

# Geographical Indications Civil Dialogue Group on Quality and Promotion



**DG SANTE**

Unit G5: Alerts and Traceability

Eva SIEGENER

Civil Dialogue Group on Quality and Promotion  
Brussels, BE, 06 December 2019

**Ursula von der Leyen**

*President of the European Commission*

## Mission letter

**Stella Kyriakides**

**Commissioner for Health and Food Safety**

### **Food Safety:**

*"I want you to **focus on the implementation and enforcement** of the extensive legislation in the areas of food safety and animal and plant health. Audits will be a crucial tool for this, notably to ensure that food imports meet our safety standards."*

### **Food Fraud:**

*"You should work with the Member States to develop a strategy with concrete measures against food fraud, drawing on the work of the European Anti-Fraud Office in this area."*



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# The EU Food Fraud Network

*28 NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS IN THE EU COUNTRIES*

*SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, ICELAND, EFTA SURVEILLANCE*

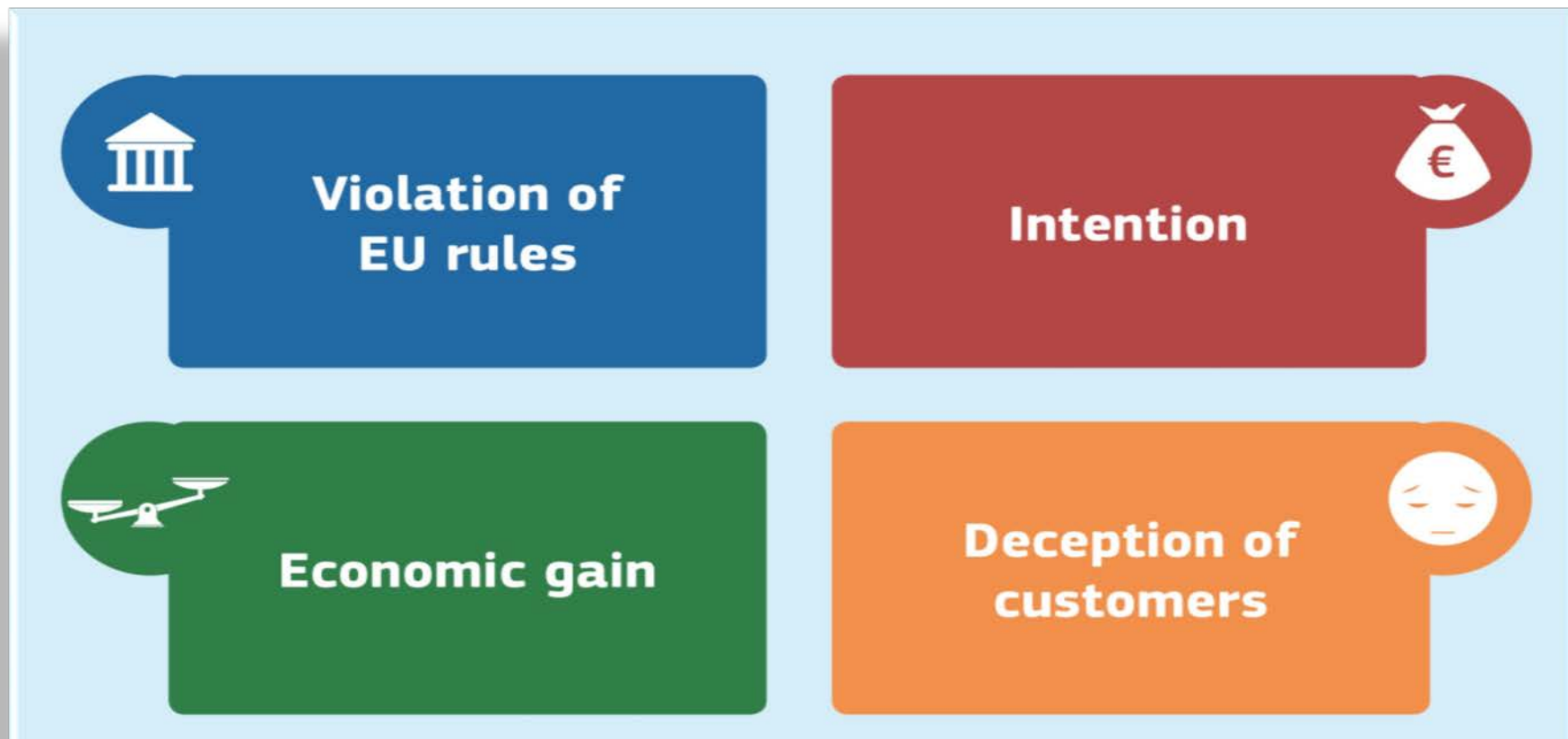
*EUROPEAN COMMISSION*

*(LEAD SANTE - AGRI - MARE - OLAF)*

*ASSOCIATED EU BODY: EUROPOL*



# EU Agri-food fraud criteria



***Suspicion of intentional actions taken by businesses or individuals for the purpose of deceiving purchasers and gaining an undue advantage therefrom, in violation of the rules referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625***







