

Working Document

Summary of the measures taken to enforce the rules on personal imports of meat and dairy products in Member States in 2005, 2006 and 2007, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004



Keep infectious animal diseases out of the European Union!

Products of animal origin may carry pathogens that cause infectious diseases in animals

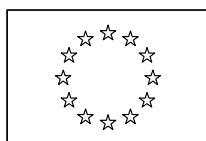


There are strict procedures and veterinary controls on the introduction of products of animal origin into the European Union

 **Travellers (*) must surrender these products for official controls**

(*) Other than those arriving with small quantities for personal consumption from Andorra, the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland.





EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate D - Animal health and welfare
D1 - Animal health and Standing Committees

Summary of the measures taken to enforce the rules on personal imports of meat and dairy products in Member States in 2005, 2006 and 2007, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004

1. Executive summary

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004, Member States are required to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, reports summarising the measures taken to advertise and enforce the rules on the introduction of personal consignments of meat and dairy products. Reports for 2005 were received from 24 out of the 25 Member States, reports for 2006 from all 25 Member States plus Romania, and those for 2007 from all 27 Member States plus Norway.

Overall, the reports show that the posters, as laid down in the Regulation, were used to raise travellers' awareness of their responsibilities as regards the introduction of personal consignments of meat and dairy products, but that little information is provided to the travellers by international passenger transport operators.

Mechanisms used to identify illegal personal consignments of meat and dairy products included mainly randomised and targeted customs searches, but also in some Member States, scanning equipment and detector dogs were used. The total number of illegal consignments of meat and dairy products found in personal luggage at Community entry points in 2005 was approximately 73,400. This figure rose to 111,000 in 2006 and to approximately 127,000 in 2007. There was approximately a 75% increase in the total amount of meat and dairy products confiscated in 2007 compared to 2005 (210 tons to 367 tons). The largest amounts of meat and dairy products were confiscated and/or destroyed in Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The five third countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments were Turkey, China, Russia, Ukraine, and Egypt.

2. Introduction and legal basis

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004 of 16 April 2004 laying down measures with regard to imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption¹, and in particular Article 5 thereof, Member States are required to submit to the Commission on a yearly basis reports summarising the relevant information on the measures taken to advertise and enforce the rules on personal imports of meat and dairy products of the Regulation, and the results thereof.

¹ OJ L 116, 22.4.2004, p. 28

For 2005, reports were returned by 24 out of the 25 Member States (MS). For 2006, reports were returned by all 25 MS and by Romania. In 2007, reports were returned by all 27 MS plus Norway.

The data collated from the reports received form the basis of this document.

3. Number of European Community entry points

The total number of European Community entry points reported by Member States was approximately 1303 in 2005, 1288 in 2006, and 1212 in 2007. There was a large difference in the numbers of Community entry points specified by each MS (see figure 1) with Italy reporting by far the highest number of entry points (up to 380 in 2007). This large disparity seems to be due to a different interpretation by MS of what constitutes a Community entry point. The term may need to be further clarified.

