Custom Regulation and Integral Economical Area 14.05.99. №776.№5\99. M-87.
- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine on avoiding bi-lateral taxation and prevention of tax avoiding . 23.04.03.№831. №4\03. M-222.
- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Germany on avoiding bi-lateral taxation and prevention of tax avoiding 15.10.03. №928.№9-10\03. M-491.
- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Armenia on avoiding bi-lateral taxation and prevention of tax avoiding .
5.12.05. №199.№12\05.M-724
- Agreement on establishment of Free Economic Area of May 15th 1994 and protocol on inclusion of amendments to the Agreement 11.12.99. №805.№6\99. M-157

- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Kirgizstan on principles of indirect taxation during trade (works, services) 11.12.99. №806.№6\99. M-158
- Agreement of the Republic of Tajikistan on establishment of EuroAsian economic unite-EuroASEC 6.03.01. №262.№3\01. M-98.
- Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Moldova on avoiding bi-lateral taxation and prevention of tax avoiding

(iv) activities to increase awareness on food safety and quality among the consumers and other specified groups

ARMENIA

There are three NGOs in Armenia dealing with consumers' rights protection, including issues related to food safety.

One NGO has a web page (www.consumer.am), where consumers can find publications, legislation, necessary information on food safety and other related issues.

NGOs publish different guides, leaflets, posters, etc., as well as they participate in the process of drafting relevant legislation.

There is a hot line in operation, as well as legal expert available for consumer consultations.

NGOs make social advertising on TV.

Food Safety and Veterinary State Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture together with one NGO implements food safety monitoring in markets, as well as in buffets and dining-rooms of schools and kindergartens.

Food Safety and Veterinary State Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture together with one NGO organizes training for staff of buffets and dining-rooms of schools and kindergartens.

CROATIA

Educate animal owners on their obligations and rights;

IMPROVING OF THE CAPACITY OF THE PERSONNEL

Training

In addition to general training intended for all state administration staff, specialised training in individual fields is also offered by the Ministry both to state administration staff and to the business community. Special attention is given to the training of persons carrying out official controls, to familiarise them with changes in legislation. The creation of a manual to facilitate and standardise the work of inspection services is planned.

In the field of animal health, training will continue to be offered to all operators participating in the system of veterinary activities, particularly to official veterinarians. Training will focus on the implementation of legislation, and of animal health control programmes to be further aligned with the *acquis*, on the epidemiological situation in the field, on the application of contingency plans and on achieving and maintaining the granted animal health status.

Training is targeted at veterinary inspectors, official and authorised veterinarians and farmers, animal's transporters, and slaughterhouse staff coming into contact with animals.

As regards imports, special attention is paid to provide trainings for border veterinary inspectors.

Special attention is given to training for the implementation of the legislation which transposed the EU Hygiene Package rules.

In addition to ongoing education in the field of hygiene, sanitary inspection staff has been provided training concerning the composition and labelling of food for special dietary uses, the auditing of self-inspection systems in catering and institutional kitchens.

In the forthcoming period, it is planned to organise training in the following fields: sampling methods with special attention being given to contaminants, labelling and claims made on food, the use of additives, the composition and labelling of food supplements, and auditing techniques.

Expert and scientific support in the field of food safety and the veterinary field is provided by several specialised institutions, primarily the CVI, CNIPH and the Croatian Food Agency (CFA).

The representatives of the Sanitary Inspection Directorate of the MHSW regularly participate as lecturers at meetings organised by food business operators where they give the latest information on the legislation and its implementation.

Work has been done on developing guides to facilitate the application of legislative provisions (good manufacturing practice, good breeding practice, good hygiene practice, HACCP).

A guide for good hygiene practice and implementation of the HACCP in institutional kitchens is being developed.

The co-ordination of education in the area of food safety is entrusted to the Department for Co-ordination in the field of Food Safety within the Directorate for Food Safety and Quality.

CZECH REPUBLIC

There is the project of the Ministry of Agriculture calling itself the Food Safety Information Center in the Czech Republic. Its mission is to provide scientifically verified, accurate and reliable information to experts as well as all other groups of consumers and thus reinforce the citizen confidence in the public information system and thereby make the general public familiar with present food and feed safety and topical information. The Information Center's activities include maintenance of Ministry of Agriculture Web Site, library and database services, processing and publishing of information, educational events (food safety problems seminars for experts, students, stakeholders and all other interested people), publishing activity, advisory system, awareness raising and promotion. A deepening of education of the consumers and other specific groups in the field of food safety is an important part of the work of the Food Safety Information Center.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission's Health and Consumers Directorate General attaches a high priority to the effective communication of information and advice on health, food safety and consumer issues to European citizens.

In 2010 activities have continued, for example several factsheets on new legislation and a "veterinary week" is now organised every year with one of its aims to raise awareness of the link between animal health and human health.

In addition, a monthly magazine is published online – "Health and Consumer Voice". Furthermore, a wealth of information is available on the Commission's Health and Consumers website, which is constantly updated to reflect the latest news, policy developments and information for citizens.

FINLAND

The Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira is responsible for managing information provisions, communication about risks and consumer information nationally. Improvement of the production of information has been included in the annual service level agreement concluded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Evira. Publications and electronic information systems have been improved from the consumers and producers point of view. In 2009 Evira organised a project on consumers' ability to take advantage of the food information. This project was carried out in cooperation with consumer and other relevant organisations. Improvement of information related to foodstuffs is also one of the objectives in the Finnish Consumer Policy Programme for the Years 2008-2011.

GEORGIA

The National Service of Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection systematically provides relevant information about food safety and quality for consumers by TV or newspaper.

Besides, the National Service has close relationship with Consumer's Federation of Georgia and works with them to increase awareness of consumers.

POLAND

These activities are:

- ◆ Extensive training of food business operators at primary production stage level;
- ◆ Developing communication network between Codex Contact Point and producers organizations;
- ◆ Translation into Polish of selected Codex standards and guidelines has started in 2010 (CCP is in course of negotiations with FAO on intellectual properties rights aspects).
- ◆ In May 2010 Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection organised the national conference on the role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in protecting food safety and quality, as well as ensuring fair practices in the food trade. Over 80 representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, national food inspections, research institutes and universities, food producers associations and consumers organisations took part in the conference. The meeting was aimed at presenting CAC works, especially in scope of the rules of national cooperation with CAC, strengthening the collaboration of the CCP for Poland with national experts and establishing new contacts for widening opinion making process in national codex works. The subjects of the conference were:
 - tasks, procedures and role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
 - practical aspects of the cooperation with Codex Contact Point for Poland and the CCP for Poland activities
 - the role of CAC in SPS Agreement and ensuring fair practices in the food trade
 - hazard and risk analysis in food chain in the light of CAC documents
 - cross-sectional overview of issues discussed by the Codex Committee for Food Labelling

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In generally there are no changes in competence of state authorities in the field of consumer protection. Ministry of Economy still covers consumer politics in the SR, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health practise the consumer politics in area of its own competence.

Enhancement of consumers' confidence to foods through communication with public remains one of the strategic goal of the Slovak Republic.

In 2010 Association for the Protection of consumer rights in Poprad joined to consumer associations that had earlier expressed their interest to cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (MoEARD) in the area of food safety and consumer awareness on the subject (see part B 3 i)). Association together with its professional integral part - OMBUDSPOT deals with

the alternative out of court solutions of consumer disputes. The cooperation with other non-governmental organization – Center for sustainable alternatives begins to develop.

Communication with Slovak professional producers' associations is maintained too.“

MoEARD regularly provides these associations with all information about important activities as well as drafted and approved documents at the national and international level by emails, its website and seminars. In some cases the representatives of associations are invited to discuss on the current issues, to cooperate in legislation development or encouraged to comment them.