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*Threats to public health  
Impacts on legitimate trade  
Consumers: confidence  
Companies: money  
Authorities: credibility*

# Activities on Food Fraud



**The EUROPEAN FOOD FRAUD NETWORK &  
EU COORDINATED CASES**



**EU-WIDE COORDINATED CONTROL PLANS**

horse meat (2013/2014), fish substitution (2015), honey  
(2015/2017), online offered food (2017), Herbs and Spices (2019)



**TRAINING FOR FOOD FRAUD**

Specific workshops on eCommerce and Investigation Techniques



**LEGISLATION ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS (OCR)**

EU Reference Centres for food authenticity, stronger sanctions  
and broader scope for food fraud



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# Legal framework to act

*R 178/2002 on the General Food Law*

*R 1169/2011 on Food Information to Consumers*

*R 767/2009 on Feed*

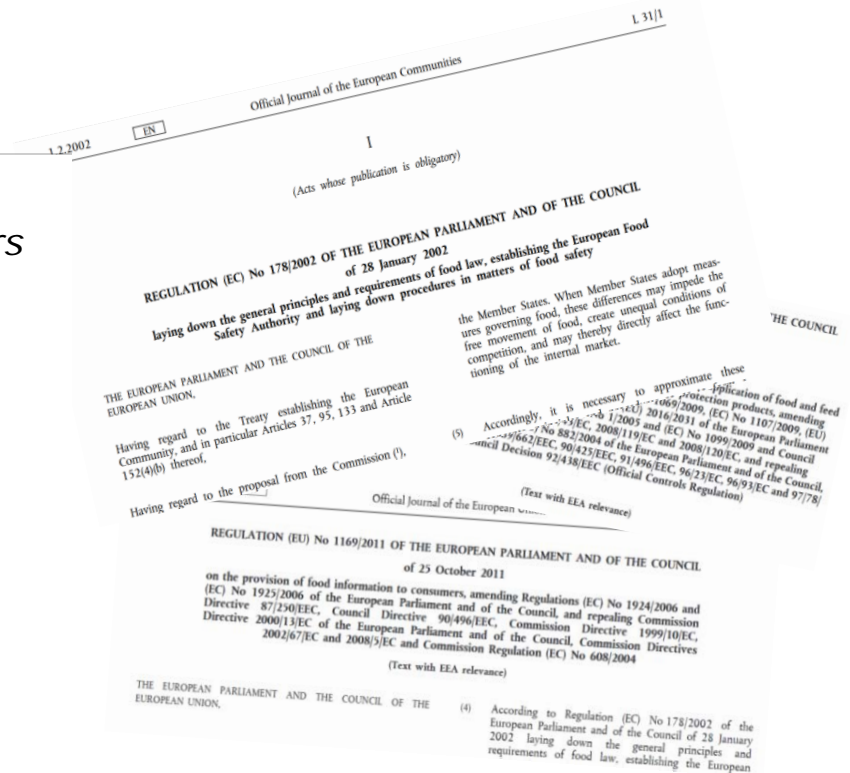
***R 882/2004 → R 2017/625 on Official Controls***