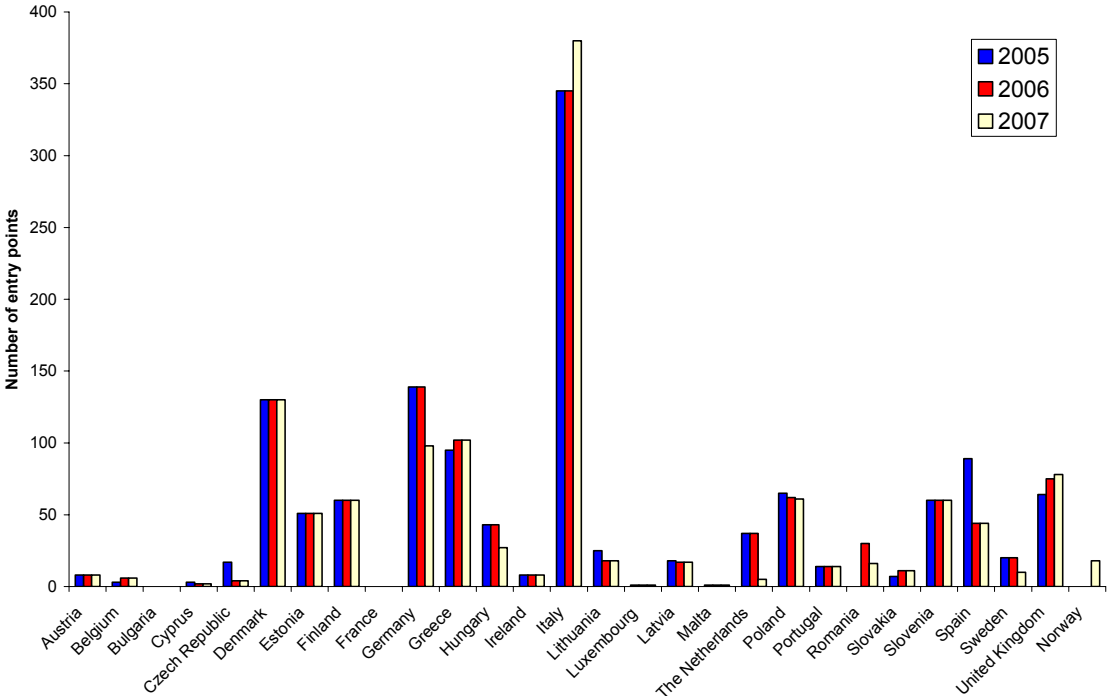


Figure 1: Number of European Community entry points as reported by MS in 2005, 2006 and 2007

4. Mechanisms used to raise awareness of animal health conditions regarding personal imports

The data submitted showed that all Member States, which completed the question in the form, raised awareness of animal health conditions regarding the introduction of personal consignments of products of animal origin, through the use of the posters laid down in Annex II of the Regulation. Other methods of raising passengers' awareness were through the use of leaflets, websites, press releases, public announcements, adverts, and videos. In addition, some Member States provided training for staff at entry points and some also provided information to international passenger transport operators (see figures 2, 3 and 4).

