

Fraud in the Food Chain

An overview of DG SANTE's initiatives



1. Official controls legislation / Quality schemes

2. DG SANTE

Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (and Food Fraud)



European
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1. Official controls

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

- **Enforce EU legislation (Food Chain)**
- Primary responsibility: Member States.
- 882 Regulation: a "**toolkit**" for Member States:
 - Necessary powers
 - Common set of rules and procedures for official controls.
- *Feed and food law* → ***quality schemes***

Current review - Commission proposal

- Article 23(1) and (3): ***Specific rules on official controls and on action to be taken by the competent authorities in relation to protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed***
- *Accommodate the specificities of Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs), Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSGs)*

Current review - Commission proposal

- **Extension of scope**
 - plant health
 - plant reproductive material
 - animal by-products
- **Regular unannounced official controls directed at identifying intentional violations (fraud)**
- **Sufficiently dissuasive financial penalties**
- **Mandatory EU coordinated control plans**



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Strengthening the Commission and MS capacity to address cross-border non-compliances

1) **Facilitating the exchange of information**

2) Developing **fit for purposes rules** and **strengthening** the EU control system



3) **Better detection and prevention** (training, exchange of best practices)

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

- **Administrative assistance and cooperation in the areas of feed and food**
- Purpose: **appropriate enforcement** when Cross border **action needed**

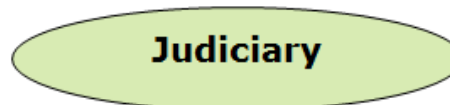


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2. A collaborative approach: e.g. Creation of the Food fraud Network



EUROJUST



Judiciary

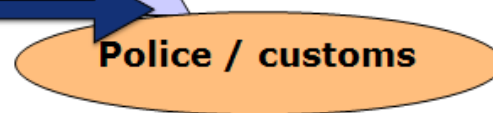
*Promoting cooperation
between authorities*

Member States

Investigative legal
powers



Administrative
(inspectors)