*CiD 2015/1918*

*Operators: ensuring compliance*

*Authorities: verifying compliance*

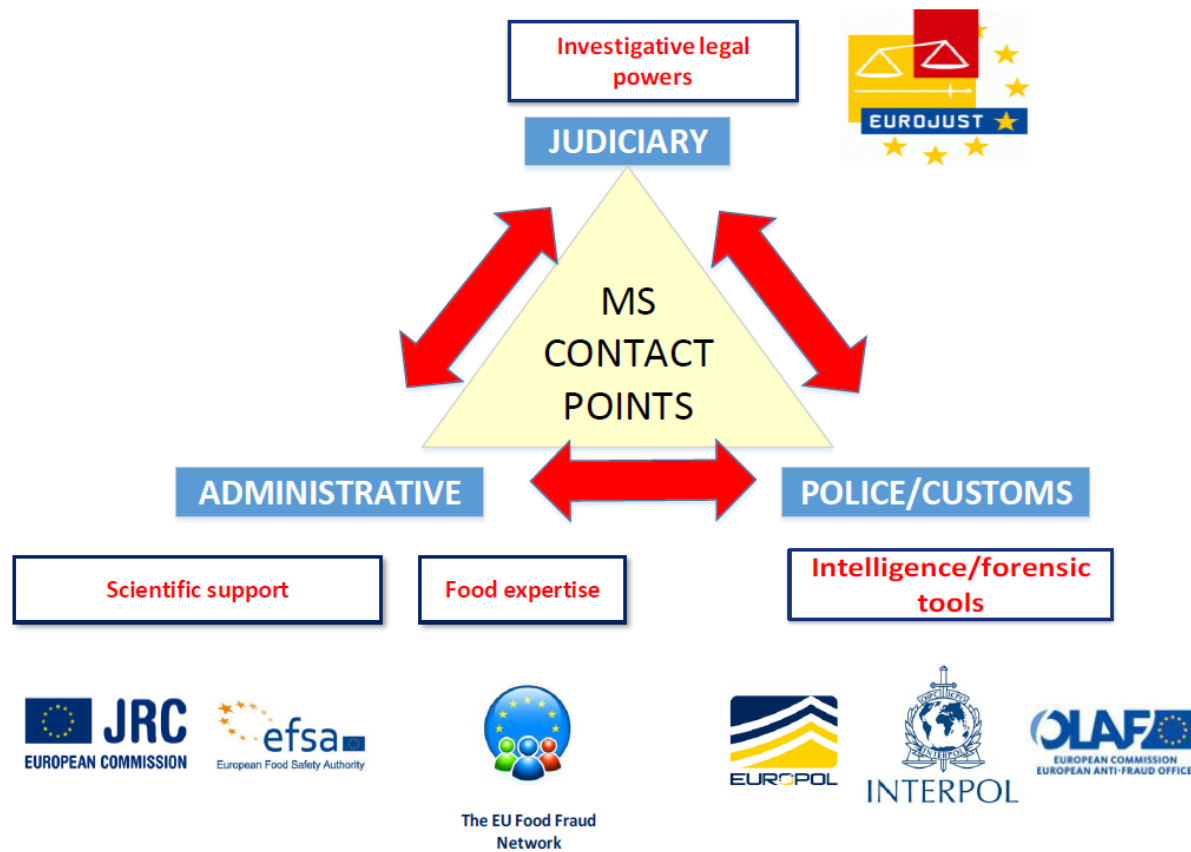
*Commission: Guardian of the Treaties,  
cooperation, relation with non-EU countries*





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## A COOPERATIVE APPROACH BASED ON TRUST



# EU information systems

**iRASFF** (new generation electronic and interactive notification platform of RASFF)

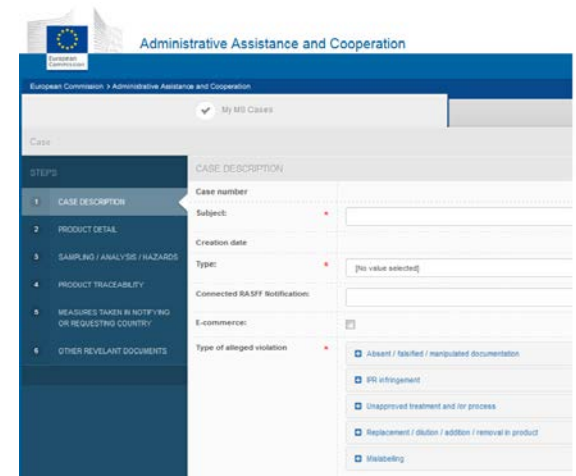
- **RASFF**: Notification implying serious health risks  
(3638 in 2018, 3768 in 2017)
- **AAC\_NC\***: Notification for non-compliant products.  
1153 requests and information in 2018  
(85 in 2016, 602 in 2017)

**AAC\_FF\***: Notification with suspicion of fraud

**TRACES**: Certification and identification traceability



**TRACES**  
TRAde Control and Expert System







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# Information



## Monthly summary of articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

JRC publishes every month a summary of articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration, content is retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medsys

Last edition - September 2018



2018

- September 2018 (PDF)
- July/August 2018 (PDF)
- June 2018 (PDF)



**What is IMSOC?**

Keywords: **CONSOLIDATION-EFFICIENCY**

Name: **Information Management System for Official Controls**

Is it a new IT application? **NO!** It's a concept to allow our EU systems to exchange information and share features (and with MS systems).

Will it add further burden to our activities? **NO!** It will be designed to make your life easier.

Will it replace the current systems? (traces/bovex/europhyt/irasff/aac) **NO/YES** It will connect them and extend functionalities (some systems will absorb).