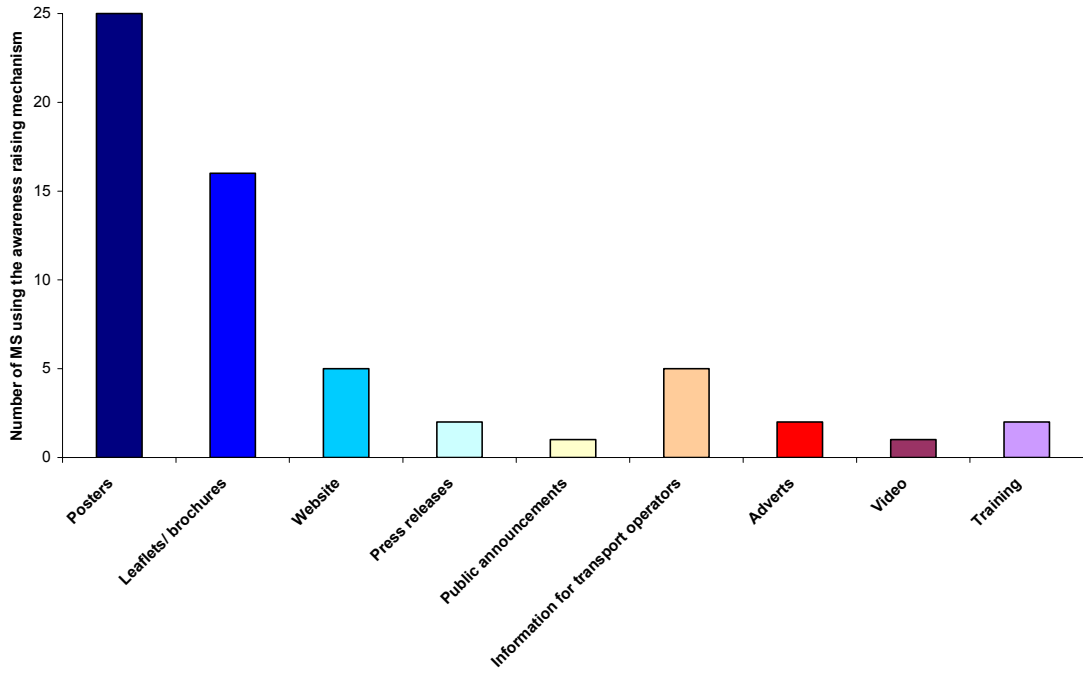


Figure 2: Awareness raising mechanisms used in MS in 2005

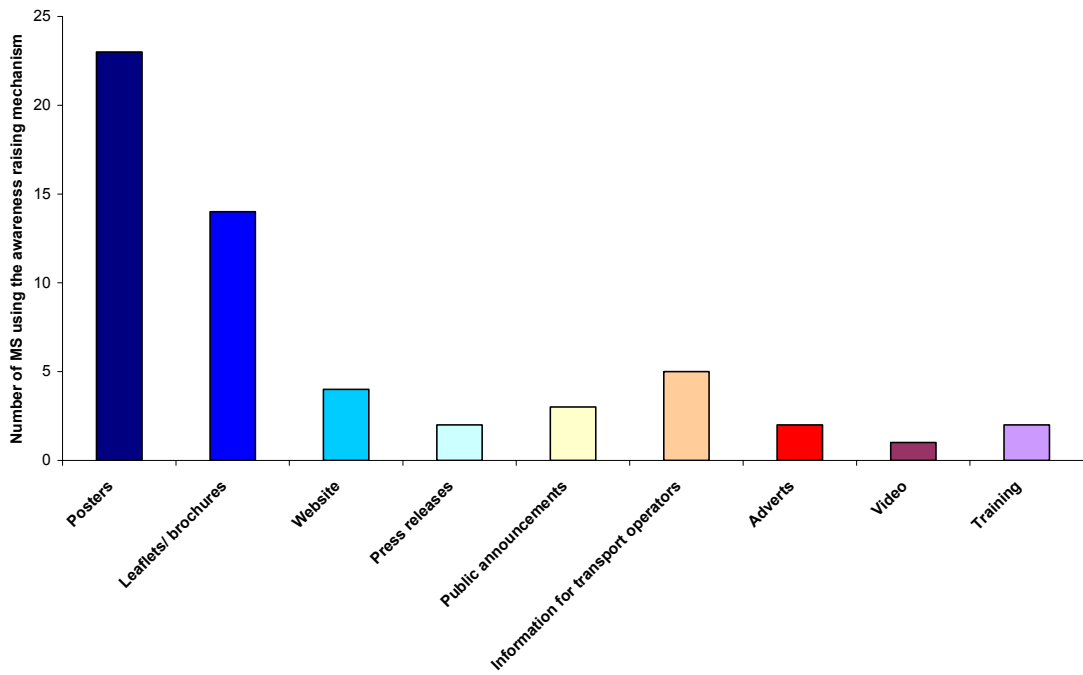


Figure 3: Awareness raising mechanisms used in MS in 2006

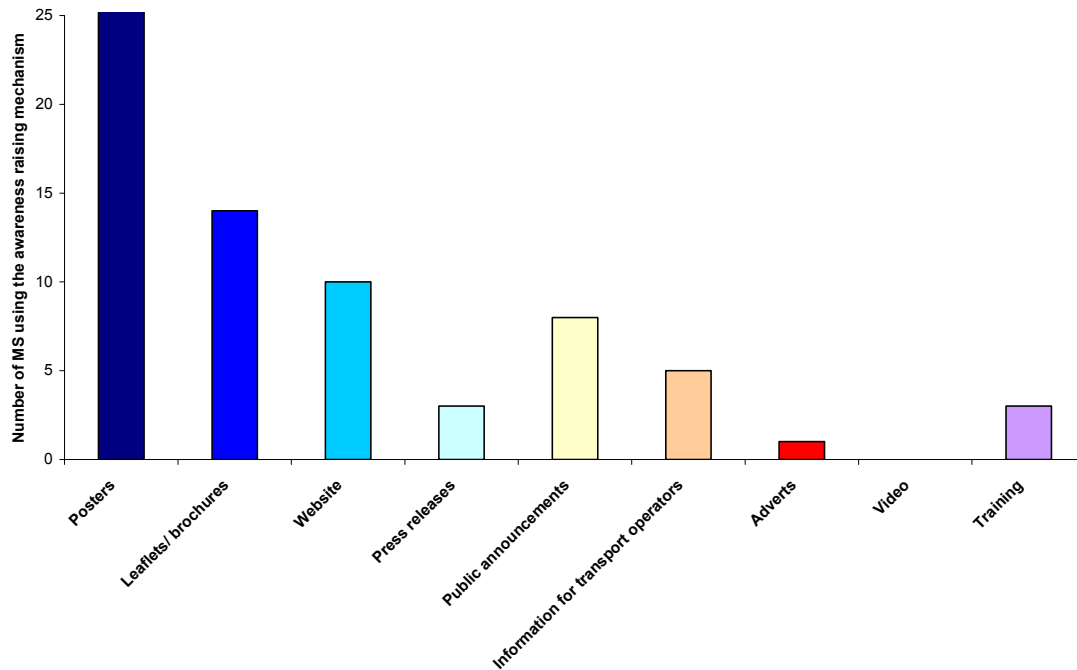


Figure 4: Awareness raising mechanisms used in MS in 2007

5. Enforcement

(a) Mechanisms used to identify illegal meat and dairy products consignments

Most Member States used randomised and targeted customs searches to identify illegal meat and dairy products consignments. Scanning equipment is used in more than 50% of the Member State and in some cases customs officials used detection dogs (see figures 5, 6 and 7).