Food Safety and Nutrition Department participated in several seminars and conferences with contributions on food safety and consumer protection topics:

In October 2009, under the auspices of the MA, the Food Consumer Association arranged the Conference on food safety, quality and official control status.

Conference „Hygiena Alimentorum“ –information about Codex activities related Standard for milk and milk products settings – February 2010

Seminar with consumer association on building a extrajudicial consumer centres network – support position from MoAERD to this project– January 2010

MoAERD pre-planned a meeting with all consumer associations for this year. The actual status and existing cooperation will be analyzed and new proposals for collaboration will be discussed.

Press releases and information on web sites of MoAERD, Ministry of Health and competent authorities for official food controls (State Veterinary and Food Administration of the SR - SVFA, Public Health Authority of the SR, Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture) contribute to consumer information.

Information for consumers are published on web site of MoAERD in file food safety/information for consumers – some examples: INFOSAN information Basic steps to improve safety of street-vended food, Food additives, Information regarding plastics used as food contact materials....

Department of Food Safety and Nutrition as the European Food Safety Authority's national contact point publishes EFSA's press releases on food safety (EFSA was created as an independent source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain).

During the International Agricultural and Foodstuffs Fair Agrokomplex (Slovakia, Nitra 2010) an information poster about Codex Alimentarius and National Codex Contact Point encouraging for cooperation were presented. Information leaflets “What is true about additives in food” and “Nutrition = a factor in your health” were given available to consumers during the same event and were distributed to Slovak consumer associations too.

In 2009 the MoAERD funded an survey on consumer awareness of healthy nutrition organised and provided by Consumer Institute. Summaries of the survey will be published in the magazine „Consumer” in the near future.

There are Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications published on web site of the SVFA – National contact point SR for RASFF. In 2009 a link for direct access to on-line database RASFF was created on SVFA web site. The URL address spotrebitel@svssr.sk is available for questions and suggestions from consumers from the area of food safety.

SWEDEN

Sweden attaches a high priority to consumer issues. Regular consultations are held with Swedish consumer organizations and the webpage of the National Food Authority has special emphasis on information to the consumers and other specified groups such as food business operators, importers and persons suffering from allergies.

TADJIKISTAN

In accordance with Article 4, item 2 of the Law on Normative Legal Acts No. 56 of 25 February 2009, the draft of the normative legal act may be published for the public review in the mass media, including the presentation at the website of the responsible lawmaking subject. Any interested person has the right to get acquainted with the content of such a draft. Any suggestions and remarks received are subject to review by the responsible lawmaking subject during the process of finalization of the draft.

Also there are several magazines where publication on food safety are and can be published. Namely: Standard and Quality, Public Health of Tajikistan, Veterinary. There are also free access to mass media such as TV, Radio and newspapers where Laws and other food safety related documents, articles and issues could be promulgated and discussed.

TURKEY

Trainings are given.

(v) any other relevant information

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

MoEARD, Department of Food Safety and Nutrition except its responsibility for coordination of CA activities is also appointed the Slovak Republic's national Focal Point on technical and scientific matters for the European Food Safety Authority, National Focal Point for INFOSAN as well as the National Contact Point for Genetically modified food and feed.

(vi) shortcomings identified for the national food control system

ARMENIA

Lack of legal framework, especially for veterinary issues, food and feed additives, novel food and GMOs.

- Risk analyses are not carried out due to lack of specialists and absence of information basis.
- There is lack of specialists on HACCP issues.
- There is no alert system for dangerous food and feed placed in the market.
- There are no mechanisms for food and feed traceability.
- State control over food safety is implemented according to the RA Law "On Organizing and Implementing Check-ups in the Republic of Armenia", which prescribes that the competent authority can implement check-up in the given enterprise only once per year. This condition limits control over food safety along food chain within the year.
- According to the Government Decree "On recognition of the authorized bodies for implementation of state control over food and food additives safety at all stages of production and circulation" (No. 557-N, 05.06.2008), the Ministry of Agriculture is recognized as an authorized body for state control over food safety. However, there are some discrepancies in activities with the Ministry of Health. Besides, there are duplications of activities with local self-governing bodies. Thus, it is necessary to clearly define the responsibilities of each institution.
- The inspectors are lacking of necessary equipment for implementation of check-ups (for example, mobile refrigerators, special thermometers, sampling equipment, etc.).
- The laboratories carry out safety and physicochemical analyses, whereas there is necessary also to carry out analyses on conformity with food quality standards, for example for identification of food additives.

CROATIA

Multi-annual national control plan and audit

An Ordinance on official controls performed to ensure compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules (OG 99/07) transposes Regulation (EC) No. 882/04. A multi-annual national control

plan (MANCP) has not yet been developed. Article 76 of the Food Act requires MAFRD to produce such a plan. Working group has started to draft MANCP.

Registers

Veterinary Directorate and the Veterinary Inspection Directorate have developed the following registers in accordance with Council Directive 90/425/EEC and Council Directive 89/662/EEC: Register of Animal Traders, Register of Animal Assembly Centres, Register of Staging Points (in future Control Posts), Register of Farms, Register of Animal Transporters, Central Register of Domestic Animals and Register of Approved and Registered Food Business Establishments. All these registers have been established.

RASFF

The MAFRD – Directorate for Food Safety and Quality is responsible for establishing and managing a rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) at a national level and has been designated as the national RASFF contact point with the European Commission.

As regards RASFF notifications that the Directorate for Food Safety and Quality receives from the European Commission, the Directorate for Food Safety and Quality, the Veterinary Inspection Directorate and the Directorate for Agriculture and Phytosanitary Inspection of the MAFRD, the Sanitary Inspection Directorate of the MHSW and the State Inspectorate successfully co-operate in the risk management process.

In order to facilitate management of RASFF system and incidents related to food and feed, Directorate for Food Safety and Quality is in the process of developing software and database on the national level.

2. TRACES and ADNS

2.1. TRACES

As regards the integration of the TRACES system into the daily work of the veterinary inspection service, Croatia has already established necessary equipment and internet connection for most of the users. The database has been translated into Croatian language and submitted to the European Commission.

The full version of TRACES is not yet in use due to the third country status of Croatia. However, necessary technical prerequisites are in place.

2.2. Animal Disease Notification System – ADNS

Croatia is ready to apply ADNS.

Until its accession to the EU, the Republic of Croatia will continue to notify the Commission, on a voluntary basis, of any suspected or confirmed cases of diseases in accordance with the Ordinance on the notification of animal diseases (OG 31/09), which is aligned with Council Directive 82/894/EEC. In 2008, Croatia started entering data directly into the ADNS, thus agreeing to voluntarily participate in the system before accession to the EU. At the date of the accession Croatia, as a member state, will be full member of the system.

3. Certification

Croatia is ready to put at the disposal to the traders printed versions of certificates at the day of the accession. At this end Croatia has planned to print before accession all necessary certificates which will be provided to official veterinarians before the date of accession.

Start of these activities depends on the date of accession.

The measures against the fraud are foreseen. Training courses will be organised to provide basic knowledge on issuing of the certificates.

4. Identification and registration of animals and registration of their movements

Identification and registration of bovine animals

The following was carried out to improve the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals, and to achieve a fully operational database (the Central Register of Bovine Animals):

- written procedures to be followed if data are not accepted into the database or in cases of other possible irregularities during the registration of bovine animals and their movements have been drafted;

- all relevant information concerning the replacement ear tags are entered in the database (Central Register of Bovine Animals);
- necessary modifications to the software were made to ensure that irregularities in the registration of animal movements are recorded and identified as such, especially as regards delays in registering arrivals or departures and exceeding the stipulated time between the occurrence of the event and its registration;
- the following information were made retrievable at any time from the database of the Central Register of Bovine Animals:
 - the frequency at which ear tags are changed per holding,
 - the frequency of irregularities in bovine identification and registration per holding,
 - the number of “floating animals” for a specified period of time.
- Annual veterinary inspections of farms, financed from the State Budget, were introduced in 2008, the aim of which is to:
 - control the system for the identification and registration of animals and their movements;
 - educate animal owners on their obligations and rights;
 - create a database to be used for the purposes of risk assessment on the basis of which inspections will be planned

In 2008, 95 495 farms have been checked, of which 41 923 keeping bovine animals.