What is its purpose? **Toward a better collective controls efficiency**



Emerging Risks Exchange Network  
(EREN) Member states

**#1**  
**ENGAGING**  
**STAKEHOLDERS**

...

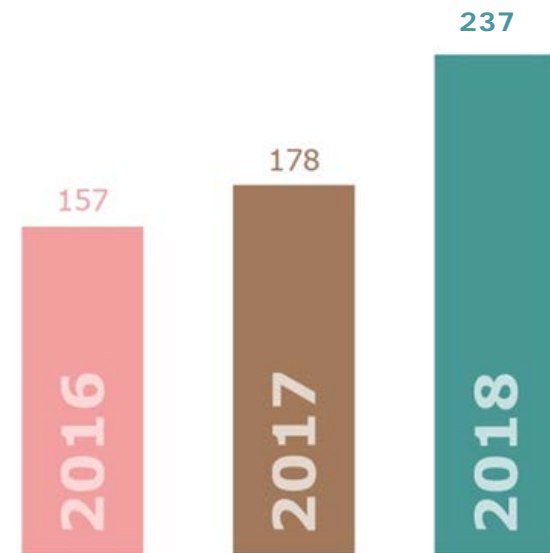
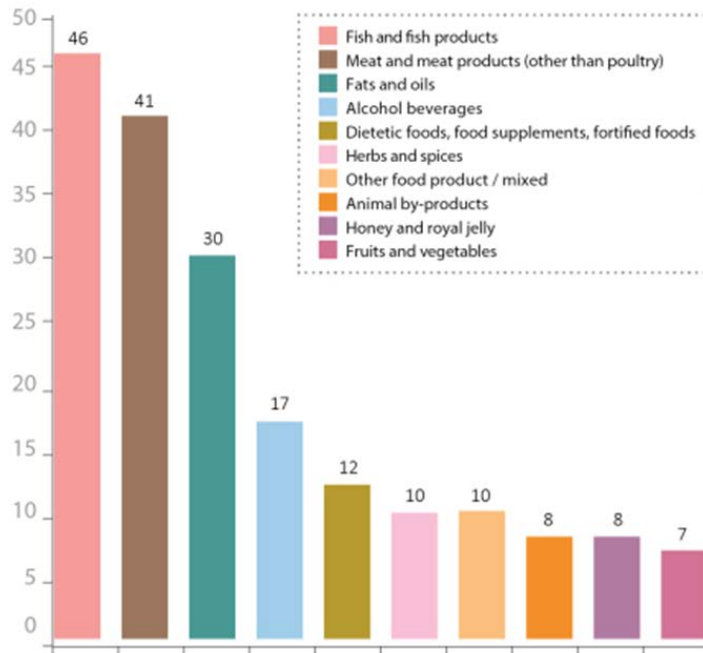