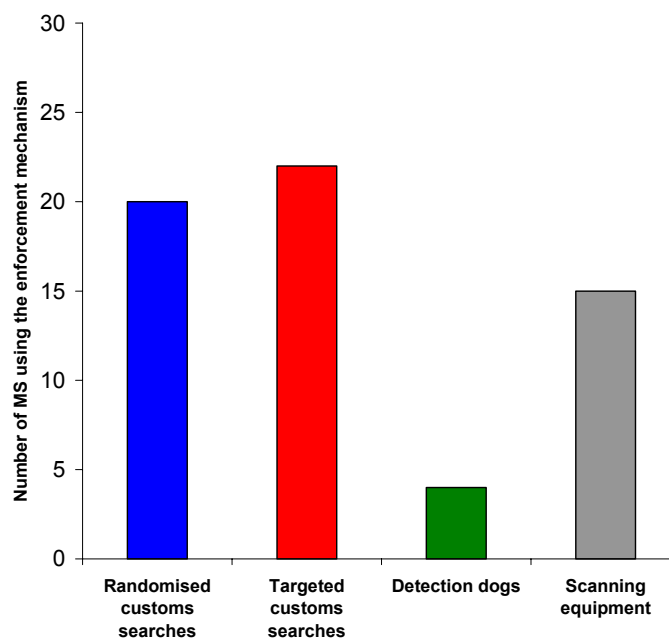


Figure 5: Mechanisms used to identify illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2005

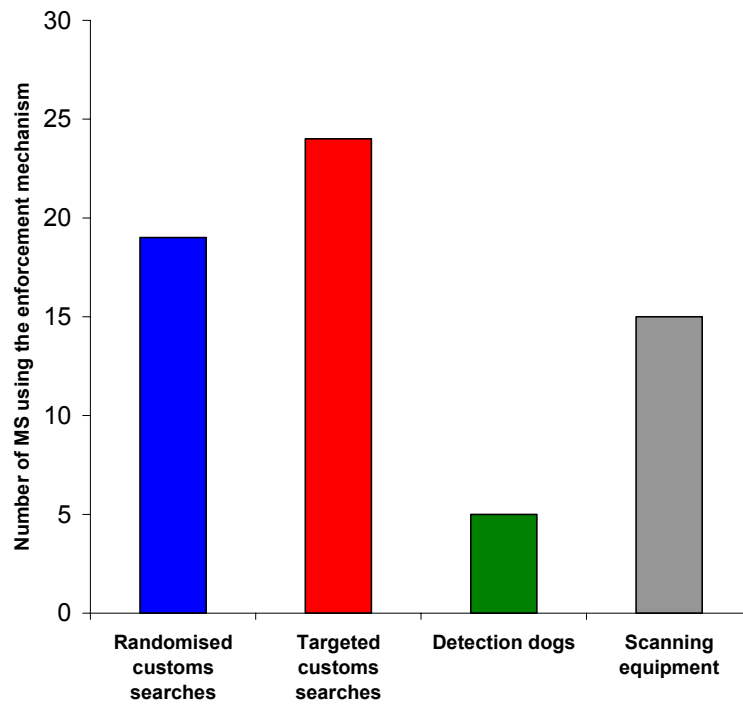


Figure 6: Mechanisms used to identify illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2006

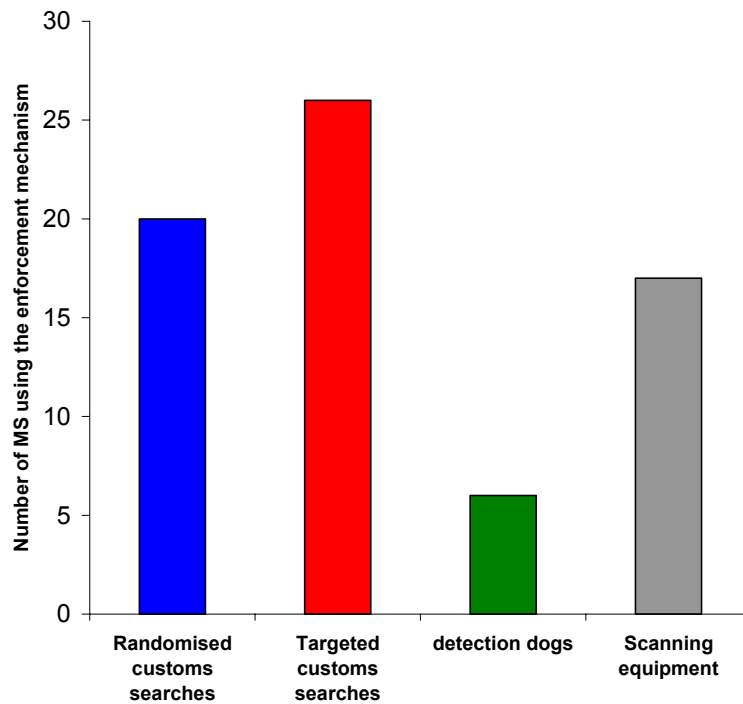


Figure 7: Mechanisms used to identify illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2007

(b) Number of illegal consignments of meat and dairy products in personal luggage at Community entry points

The total number of illegal consignments of meat and dairy products found in personal luggage at Community entry points was approximately 73,400 in 2005, 111,000 in 2006, and 127,000 in 2007 (see figure 8). However, a number of Member States did not complete this question in their reports.