During the first half of 2009, all the results have been entered in to the Farm Register and used for the updating of bovine database. There are 7 312 farms in the Farm Register left to be checked and this work is done in the second half of 2009.

Croatia considers its bovine database as operational. Request will be made after accession to recognise fully operational character of bovine database.

Identification and registration of porcine animals

The supply of ear tags and first records of movements in the database began in late December 2007. By the end of first half of 2009, 85 117 pig keeping farms were registered in the Farm Register and 18 763 movements have been recorded. Transitional period has ended by 30 June 2009 and full implementation of the new system has started.

Croatia considers that compliant system is in place.

Identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals

Following a public tender process, suppliers of ear tags for sheep and goats have been selected, and a computer application for the Central Register of Ovine and Caprine Animals has been completed.

By the end of the first half of 2009, 18 890 sheep keeping farms and 8 134 goats keeping farms were registered in the Farm Register, and 3386 movements have been recorded. The transitional period has ended by 30 June 2009, and electronic identification is planned to be established as the method of secondary identification of animals born after 1 January 2010.

Croatia considers that compliant system is in place.

5. Control of animal diseases

Work will continue on implementing disease control measures compatible with those required by the *acquis*. Animal health status will be determined at the herd, holding, compartment, regional or national level, with respect to specific diseases and according to clearly defined criteria. This will enable animal owners complying with veterinary requirements for intra-Community trade to trade with animals without restrictions. The Veterinary Directorate has developed the contingency plans for classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, and will continue to develop contingency plans that describe in detail the organisation and implementation of measures to control certain infectious and parasitic diseases as required by the *acquis* and will also prepare and co-ordinate disease outbreak simulation exercises to test the contingency plans. The Republic of Croatia will submit to the European Commission for approval the contingency plans for foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, avian influenza and Newcastle disease

well in advance of accession to the EU. Other contingency plans will also be prepared in good time prior to accession.

6. Non commercial movements of pet animals

The Ordinance on the pet animal passport (OG 142/08), which transposes the provisions of Commission Decision 2003/803/EC of 26 November 2003 establishing a model passport for the intra-Community movements of dogs, cats and ferrets, was published in the Official Gazette on 10 December 2008. The Ordinance establishes a model passport to be used for the movement of pet animals of the species dogs, cats and ferrets within the territory of the Republic of Croatia and/or within the European Union as provided for in Article 5 paragraph 1 point (b) of the Ordinance on the animal health requirements for the non-commercial movement of pet animals (OG 72/07, 102/07, 4/08, 30/08, 39/08, 52/08 and 68/08). The pet animal passport is drawn up in conformity with EU legislation, the only difference being in the presentation of the first and third pages as regards Croatian and EU official marks. As of the day of its accession to the EU, the Republic of Croatia will start issuing pet animal passports conforming to the Model Passport for the movement of pet animals of the species dogs, cats and ferrets between Member States

7. Prohibition of substances and control of residues

National Residue Control Program (NRCP) is under responsibility of MAFRD, Veterinary Directorate – Sector of Veterinary Public Health which is, inter alia, responsible for monitoring of residues and for regulating the production, distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs). According to NRCP, official veterinarians and veterinary inspectors are responsible for taking and delivering of samples and data recording, Croatian Veterinary Institute (CVI) is responsible for sample analysis and reporting of results to Veterinary Directorate and regional veterinary offices. In May 2008 CVI got Accreditation Certificate from Croatian Accreditation Agency that is competent according to HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2007 to carry out microbiological, chemical and analytical analysis of food, feeding stuffs, water and veterinary medical products, microbiological and serological diagnostics of animal diseases.

National production data, use of VMPs and results from previous year are the base for drafting NRCP in accordance with the Ordinance on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products (in line with Council Directive 96/23/EC). The 2009 National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) covers all commodities and substances as prescribed in EU requirements and covers the total national annual production. For each commodity all groups of residues are included in NRCP as prescribed by the Council Directive 96/23/EC. All national MRLs correspond with Community maximum limits/levels. For residues of the substances which are not authorised or are illegal, minimum required performance levels (MRPLs) as action limits or CC α of the Confirmatory method are applied. The methods and matrixes for this substances and interpretation of data are done accordingly to CRL guidance paper from 7 December 2007.

8. Import requirements for live animals and animal products

Upon accession to the EU, Croatia will start directly applying the rules of application concerning import from third countries (list of authorised countries, list of countries with an approved plan for the control of residues, list of approved embryo collection teams, list of approved bovine semen collection centres, list of approved bovine semen storage centres, list of approved porcine semen collection centres, list of approved equine semen collection centres, authorities, establishments and model of certificate). Officials at the BIPs will be authorised to directly apply these conditions (without the adoption of national legislation). The same solution will be applicable regarding safeguard measures concerning imports of live animals and animal products from third countries.

9. Animal welfare

Based on animal movements patterns as well as geographical position of the Republic of Croatia it is estimated that two control posts are required in order to comply with the provisions of the relevant animal welfare legislation. The Republic of Croatia will ensure the establishment of two control posts, one towards the Eastern part of Croatia and the other towards the Southern part of the country. The invitations for the tenders to organise and manage the control posts will be prepared and the most favourable application will be selected.

10. Zootechnics

Croatia considers the national system on zootechnics corresponds with the relevant *acquis*. Existing legislation is in process of revision with minor changes and additions which will be fully implemented until

the date of accession of Croatia to the EU. In forthcoming period Croatia will continue with establishment and strengthening of the functions and capacities of the breeding organisations that are approved for implementation of breeding programs for certain species and/or breeds of domestic animals.

11. Placing on the market of food, feed and animal by products

Croatia has performed comprehensive programme with the aim of upgrading of establishments dealing with food of animal origin and animal by products not intended for human consumption, as follows:

- the relevant EU legislation has been transposed
- comprehensive check lists have been drafted
- members of the teams of inspectors that carry out assessment have been established
- teams of inspectors received specific training
- awareness meetings with food business operators have been held
- all approved establishments have been assessed and subsequently categorized according to the EU requirements
- the system of reviewing of upgrading plans submitted by non compliant establishments has been established
- supervision of the upgrading process has been established on national and local level

12. Food safety rules

Directorate for Food Safety and Quality regularly organise meetings for all competent inspection authorities involved in the food safety, field.

For the purpose of implementation of food safety legislation following guidelines were issued:

1. Guide for foodstuffs labelling, advertising and presentation
2. Guide for nutritional labelling
3. Guide for microbiological criteria
4. Guide for official control control in catering and retail.

Relevant services have initiated preparation of uniform procedure for official control. It will be issued in the II Quarter of 2010. Multiannual control plan will be finished in III Quarter 2010.

13. Specific rules for feed

During 2008 a procedure of registration and approval of establishments in feed business sector, according to their activities has started.

May 31st 2009 was the deadline for implementation of HACCP systems in establishments which had obligations set by current legislation for registration and approval of establishments in feed business sector.

Written procedures and guidelines for the official controls have been established.

Risk analysis and classification of establishments have been carried out for all approved establishments. According to results, frequency of official controls in establishments is defined.

Fees for official controls in feed sector are collected from January 1st 2010.

Criteria for calculation of fees are type of feed establishment, nature and quantity of products which were produced, stored or put into circulation.