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# EU information systems

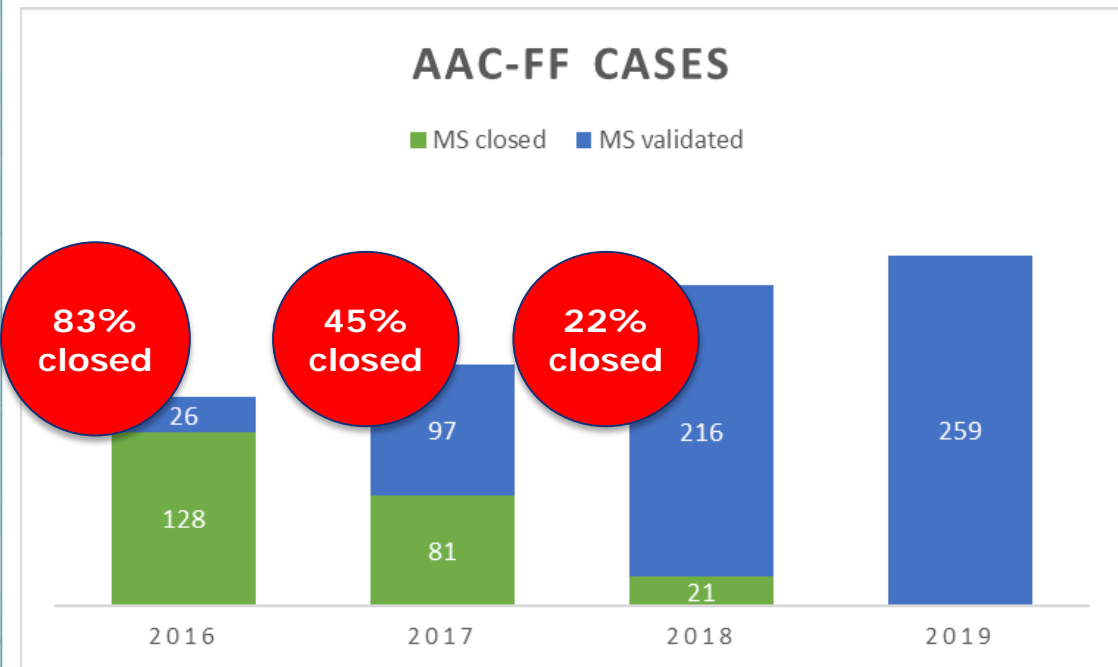
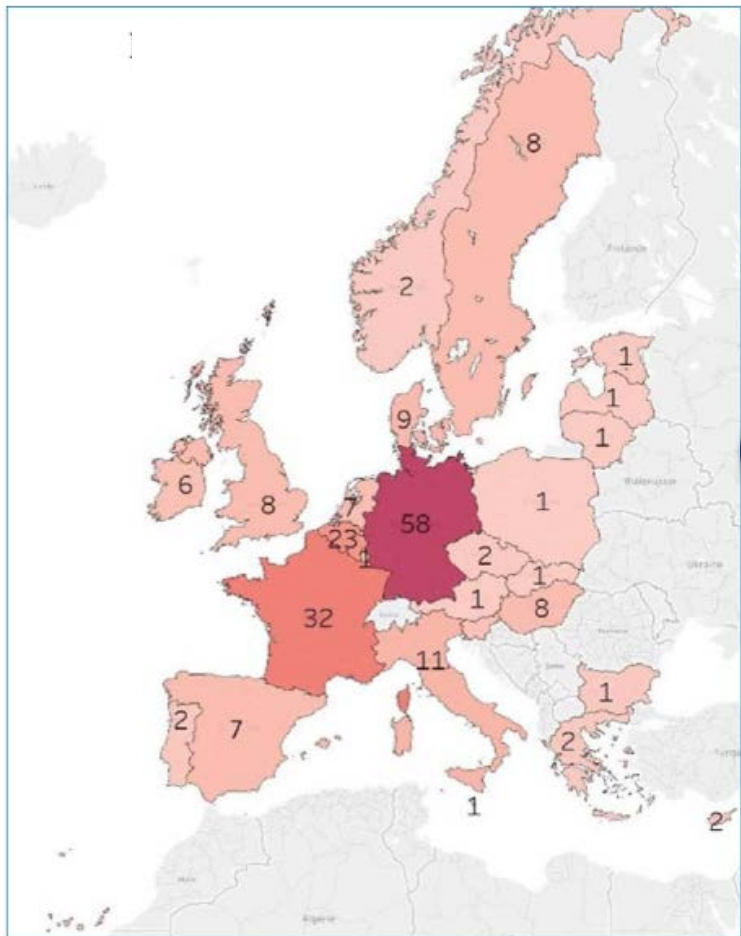
**AAC\_FF\***: Notification with suspicion of fraud. 237 requests for cooperation were launched in the AAC-Food Fraud in 2018.

Activity Report: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/aas\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/aas_en)





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Total number of requests  
by requesting country (2018)

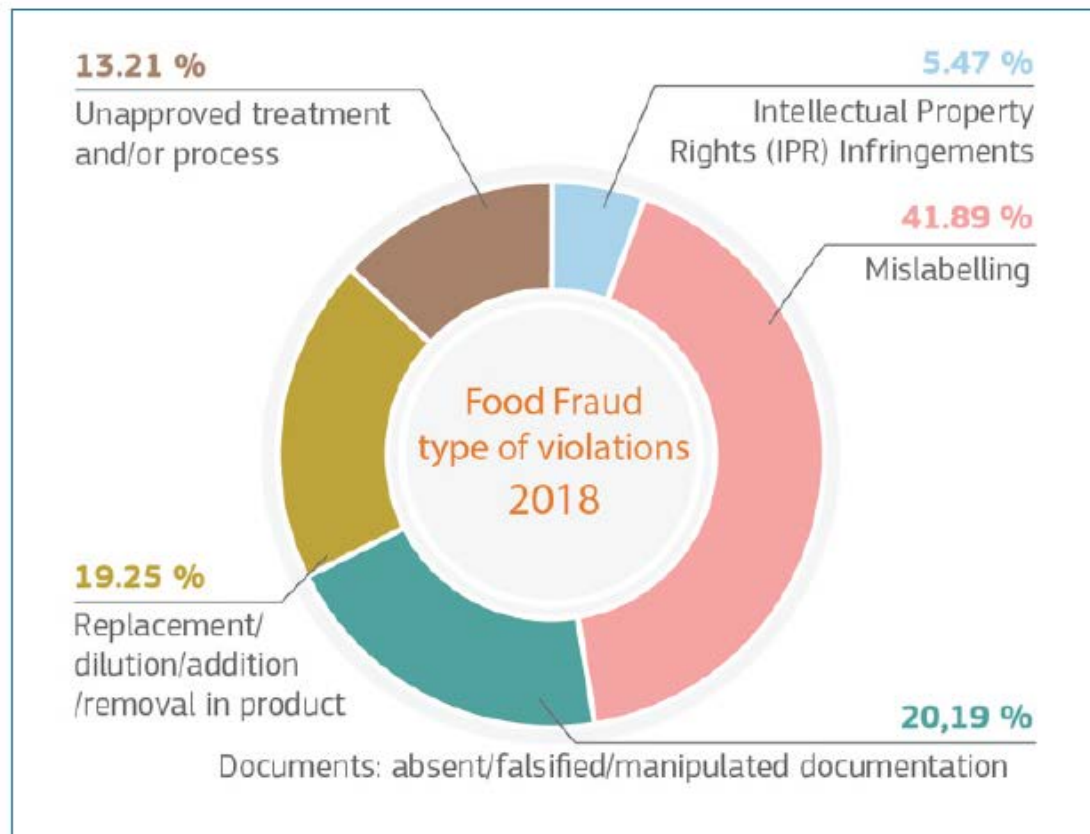
Status by year  
total number of **requests**  
(2019: data as of 27.11.2019)