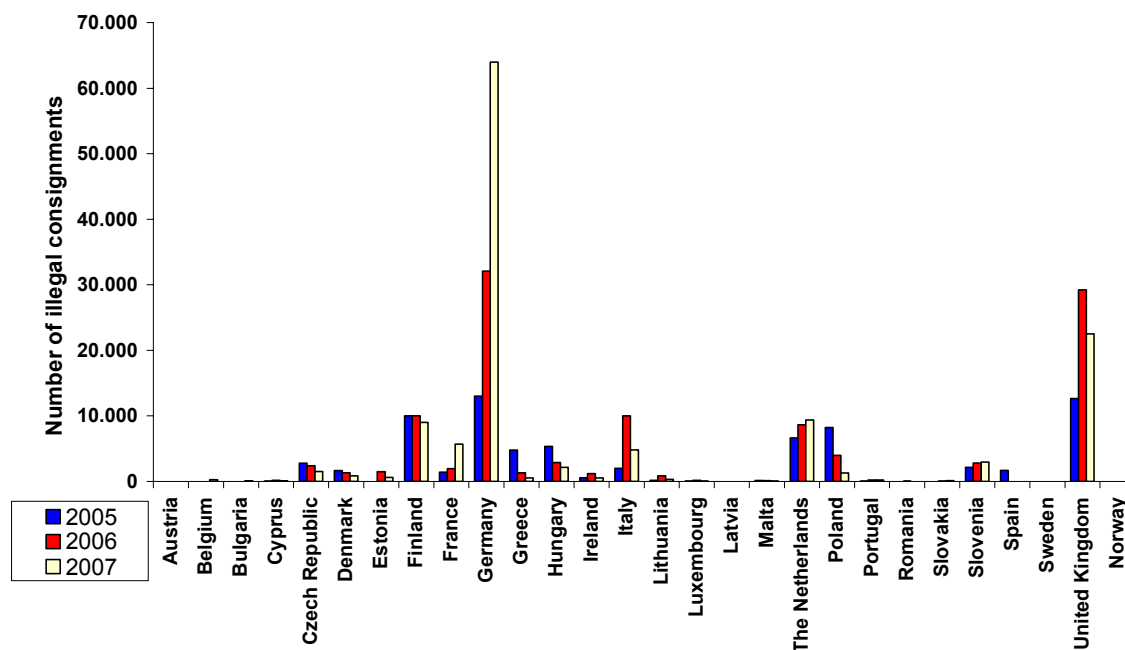


Figure 8: Number of illegal consignments of meat and dairy products in personal luggage at Community entry points

(c) Amount of meat and dairy products confiscated and/or destroyed from personal luggage as a result of checks implemented at Community entry points

There was an increase in 2006 in the total amount of meat and dairy products confiscated and/or destroyed compared to 2005. In 2005, approximately 144 tonnes of meat were confiscated and/or destroyed in the EU and in 2006 this increased to approximately 256 tonnes (see figure 9). As regards milk and milk products, in 2005, 66 tonnes were confiscated and/or destroyed in the EU and in 2006, the figure increased to 246 tonnes (see figure 10).

In 2007, there was a decrease in both the amounts of meat and dairy products confiscated compared to 2006. The values were of 209 and 158 tonnes for meat and dairy products respectively (see figures 9 and 10).

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the largest amounts of meat and dairy products were confiscated and/or destroyed in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Spain.