14. Plant health

Activities concerning the establishment of a phytosanitary register of producers, processors, importers and distributors of certain plants, plant products and regulated articles, as well as activities relating to the implementation of the plant passport system pursuant to the EU requirements were continued. Major part of operators has been registered. It is planned that all operators will be registered by the end of 2009.

The introduction of the plant passport system for the first category of stakeholders obliged to register (vine and fruit planting material, seed potato) began late in 2008, and plant passports for the remaining categories (ornamental trees, forest planting material, flower and vegetable seedlings and seeds of certain plant species) will be introduced in the second half of 2009, which is the envisaged deadline for the establishment of a national system aligned with EU legislation.

As regards plant protection products (PPPs) and pesticide residues, Croatia has started registration procedures for new PPPs according to the new legislation.

15. Quality of seed and propagating material

Activities concerning the establishment of new register of suppliers (producers, seed processors, importers and maintainers of seed and producers, importers and maintainers of planting material) were continued during 2008 and 2009. All suppliers have been registered till the end of March 2009.

Republic of Croatia has established plan for examinations of varieties which do not fulfill conditions for List of Varieties of Republic of Croatia as regards DUS examinations during the period of 4 years starting from 2009. Examination started during 2009 for the 55 varieties (of 214 domestic varieties) which did not pass DUS examinations.

16. Plant variety rights

Croatia continued to implement „Multi-beneficiary Program on Participation of Turkey and Croatia in Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) with the goal to increase awareness of plant breeder’s rights”.

Croatia continues implementation of system of plant variety rights and familiarisation of plant breeders with the Community system.

B. LABORATORIES

Croatia is taking the necessary steps to ensure that, as required by the *acquis*, laboratories carrying out analyses of samples taken during official controls are accredited to the required standards. The laboratories will be accredited at latest by the date of accession to the EU or Croatia will take necessary actions to ensure that analyses are carried out in EU accredited laboratories.

1. Animal Health

The Croatian Veterinary Institute (CVI) provides diagnostic testing in the field of animal health. The CVI comprises the central laboratory in Zagreb, four regional laboratories located in Križevci, Rijeka, Split and Vinkovci and the Poultry Centre in Zagreb. In addition to the CVI, diagnostic testing may be performed by other laboratories approved by the Minister in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

The Central Laboratory of CVI, together with the four regional laboratories and the Poultry Centre, is accredited in accordance with the HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

To aim the mentioned conditions, in CVI Zagreb and in the regional laboratories overall reorganisation, reconstruction, informatization were done, laboratory equipment was procured and employees are permanently educated. Until June 2009, CVI Zagreb and regional laboratories accredited 25 laboratories and 79 methods.

CVI is active in interlaboratory testing (“proficiency testing”). Currently, CVI fulfils the obligations in the capacity of conduction necessary diagnostic laboratory examinations.

The Laboratory for the Monitoring and Diagnosis of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Laboratory) was established at the Croatian Veterinary Institute in 1996. The Laboratory performs histopathological brain examination and immunoblotting tests based on a Western blotting procedure, i.e. a rapid test commercially named *Prionics Check Western i Prionics Check PrioSTRIP*.

The obligations of the national reference laboratory, sampling procedures and analytical methods have been aligned with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Pending the construction of the laboratory's new facilities, where additional testing by a discriminatory immunocytochemical test is required, samples will be sent to an EU reference laboratory. The date for the finalisation of construction of the new facilities is 2010.

National reference laboratory for classical swine fever is situated within the CVI premises, diagnostic is done by accredited methods and from 1999, CVI is active in interlaboratory testing organised by the EU Reference laboratory for classical swine fever in Hannover, Germany.

Certain laboratories already fulfil the conditions necessary to be national reference laboratories according to the EU legislation. National reference laboratories are set for the following diseases: Blue tongue disease, Avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Classical swine fever, African swine fever, Foot and mouth disease, Vesicular swine disease, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Brucellosis, Fish diseases, Bivalve molluscs diseases and Salmonella.

Croatia will have a complete list of national reference laboratories in the field of animal health prior to its accession to the EU.

2. Food laboratories

Official samples of food are analysed by the CVI and regional public health institutes (RPHI), together with Croatian National Institute of Public Health (CNIPH). CVI, CNIPH and four RPHI laboratories are accredited according to the Croatian standard HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025.

By the end of 2010 for this purpose the Republic of Croatia will established appropriate laboratory capacities according to the number of samples required.

3. Residues

3. The CVI in Zagreb and the regional institutes in Križevci and Split perform residue analyses for the purposes of the National Residue Monitoring Programme. The CVI has been accredited according to the Croatian standard HRN EN ISO 17025. The majority of analyses, i.e. 85 %, are carried out by the CVI, while the remaining analyses are subcontracted to EU accredited laboratories.

4. Feed laboratories

Feed samples are analysed by laboratories accredited to the standard HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2007. Until 1 January 2010, in addition to the accredited laboratories, these analyses were performed by non-accredited laboratories approved by the director of the Veterinary Directorate in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

By the date of accession Croatia will have full capacity to implement the EU *acquis*.

5. Phytosanitary laboratories

In order to bring all the laboratories of the Plant Protection Institute up to EU phytosanitary standards, activities related to the construction of a new building for the Plant Protection Institute, with funds provided by a loan from the World Bank, are being undertaken. To the end of the second quarter of the 2009, the construction company will be selected between the 17 received bids, after which the construction of a new building with specialist laboratories for the Plant Protection Institute will start, followed by the equipping and accreditation of laboratories.

In the case that Plant Protection Institute is not accredited for the required methods until the day of accession, six months prior to accession MAFRD will start the procedure in order to conclude an agreement with one of the EU accredited laboratories.

6. Seed and planting material

The Institute for Seeds and Seedlings in Osijek is accredited by ISTA for testing of seed. The Institute will initiate the accreditation process according to the HRN EN ISO/IEC 17 025. It is planned to obtain accreditation till the end of 2010.

7. GMOs

A laboratory for GMO quantification and risk assessment has been established at the CNIPH. This laboratory has the necessary facilities, equipment and staff. This laboratory is accredited and has been successfully participating in international inter-calibrations for several years. The laboratory became a member of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL).

In 2007, the Institute for Seeds and Seedlings established a laboratory for the detection of GMOs in seeds and planting material. The Institute has the necessary facilities, equipment and staff trained in carrying out analyses. The laboratory is in the process of obtaining an authorisation for work in accordance with Article 6 of the Ordinance on the conditions to be fulfilled by a laboratory for testing, control and monitoring of GMOs and products containing GMOs (OG 70/05).

It is planned to obtain the authorisation till the end of 2009.

CZECH REPUBLIC

No shortcomings have been identified. Nevertheless there are ongoing activities aimed at increasing effectivity, professional level and transparency of official controls.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission, in its role as guardian of the European Union Treaties, is responsible for ensuring that Community legislation on food safety, animal health, plant health and animal welfare is

properly implemented and enforced. As a Commission service, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) plays an important role in fulfilling this task. The mission of the FVO is, through its evaluations, to promote effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors; check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the European Union and in third countries exporting to the EU; contribute to the development of EU policy in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors, and to inform stakeholders of the outcome of evaluations.

When shortcomings are identified during FVO missions, these are included in the report publicly available and a specific action plan is agreed to implement corrective actions.

FINLAND

According to the Report of a General Audit carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office FVO in Finland in 2009 there is a general tendency of the competent authorities either not to document non-compliances or not to request corrective actions. The competent authorities have not always taken appropriate action to ensure that the operator remedies the situation in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Rules on sanctions are in place in Finland. However very few sanctions have been imposed following infringements of food and feed law and other Community provisions relating to the protection of animal health and welfare.