Activity Report:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/aas\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/aas_en)

Health and  
Food Safety

# Type of suspected violation reported in the AAC-FF in 2018



# How can we ensure that fraudsters are penalised?

*Easy choice: the risks of getting caught are low and there are no proper deterrents*

*Not traditionally a high priority for prosecution/judicial services*

*Lengthy process (public health risks)*

*Lack the necessary range of administrative measures /penalties*





# Information, recall, withdrawal and reporting?

*No direct obligation to report or withdraw products when fraudulent or deceptive practices are suspected (whistle-blower protection and food fraud definition absent)*

*Authorities / Commission deprived of intelligence source*

*Mainly "cross-border"*

*Difficulties for prevention, search, detection and combat for other similar occurrences of fraud*



# Competent authorities

*Food inspectors without forensic capacities*

*Police inspectors without food expertise*

*Not necessarily a high priority compared to other criminal activities (when no public health risk)*

*Possibility to identify emerging risk*

*Ability to coordinate investigation*

*Capacity to work on equal terms with other investigative services*





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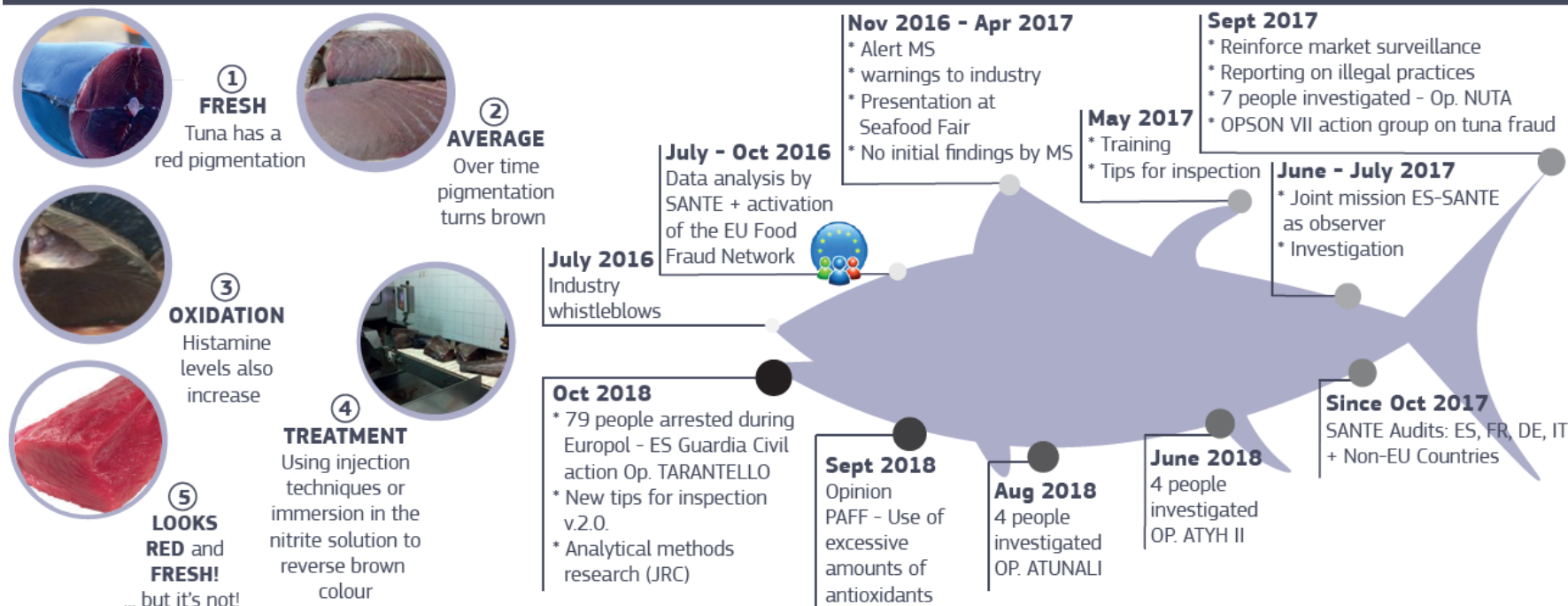
# Achievements