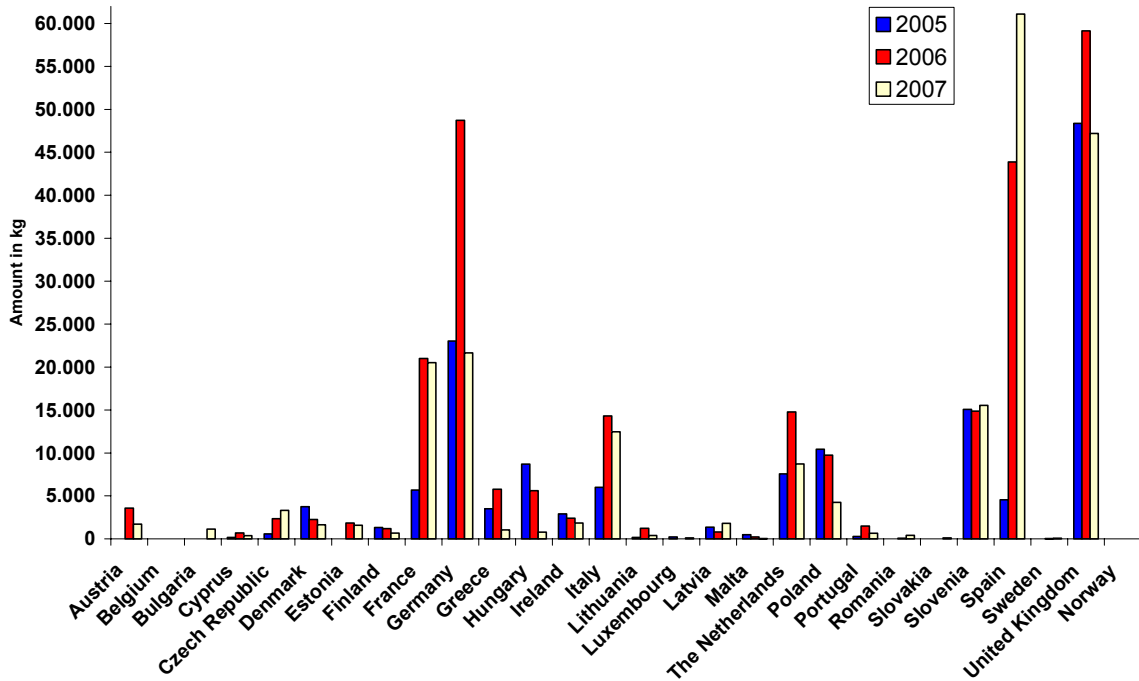


Figure 9: Amount of meat confiscated and/or destroyed from personal luggage as a result of checks implemented at Community entry points in 2005, 2006 and 2007

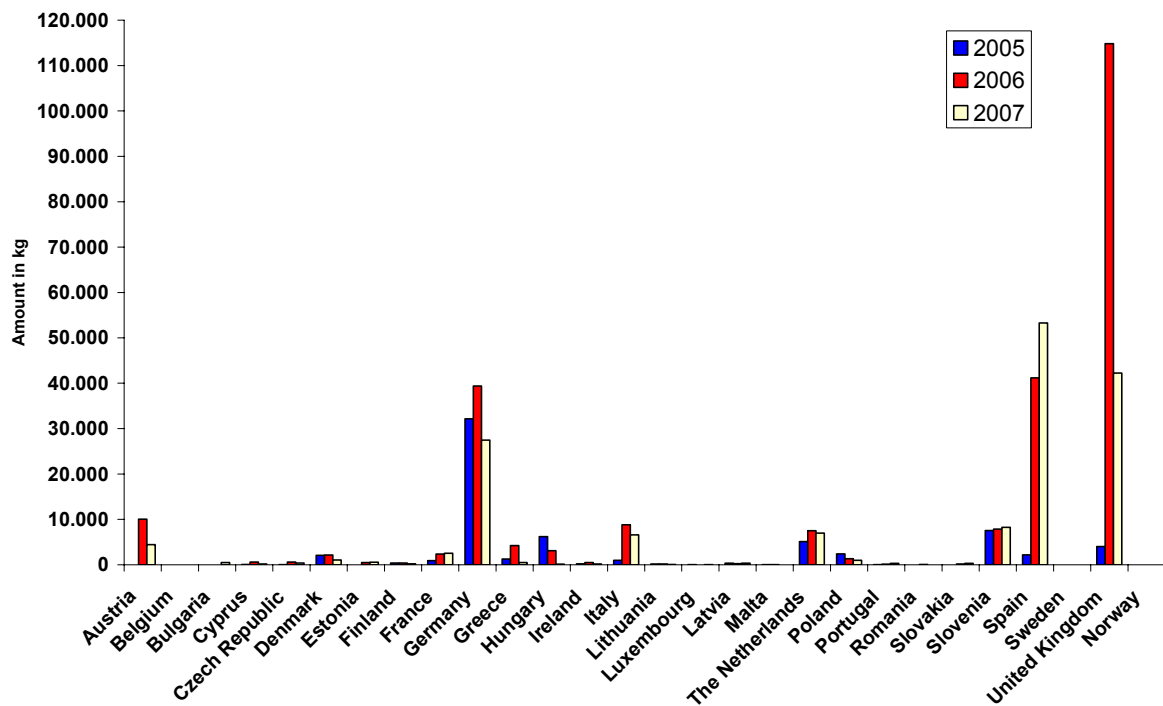


Figure 10: Amount of dairy products confiscated and/or destroyed from personal luggage as a result of checks implemented at Community entry points in 2005, 2006 and 2007

In accordance with Article 8 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 136/2004, products of animal origin not referred to in Article 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004, can be imported for personal consumption if the amount is less than 1kg. In accordance with these requirements, a number of Member States stated that other products of animal origin had been confiscated and/or destroyed. These products included eggs in Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Latvia, and fish in The Netherlands.