The verification procedure in place did not in all control areas ensure the effectiveness of official controls and of corrective actions. The development of a system of the Evira internal audits is progressing. However audits of municipal food control authorities by regional authorities are not carried out to plan in terms of frequency. It is not ensured that the auditees respond to audit recommendations and follow-up is carried out.

GEORGIA

Some articles of Georgian law of Food Safety and Quality was postponed and the National Service could not conduct inspection procedures. From 1st July of 2010 the National Service performs inspection of exporters. There is no inspection of retail markets and producers who distribute food within the country.

In addition, we have approximately 20 private accredited laboratories in Georgia who can perform tests on food. The laboratories can not perform tests on big amounts of Pesticide residues, food additives, and veterinary drug residues in food. Also it is desirable to have laboratories accredited by ISO 17025.

POLAND

Implementation of risk-based approach in official control activities should be strengthened.

TADJIKISTAN

1. The adjustment and harmonization of Law and regulatory documents with SPS and TBT requirements is still in the process and not completed yet.
2. Necessity in modernization of food safety system and programmes that should be designed and implemented in a cooperative way by the relevant ministries based on clear understanding of roles and responsibilities within framework of a farm to table approach.
3. Necessity in simplification of standards, health and safety regulation and strengthening of enforcement capacity of the respective government structures (agencies, service)
4. Necessity in separation of the accreditation, certification and metrology bodies (departments), while the process of evolution has started but not completed yet.
5. Donor's activity in the field of food safety is not relevant to the needs and as a result there are a few projects in this field.
6. The capacity and knowledge of the staff over modern regulations, international requirements (Codex Alimentarius, SPS, TBT, IPPC, ISPM etc) at organizations responsible for food safety is poor and have to be improved (poor English inclusive).
7. Laboratories are rather underdeveloped and couldn't deliver dependable sanitary, veterinary and epidemiological tests in significant number.
8. Inadequate involvement of private sector in food safety and giving direct responsibility for food safety (while the process seems has commenced)

TURKEY

We have no risk assessment body in Turkey yet. Risk assessment conducted by:

- Ad-hoc and permanent scientific sub-committees, under GDPC And
- Research Institute of MARA
- Turkish Science Research Institute (TÜBİTAK)
- Universities

So, it is a shortcoming for us.

(vii) identified need for capacity building to strengthen the national food control system

ARMENIA

- LEGAL FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

- Organizational development, which will allow improving management of relationships between different organizations and sectors.
- Trainings and study tours for different professionals and specialists (food inspectors, laboratory staff, etc.).

CZECH REPUBLIC

New unified system for training of inspectors according to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, mandatory subsequent implementation of which proceeds, is implemented in CR on the basis of working document "The Unified System for Training of Inspectors of State Supervisory Authorities Coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture - MoA", has been approved the day of 19 June 2006 by executive director of the Food Authority, ing. František Sládek, CSc.

For the field of training is responsible Division 17410.

On the basis of above mentioned approved document has been established the Coordination body for training activities within the Food Authority of the MoA for coordinating training programmes for the training of inspectors and trainers, creating unified system for training in the areas of mentioned in the Chapter I of Annexe II to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, for the system of mutual co-operation between competent supervisory authorities in the field of training. In the Coordination body for training activities are represented by the Food Authority of MoA and state supervisory authorities coordinated by MoA.

The task of the Coordination body is to keep documentation of the system for training of inspectors, including verification of expert capability of the lecturer, publish manuals and curriculum, co-operate at the coordination of the training with appropriate supervisory authorities and similar bodies in other EU member states.

For provision unified system for training individual bodies carrying out official controls of food and feed, animal health and welfare, phytosanitary care, shall elaborate training plans for relevant year on the basis of identifying the training needs and provide them for a request to coordination body of training activities, and that through administrators. They shall deliver overviews on fulfilment of training plan in agreed scope.

No specific needs have been identified and all possible solutions for strengthen capacity building are explored at the internal level.

EUROPEAN UNION

"Better Training for Safer Food" is a Commission initiative aimed at organising a EU training strategy in the areas of food law, feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules, as well as plant health rules.

Article 51 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, provides the legal instrument for this initiative.

Training is designed for all staff of competent authorities of Member States involved in official control activities so as to keep them up-to-date with all aspects of Community law in the areas specified above and ensure that controls are carried out in a more uniform, objective and adequate manner in all Member States.

It is also essential that third countries and in particular developing countries are familiar with EU import requirements and, where it exists, with the possibility of EU support. For this purpose, training organised for Member States in the EU is open to participants from third countries and specific training sessions are organised for third country participants on the spot.

Better Training for Safer Food contact points have been designated in the EU Member States, Candidate and Associated Countries to coordinate aspects such as participant selection. Competent authority staff from these countries interested in participating in training should contact their national contact point. Interested parties from third countries should refer to the contractor for the activity in which they wish to take part.

The main objective of the initiative "Better Training for Safer Food" is the organisation and development of a Community training strategy with a view to:

- ensuring and maintaining a high level of consumer protection and of animal health, animal welfare and plant health;
- promoting a harmonised approach to the operation of Community and national control systems;
- creating an equal level playing field for all food businesses;
- enhancing trade of safe food;
- ensuring fair trade with third countries and in particular developing countries.

Training programmes are to be implemented in the EU and in third countries. They are, in particular, aimed at staff of competent authorities of Member States involved in official controls, and participants from selected third countries.

Training courses taking place in the EU cover:

- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles
- Best practices for veterinary checks in seaport, road and rail border inspection posts
- Animal welfare standards during transport and at slaughter and killing for disease control purposes
- Monitoring and controls of zoonoses and applying microbiological criteria in foodstuffs
- Evaluation and registration of plant protection products
- Food Hygiene and Controls
- Feed Law
- Plant Health Controls
- Controls on food and feed of non-animal origin
- Animal by-products
- Health of aquaculture animals
- Health of bees and exotic zoo animals
- Prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
- Food contact materials

Training courses taking place in third countries cover:

- Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other animal diseases
- EU food standards
- Food testing and sanitary and phytosanitary issues
- The EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed and the possible introduction of a similar system in other regions of the world
- Analysis of Genetically Modified Organisms
- Better Training for Safer Food in Africa

A new initiative started in 2008 "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa". This programme provides training for African countries on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues with a specific €10 million budget. The main aim of the programme is to raise SPS awareness within Africa, thereby contributing to driving up

the standards of safety controls. BTSF Africa is intended primarily for public authorities, producer associations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Its' main aim is to transfer technical and policy expertise on animal health and food safety, thereby helping African countries to produce and distribute products compatible with international standards. This will help to reduce the likelihood of food-borne disease and related health and socio-economic burden.

The activities will help to improve use of products such as fertilisers, pesticides and veterinary drugs and hygiene during production and distribution. They will also strengthen control and certification of animals and products. BTSF Africa will help to increase the contribution of agriculture to rural development and food security, with positive knock-on effects on growth and employment in Africa.

Four activities are implemented by the **World Organisation for Animal Health** (OIE). They aim to:

- Evaluate veterinary services in 15 countries and carry out gap analysis of needs and priorities, follow-up evaluations and accompanying measures in 40 countries;
- Improve the national and/or regional legal framework in relation to animal health and food safety in 15 countries;
- Strengthen laboratory capacities through twinning;
- Strengthen the capacity of National Delegates to the OIE, Chief Veterinary Officers and National Focal Points in African countries on SPS standards.

Two activities are implemented by **Agriconsulting Europe S.A** in consortium with AETS, AENOR, AINIA and FVI. They aim to:

- Train trainers over twelve five-day regional workshops, ten of which will cover the five Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) regions (West, Central, South-East, Southern and East Africa) and two will cover North Africa;
- Strengthen the capacity of SMEs via targeted and sustained missions and ad hoc assistance in about 26 countries for a total of about 1,560 days. Around 12 experts will work with the beneficiaries in order to address deficiencies identified by the EC's Food and Veterinary Office.