Health and  
Food Safety



## FOOD FRAUD: Illegal treatment of tuna - from canning to the fresh market



## FOOD FRAUD CRITERIA

Violation of EU Food Law	Intention	Economic gain	Deception of customer
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuna frozen in brine sold as fresh instead of being canned. (Reg 853/2004)</li> <li>Treatment of the fish (unauthorised/ authorised additives) to promote a colour change. (Reg 1333/2008)</li> <li>Provision of food information to consumers. (Reg 1169/2011)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intentional use of authorised (antioxidant not in concordance with good manufacturing practices), unauthorised additives (nitrates/nitrites) and carbon monoxide to promote colour change.</li> <li>EC warned industry several times to stop this practice.</li> </ol>	<p>Potentially &gt; 200 millions €/year</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor quality tuna sold as high quality.</li> <li>Public health issues: a high level of histamine can lead to allergic syndrom and nitrites may lead to formation of nitrosamines (carcinogenic).</li> </ol>



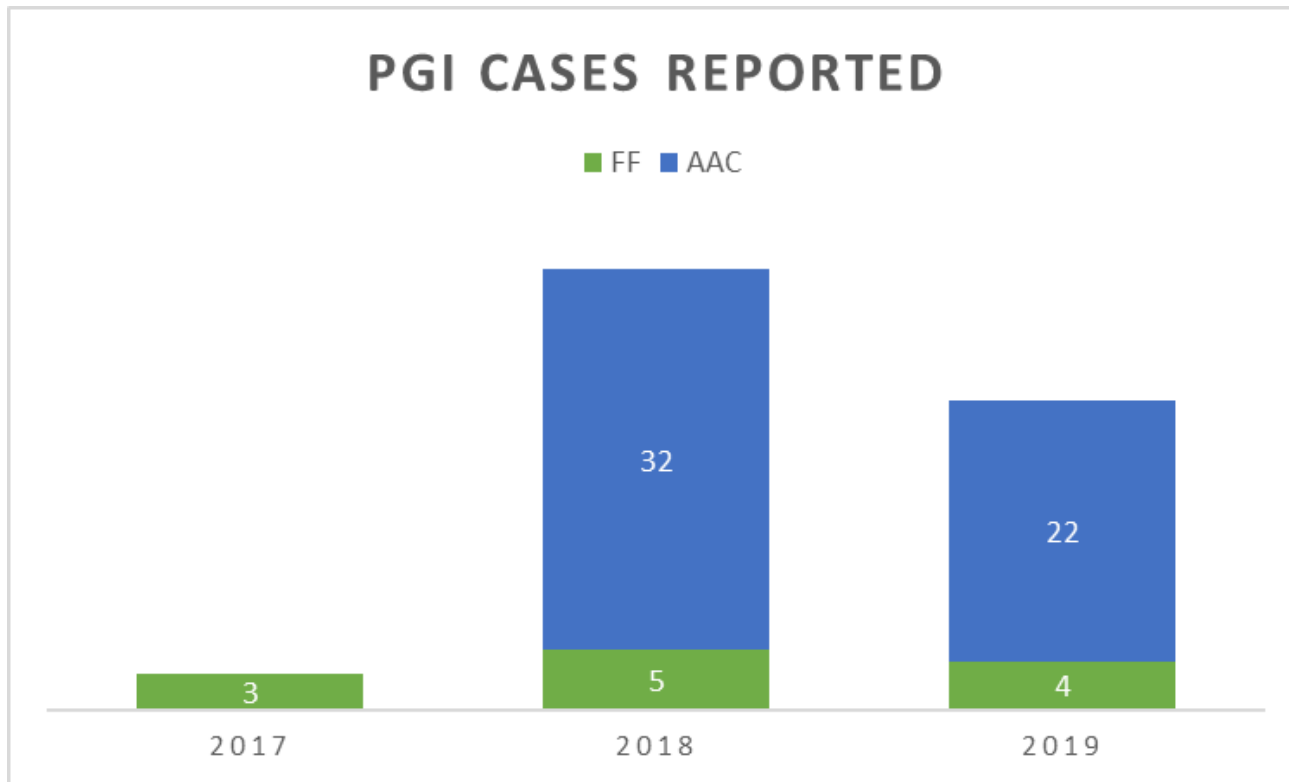
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# Geographical indications cases