(d) Top five Third Countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments

Member States were asked to list the five third countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments. These third countries included countries in North and South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle-East, and Asia. In 2005, the top countries were reported to be China, Russia, Turkey, Egypt and Romania in that order (see figure 11). In 2006, they were China, Turkey, Russia, Egypt, the Ukraine and Thailand (see figure 12). In 2007, the reported Third Countries were Turkey, China, the Ukraine, Russia and Egypt equally to Serbia and Montenegro (see figure 13).

(e) Third Countries from which passengers have been regularly subject to customs searches and information on the number of searches carried out and the quantity and type of illegal consignments found

In general, the third countries listed as those from which passengers had been regularly subjected to customs searches were those that had been listed under point (d).

The information on the number of searches carried out and the quantity and type of illegal consignments found was not always specified in the reports.

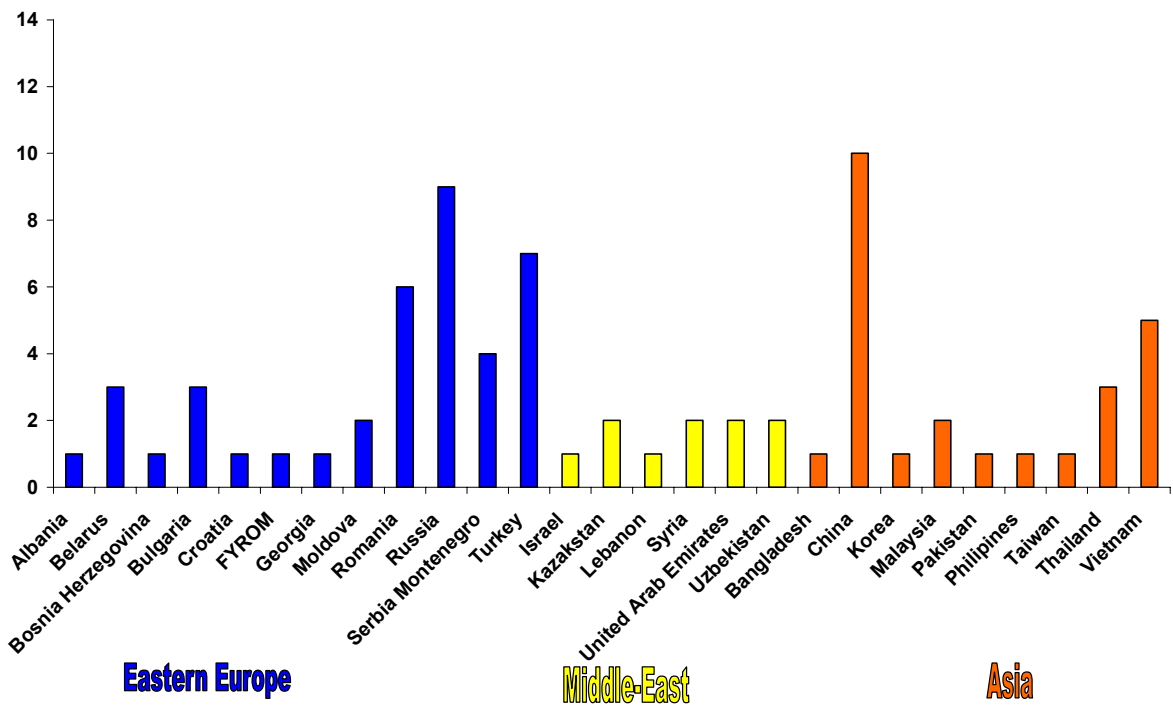
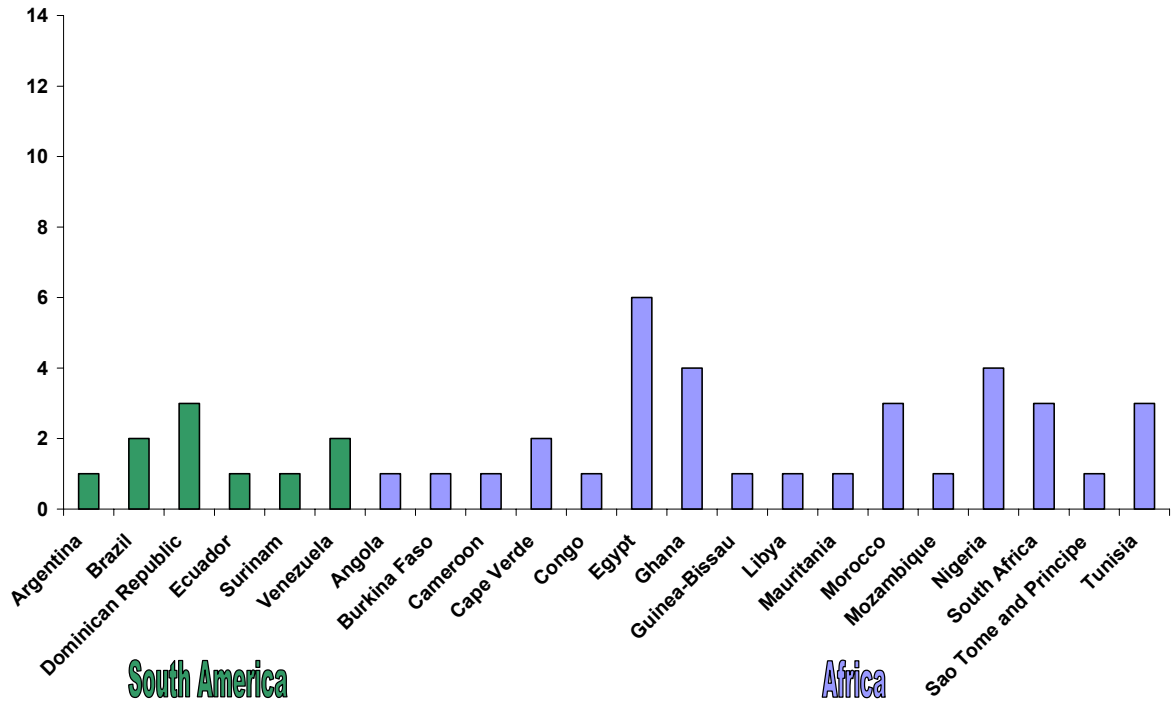