Police / customs

Expertise/ Enforcement

Health and
Food Safety

Intelligence

EUROPOL



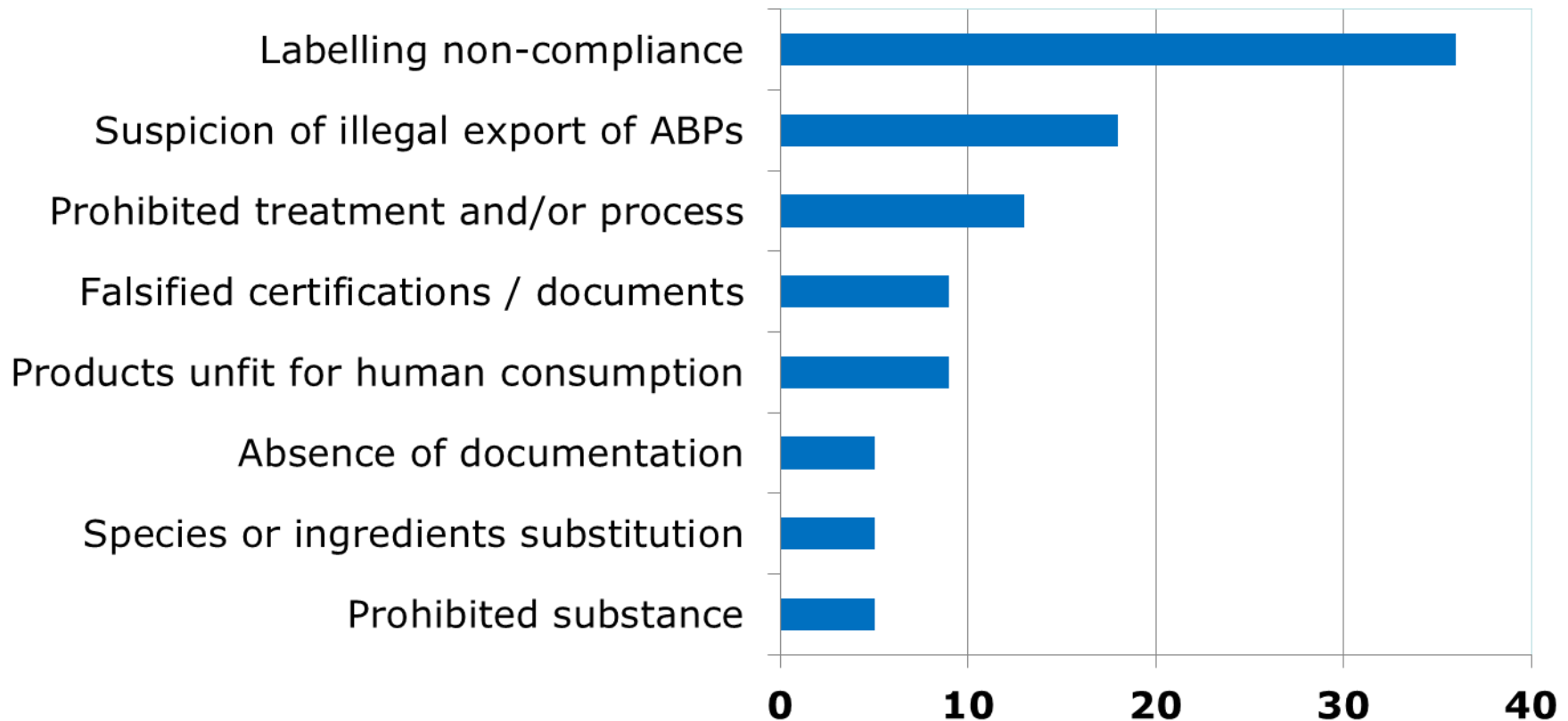
Interpol

The EU Food
Fraud Network



Fraud Cases exchanged via the Network (since July 2013)

200+ cases, most on animal by-products and fish



Facilitating the exchange of info: AAC (Administrative Assistance and Cooperation) system

- IT tool to facilitate compliance with AAC obligations (Title IV of Regulation 882/2004)
- Commission Implementing Decision
- November 2015: AAC System operational

AAC system (IT tool)

- *Launched in November 2015*
- *facilitate compliance with AAC obligations (Title IV of Regulation 882/2004)*
- *Initially limited at the cooperation in case of suspicion of fraud*
- *Foreshadows a more general Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (open to assistance on non-compliances, not limited to fraud)*
- *Future link with other systems, e.g. RASFF, TRACES, OFIS*

EU Coordinated control plans

to better understand extent of fraud in certain sectors (baselines)

- *Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on coordinated control plans*
- *Ad hoc basis, in particular with a view to establishing the prevalence of hazards in feed, food or animals*
 - **2013-2014: horse meat**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/food_fraud/horse_meat/index_en.htm
 - **2015: two EU coordinated control plans (honey, fish)**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/food_fraud/fish_substitution/index_en.htm
 - http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/food_fraud/honey/index_en.htm

Better detection and prevention: BTSF training

Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) ;

- Five courses per year
- Participants from food control, police, border control, etc.
- Courses on
 - investigation techniques to detect "food fraud"
 - e-commerce in food, i.e. sales of food and food products on the internet

Research and technology for fraud prevention

- ***Network of official Reference Labs (EURLs)***
 - A future EU reference Center for Food Integrity ?
- ***Joint Research Center (JRC)***
 - Support to Coordinated Control Plans
- ***Food Integrity Project (FIP) - 7th FP -***





Conclusions

- **AAC and food fraud will remain a priority**
- **Action will continue:**
 - to strengthen cooperation across borders (FFN)
 - to promote cooperation across agencies
 - to seek new synergies with colleagues across the Commission
- **Mobilisation necessary in Member States:**
 - to use AAC provisions and tools to the fullest
 - to integrate specific controls directed at intentional violations in their control plans



Thank you for your attention

and do not forget the overall perspective...

Food in the EU has never been safer

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http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/food_fraud/index_en.htm