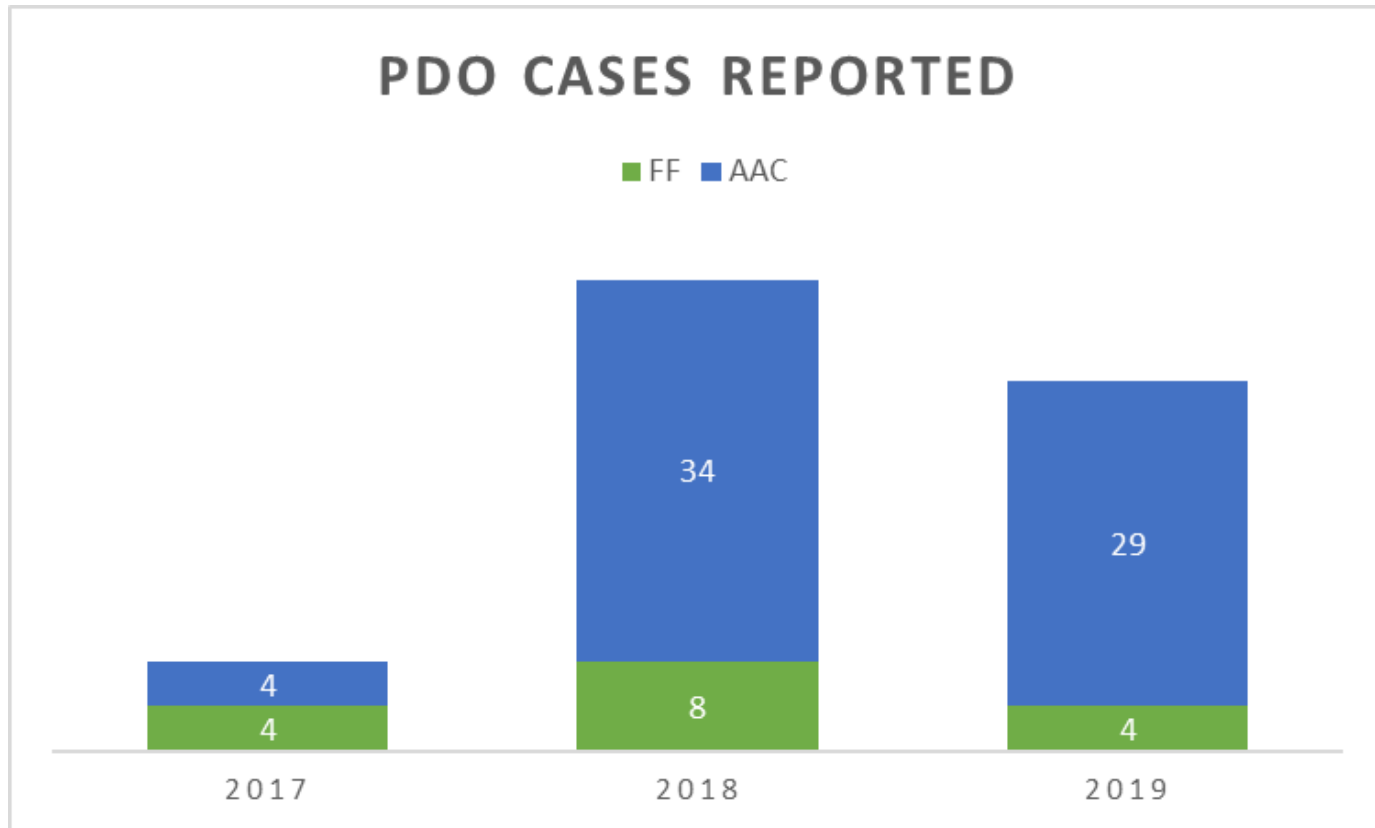




# Protected geographical indication (PGI) cases



## Protected designation of origin (PDO) cases





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\* This is not an apple

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/food-fraud\\_contact\\_points.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/food-fraud_contact_points.pdf)