One activity is being implemented by **Application Européenne de Technologies et de Services**. It concerns:

Specific intensive training sessions for officials of the AUC, Regional Economic Communities and associated specialist bodies. Three workshops take place on

- 30 March – 2 April 2009 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia),
- 8-12 February 2010 (Dakar, Senegal),
- 11-15 October 2010 (Cape Town, South Africa).

FINLAND

The Food Act assigns Evira the food control where special expertise is required. In order to ensure an optimal use of the food control resources there is a need for training for demanding food control tasks at the local level. There is also an ongoing process of merging municipal food control authorities to units large enough for the control to be appropriately organised

GEORGIA

For the staff of the National Service International Finance Corporation and German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) organized training for trainers in Latvia. During the training staff will share experience of Latvian inspectors and after arrival at home they will share experience with staff, producers and consumers.

It would be reasonable to train staff of private laboratories in new methods of analysis. To consider that the National Service has no its own laboratory and after sampling procedures inspectors should take samples in Private Labs for testing. To consider above mentioned, it is very important to assist private laboratories in order to control all samples appropriately and test all parameters specified in European Regulations.

POLAND

Food safety management systems – a new approach.

Risk analysis process needs more attention.

Training of risk assessors and managers

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The national control system in the SR is in the line with *acquis communautaire*. This system is under control of European Commission, FVO – Food and Veterinary Office in Dublin. After every inspection performed by FVO the need for strengthen of the national control system is identify. Since 26th CCEURO 6 planned FVO missions to evaluate the food safety control systems in various area of food chain, the implementation of food controls as well as follow-up actions taken by the relevant competent authorities have been carried out.

SR has not any requirement for special capacity building and training needs to strengthen the national food control system.

TADJIKISTAN

Technical support in harmonization of the laws and regulatory documents, including Russian translation of the Codex standards and guidelines etc. Development and implementation projects on technical collaboration and assistance in implementation Codex standards and guidelines

1. Train the staff of institutions responsible for food safety and private sector representatives on WTO, SFS, TBT, IPPC etc regulations, operations and requirements to improve their competency and knowledge in the international food safety operations, regulations, standards, requirements etc including modern approaches in food inspection through HACCP ;
2. Support in equipping and modernization of the laboratories as well as train their staff in modern tests and methodologies to deliver number of core sanitary, veterinary and epidemiological tests;
3. Advocacy to improve government commitment in improving capacity of agencies, organizations and involvement of private structures in food safety system, but not through firm decision but via motivation and encouragement to speed up the transition process;
4. Advocacy to attract donor's attention to the field of food safety to enhance food safety infrastructure and accelerate the transition process;
5. Site visits or training tour to the countries where there are certain outcomes of the modernization of the food safety system and having experience in adaptation of Codex standards, guidelines and mainly participation in Codex committees.

TURKEY

There is a need for capacity building and trainings on risk analysis.

2. CODEX CONTACT POINT, NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS

(i) activities of the codex contact point including any information about change of contact details (if not yet notified)

ARMENIA

CCP is established in the Ministry of Agriculture since 2007. The relevant government institutions (Food Safety and Veterinary State Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Economy) have been asked to designate a person from each body to work with CCP in order to raise the awareness on Codex activities among different stakeholders and give them an opportunity to be involved in Codex work. As a result, the persons have been identified from each institution and currently they work with CCP.

All correspondence received from Codex headquarter (including CLs, reports, information documents, information on EWGs, etc.) is sent to the interested parties according to relevance.

All books received from Codex headquarter are distributed among relevant stakeholders, and copies are kept in Codex office in order to maintain Codex library.

Besides, any consultation regarding Codex Alimentarius activities is provided by the CCP to all interested parties and the requested information is presented.

CROATIA

Annually 4 training courses on CAC and his leason organizations (WTO, OIE and etc).

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Food Production and Legislation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is the National Codex Contact Point in the Czech Republic. National Codex co-operates with other ministries and state governmental and NGOs.

EUROPEAN UNION

At the EU level the situation is unchanged since the last session of cceuro. no need to update.

FINLAND

Secretary General of the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs is the Finnish Codex Contact Point. The Contact Point distributes Codex documents to the national experts and coordinates the preparation of national positions.

- see also 2(ii)

GEORGIA

Codex Contact Point works as liaison between Codex secretariat and Codex Trust Fund. She communicates with CCPs from member countries and as CCP she helps international governmental or nongovernmental organizations to exchange information about food safety legislation. Also, she gives recommendations to Georgian food business operators about Codex standards and requirements to accept EU market. She distributes draft standards between interested bodies.

POLAND

Poland is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since its creation (1963).

The Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection acting as the National Codex Contact Point coordinates all Codex activities in Poland.

Poland being the formal co-hosting country of the 26th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) chaired by Switzerland as the FAO/WHO Coordinator for Europe organized the FAO/WHO – EURO Regional Workshops on Codex Alimentarius which were held in Warsaw (Poland) in 2007 and 2008. The general purpose of the Workshops was to involve countries in transition from the European region in Codex works. All workshops activities: lectures, presentations and simulation of Codex Session were conducted by international experts. Polish CCP organized all mentioned events, as well as the 26th CCEURO Session held in Warsaw from 7th to 10th October 2008.

At the 32nd Session of CAC Poland was officially appointed as the new FAO/WHO Coordinator for Europe. The 27th session of CCEURO will be held in Warsaw in term 5-8 October 2010.

For further information about CCP for Poland see Part A point (i).

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In January 2009 the National Codex Contact Point was changed. NCCP is located at Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (MoEARD). The designed individual defined as the NCCP is the Head of the Food Safety and Nutrition Department. MoAERD has responsibility

for coordination of the programme. It close cooperates with Ministry of Health, Public Health Authority and another competent authorities responsible for food production and consumer protection in the Slovakia.

NCCP

- distributed documents and information from CA Commission, committees, task forces as well as other international organizations relevant to the work of Codex or food safety e.g. WTO (SPS/TBT), EFSA, OECD, European institutions, INFOSAN etc to national experts acting in areas covered by CA;
- gave consultations to the stakeholders, provided producers with requested standards, answered questions from consumers concerning codex activities and facts/fiction about Codex.
- organised working meetings of Slovak representants in codex committees after CAC or CCEURO sessions for giving them summary information about agenda and outcomes.
- presented issues related CA (system, goals, purposes) in workshop organized by different national contact points working within the MoAERD - Department of Food Safety and Nutrition. The workshop was intended for those engaged in food safety (1st Oct 2009).
- provided some information (summaries and outputs from Codex sessions) linked also to the original CA documents on www.land.gov.sk and www.vup.sk in Slovak language
- developed information poster about Codex Alimentarius and National Codex Contact Point encouraging for cooperation and presented it during the International Agricultural and Foodstuffs Fair Agrokompex (Slovakia, Nitra 2010)
- performed other general NCCP activities followed up the rules as set in the Codex Procedural Manual.

SWEDEN

As notified.

TADJIKISTAN

There are no any changes in Codex contact point in Tadjikistan so far.

TURKEY

The Codex Contact Point of Turkey is General Directorate of Protection and Control (GDPC) under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). MARA is the competent authority on food safety due to Number 5179 Food Law in Turkey.

No change in contact details.

(ii) structure, composition and operation of the national codex committee (or equivalent or similar structure) or plans for its establishment

ARMENIA

In the framework of "Food Safety Capacity Building" FAO TCP/RER/3003(A) the Workshop on "Activization of Armenia's Participation in Codex Alimentarius and Assistance in Establishing Codex National Committee" has been organized in Yerevan on 1-2 April, 2009 with participation of relevant stakeholders (MoA, MoH, MoE, Consumer's NGOs, International Organizations /FAO Representation, UNIDO, USDA/CARD/, State Agrarian University of Armenia).

As a result, the Draft of the Establishing National Codex Committee has been prepared and is submitted to all interested parties for endorsement, including government bodies and consumer's NGOs.

It is expected to establish national Codex committee in the end 2010 - beginning 2011.

CROATIA

National Codex Group was established in July 2008 which consists of 14 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Croatian Food Agency; Croatian Chamber of Economy; Croatian Institute for Public Health and University.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Coordination organised on the level of the Food Authority, which started to operate in April 2005. Is based at the Ministry of Agriculture and contains 2 departments and 1 division, which counts together 33 employees.

EUROPEAN UNION

At the EU level the situation is unchanged since the last session of CCEURO. No need to update.

GEORGIA

There is only person responsible for Codex Contact Point. The National Service expresses willingness to establish the National Codex Committee or other structure, which prepare national position on different items received from Codex secretariat. But, the National Service has no yet had plans for its establishment.

FINLAND

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry operates the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs. The Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs is more than 50 years old institution and it has always been regulated by the legislation. Current Government Decree on the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs is from the year 2010. The Government sets the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs for three-year terms (current term 2010-2013). Members of the Committee represent food control and food law, food industry, food trade and catering sector, consumer issues and primary production. Task of the Committee is to handle matters relating to food safety and quality as a cooperative body. The committee is responsible for the national coordination of the international cooperation in the food sector and Finland's contribution to the work of the Codex Alimentarius.

The Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs is the Finnish National Codex Committee and the Secretary General of the Advisory Committee is the Finnish Codex Contact Point.

Under the Advisory Committee of Foodstuffs are several sub-committees for specified issues (like food additives, contaminants, food labelling, food hygiene, residues of veterinary drugs in food etc.). In these sub-committees are representatives of all relevant authorities and NGOs. National positions for Codex meetings are prepared in cooperation with these sub-committees.

POLAND

The National Codex Committee was not established. All relevant Codex activities within Poland are coordinated by the Codex Contact Point.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

From January 2009 the designed individual defined as the NCCP is the Head of the Food Safety and Nutrition Department of MoAERD.

The system remains unchanged: cca 300 experts (increased over 2 last years) operate under national experts working groups correspondent to scopes of CA task forces and committees. These experts come from research, control, government and industry (and 2 food/agricultural chambers). The head of individual expert working group is a representative of SR and they are appointed to attend the relevant sessions of Codex Alimentarius as well as sessions of the European institutions and the EFSA bodies. The main task of working group is preparing all statements and positions for CA, EFSA and EK. Cooperation among the NCCP, members of expert groups, Ministries proceeds mostly by e-mail. The mentioned structure of groups allows mutual foreknowledge, alternation of expert on sessions and to get the opinions from scientific, practice, legislative, control and producing areas points of view.

MoAERD transposes CA standards to the national legislation, approves (or adjusts) the statements and positions prepared by expert and approves attending of experts on the CA meetings. The Department of Foreign Affairs of MoAERD ensures some particular agenda with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, e. g. competence for voting on CAC chair and vice-chairs posts or official notification for attending on CAC.

SWEDEN

As notified.

TADJIKISTAN

The codex contact point (ccp) is located at the ministry of health. There is a interministerial working group on codex alimentarius matters (wg), established after affiliation of tajikistan in codex alimentarius commission. The wg is operational and meets regularly on quarterly base.

TURKEY

Turkey has National Food Codex Commission (NFCC) which consists of seven members who represent MARA (two members), Ministry of Health (one member), Turkish Standard Institution (one member), Universities (two members) and NGO's (one member). This Commission is responsible for preparing Turkish Food Codex which includes horizontal and vertical legislations that covers minimum technical and hygienical properties of foodstuffs. Another responsibility of NFCC is to obtain national position for Codex meetings.

(iii) any other relevant information

EUROPEAN UNION

The Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community entered into force on 1 December 2009. As a consequence, from that date the European Union exercises all rights and assumes all obligations of the European Community, including its status in Codex, whilst continuing to exercise existing rights and assume obligations of the European Union. From that date the Delegation of the European Community in Codex became the Delegation of the European Union.

SWEDEN

Updated information on ongoing work in different EWG, PWG, etc is available for Swedish stakeholders (industry, consumer organizations, consumers etc) on the National Food Administration's website:
http://www.slv.se/sv/Internationellt/codex_alimentarius/

In this manner we highlight the main issues and welcome input from stakeholders.

This is a very appreciated tool when the CCP prepares the Swedish position for forthcoming meetings.

TURKEY

There are 32 sub-committees for each issue related to food under NFCC. Issues concerning Codex are performed by Food Codex Division at Department of Feed and Food Registration Services under GDPC.

There are 32 sub-committees for each issue related to food under NFCC:

1. Food additives and contaminants,
2. Food hygiene and microbiology,
3. Pesticide residues,
4. Labelling,
5. Veterinary drugs and residues,
6. Methods of sampling and analysis,
7. Foods for special dietary uses,
8. Cereals-legumes and products,
9. Fats and oils,
10. Milk and milk products,
11. Processed fruits and vegetables,
12. Sugar and products,

13. Poultry meat and hygiene,
14. Red meat and hygiene,
15. Biotechnology,
16. Non-alcoholic beverages,
17. Spirit drinks,
18. Fish and fishery products,
19. Traditional products,
20. Cocoa and chocolate products,
21. Food import and export inspection and certification,
22. Packaging,
23. Functional foods,
24. Fresh fruits and vegetables,
25. Coffee and chicory,
26. Honey,
27. Spices,
28. Tea,
29. Meat Products,
30. Salt,
31. Egg and egg products
32. Quick frozen foods

(iv) shortcomings identified for the codex contact point, the national codex committee and/or other national structures for codex matters – are there any shortcomings identified in the structure and/or functioning of these bodies?

ARMENIA

- As it was mentioned above, all correspondence received from Codex headquarter (including CLs, reports, information documents, information on EWGs, etc.) is sent to the interested parties according to relevance. However, there is no proper feedback from stakeholders. The only exception is CLs, which are translated from English into Armenian by CCP in order to get prompt replies. However, it is obvious, that it is impossible to translate hundreds of pages of all correspondence received from Codex headquarter.

- As there is no National Codex Committee established yet, the coordination of particular activities among stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) is not strong. Besides, all stakeholders need training on Codex matters.

CROATIA

There are weak interest in Codex activities from Ministry of Health and Social Welfare;

EUROPEAN UNION

No major shortcomings have been identified however all efforts are made to constantly improve existing structures.

GEORGIA

There is no obligation to know English, French or Spanish or other working languages of Codex and it is difficult to work and send comments in time on big amounts of documents received. Moreover, there are nobody defined to assist Codex Contact Point to fulfill its functions.

TADJIKISTAN

The shortcomings identified in the sections **1 point vi** under numbers 6 and 8.

Also ccp should be replaced to the higher level then ministry of health (for instance to prime minister office). There is also no any government decision on giving to the ccp and working group relevant status so far.

TURKEY

Budget, workload of experts.

(v) identified need for capacity building to strengthen the codex contact point, national codex committee, and/or other national structures for codex matters – based on the shortcomings identified, what sort of capacity building and/or training is needed to strengthen the structure and/or functioning of these bodies?

ARMENIA

Support for translation into Armenian “What is Codex Alimentarius?” manual.

- Regional workshop for CCPs.
- National and regional training for stakeholders.
- Strengthening regional coordination and networking: Creation of EURO CCPs network, where CCPs can discuss particular problems and share information.
- Strengthening of mentorship: Designation of person from a country with strong National Codex structure as an expert who can answer the questions on Codex activities. The expert can be replaced every 6 months.

The last two proposals are not difficult in implementation and they are not costly. At the same time, it will allow to use experience of countries with strong Codex structure to enhance participation in Codex of countries with transition economies.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission is now planning to implement specific training activities targeted on Codex under the umbrella of the programme "Better Training for Safer Food". These activities will be organised in Europe but also in other regions of the world, starting during the second semester of 2011. EU Member states experts on Codex will contribute to these activities.

GEORGIA

To train Codex Contact Point how to prepare national position.

SWEDEN

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) organizes at least twice a year training for experts from developing countries (Africa, Asia, Middle East). The exchange of information, lectures etc from the Swedish CCP is an appreciated part of the training program.

The Swedish CCP is open for further exchange of experiences with other CCP from the European region.

TADJIKISTAN

The needs identified in the section no 1 vi under numbers 1,2, 4,5,6 are relevant to this section.

Ccp operates on voluntary base with no even modest payment.

Also there is a great need for russian translation of codex standards, guidelines, texts etc as wg members don't know english at all

TURKEY

To arrange a special budget for codex work
To increase the number of codex secretariats of subcommittees
To train codex secretariats of subcommittees

3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING

(i) consumer participation in codex related activities at national, regional and/or international level

ARMENIA

Consumer's NGOs participate in preparation of Codex CLs.

Representatives from all three consumer's NGOs participated at the Workshop on "Activization of Armenia's Participation in Codex Alimentarius and Assistance in Establishing Codex National Committee" organized in Yerevan in 2009 in the framework of "Food Safety Capacity Building" FAO TCP/RER/3003(A). As a result, the Draft of the Establishing National Codex Committee has been prepared and is submitted to all interested parties for endorsement, including consumer's NGOs.

CROATIA

There are no participation of the consumer organization

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic it is not recognised direct participation of consumer to Codex related activities. If any activity recognised on behalf of consumers it is by means of associations for consumer protection such as Consumers Defence Association - SOS, Civil Consumer Association TEST, Czech Consumer Association, Consumer - entrepreneur relationship and consumer protection centre, Association of the Citizens Advice Centres, Association for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, The Czech Eco-Counselling Network.

EUROPEAN UNION

In general at the EU level, Consumer Organisations actively participate in the work of Codex Alimentarius by taking part in the preparation of national positions together with the competent authorities of their countries.

Opening up the policy making process is very important for the Commission in order to get more people and organisations involved in developing and implementing European policy so as to ensure better regulation. In DG SANCO consultation of stakeholders is a standard practice. It takes many forms depending on:

- The policy area and legal basis
- The type of initiative
- The specific nature of stakeholders concerned (e.g. representativeness of organisations, existence or not of European level groups)

In practice consultation is carried out in various ways:

- On-line consultations or web basis "virtual forums"
- Big annual events (EU health forum, annual assembly of consumer organisations)
- Conferences, hearings with all stakeholders, ad hoc meetings with specific categories of stakeholders.
- Formal advisory groups (see previous point).

The EU has established a system of consultation with consumer organisations via direct contacts and in the context of an advisory body: the **European Consumer Consultative Group -ECCG** (Commission Decision 2003/709/EC.) The ECCG:

- Constitutes a forum for general discussions on problems relating to consumer interests
- Gives an opinion on Community matters affecting the protection of consumer interests.

- Advises and guides the Commission when it outlines policies and activities having an effect on consumers.
- Informs the Commission of developments in consumer policy in the Member States.
- Acts as a source of information and soundboard on Community action for the other national organisations.

The EU has also created an **Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health** in 2004 (Commission Decision 2004/613/EC). Its objective is to consult citizens in an open and transparent way at European level during the preparation, revision and evaluation of EU food legislation "from farm to fork". One of the key challenges is to involve stakeholders at an early stage of the decision-making process.

The final EU common positions are posted on the EU website¹.

FINLAND

In Finland are two consumer NGOs participating in the Codex process at the national level: The Finnish Consumers' Association (Suomen Kuluttajaliitto ry) and The Consumers (Kuluttajat-Konsumenterna ry).

In the Advisory Committee of Foodstuffs (National Codex Committee) are representatives of the consumer organisations. Under the Advisory Committee of Foodstuffs are several sub-committees for specified issues. In these sub-committees are also representatives of the consumer organisations. National positions for Codex meetings are prepared in cooperation with these sub-committees. Representatives of the Finnish consumer organisations have not participated in the Codex meetings

GEORGIA

Consumers are not involved in food standards setting process.

POLAND

The national positions for the Codex meetings are co-ordinated through the Polish Codex Contact Point (managed by Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection) after consultations with experts from the industry and other bodies which are involved in Codex Alimentarius issues. Consumers and consumer organisations wishing to co-operate have the possibility to comment on all Codex issues and it is the role of the Government to prepare the final Polish position for Codex meetings.

In Poland, there is well established internal mechanism for consumer participation in standard setting which includes communication through the website of the Codex Contact Point for Poland: www.ijhars.gov.pl.

There are about 20 non-governmental organisations related to food and nutrition issues that are involved in the drafting of national food acts within the Codex, including governmental Office of Competition and Consumer Protection and non-governmental Consumers Federation

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In generally there are no changes in competence of state authorities in the field of consumer protection (see part B, 1 iv).

Six consumer associations are actually engaged in food issues. One of them, Association of Slovak Consumers is a full member of the Consumers International - NGO with official status with FAO. This fact ensures direct representation of consumers' concerns over CA. The cooperation with other non-governmental organization – center for sustainable alternatives begins to develop.

Information for consumers is published on web site of MoAERD www.land.gov.sk in file bezpečnosť potravín/informácie pre spotrebiteľov (food safety/information for consumers) and website of NCCP secretariat www.vup.sk, file Informácie pre spotrebiteľov (Information for consumers).

Consumer participation in Codex activities is included in general MoAERD system for communication and cooperation with consumers. For other information see part B1 iv).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/ifsi/eupositions/eupositions_list_en.html

TADJIKISTAN

There are a few business associations and corporations participating in food safety activities in tajikistan and mainly in national level. Their membership in wg on codex issues is planned.

TURKEY

The experts of related scope consist of these specialized sub-committees. The experts participate from the MARA, the MH, the universities, consumers, related food manufacture and other related associations.

(ii) any other relevant information

SWEDEN

Identified in point B.1(iv)

TURKEY

First duty of these sub-committees is to prepare the food codex which is compatible with European Union. Second duty is to prepare the national opinion to present to NFFC.

(iii) shortcomings identified for consumer participation in codex related activities

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is considering the possibility to invite Consumer (and industry) representatives from organisations active at European level in its own delegation .

GEORGIA

The person who is responsible for Codex Contact Point of Georgia has no any experience or any specific trainings how to involve consumers in standard evaluation process.

TADJIKISTAN

No any consumer representative was included in wg on codex matters so far.

TURKEY

Consumer federations has not had enough budget and awareness to follow up the codex committee meetings.

(iv) identified need for capacity building to strengthen consumers participation in codex related activities

ARMENIA

- Support for improving skills in conducting campaigns and trainings for consumers

EUROPEAN UNION

None

GEORGIA

It is relevant to conduct training for CCPs in the region. Training have to involved working examples.

In addition, It would be reasonable to increase awareness of Government and Civil Servants (state employee) why is codex important and how can we improve our participation in standard elaboration process.

TADJIKISTAN

There is great need to train wg and government authorities in experience of the different countries values and outcomes of the consumer participation in codex relate activities. The same approach should be done for consumers (representatives form business association, corporation , ngo and consumer association)

TURKEY

Training at national level.

Seminars on codex committees and CAC.