Figure 11: Top Third Countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2005

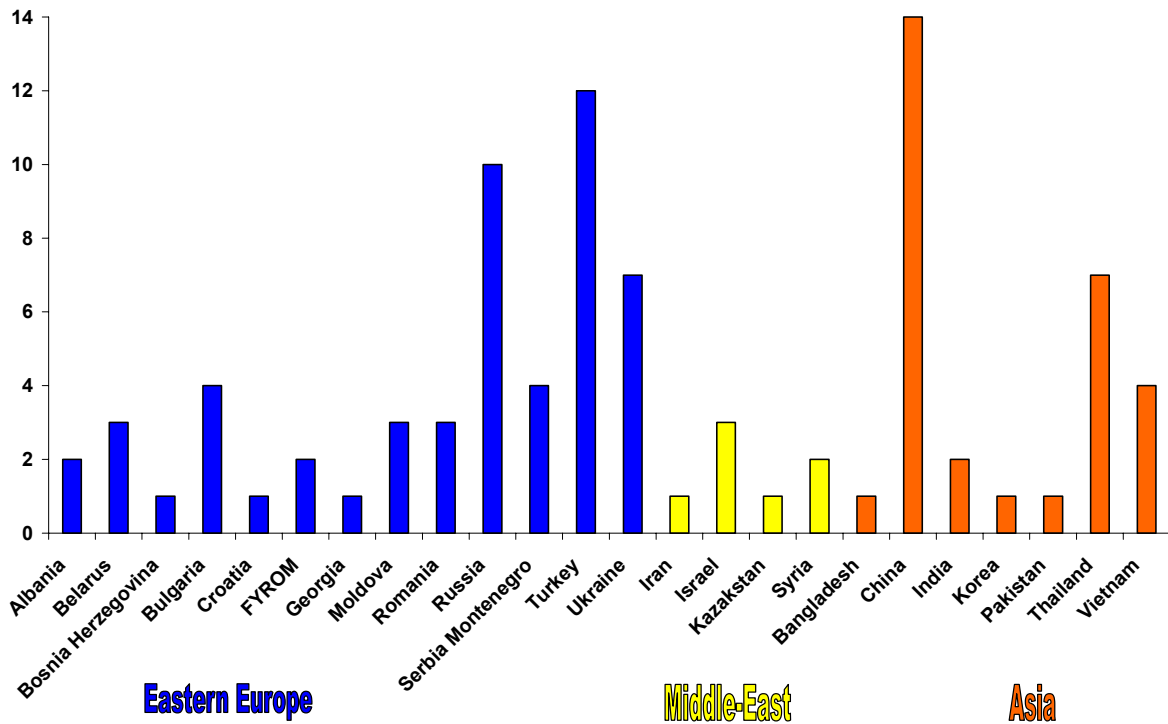
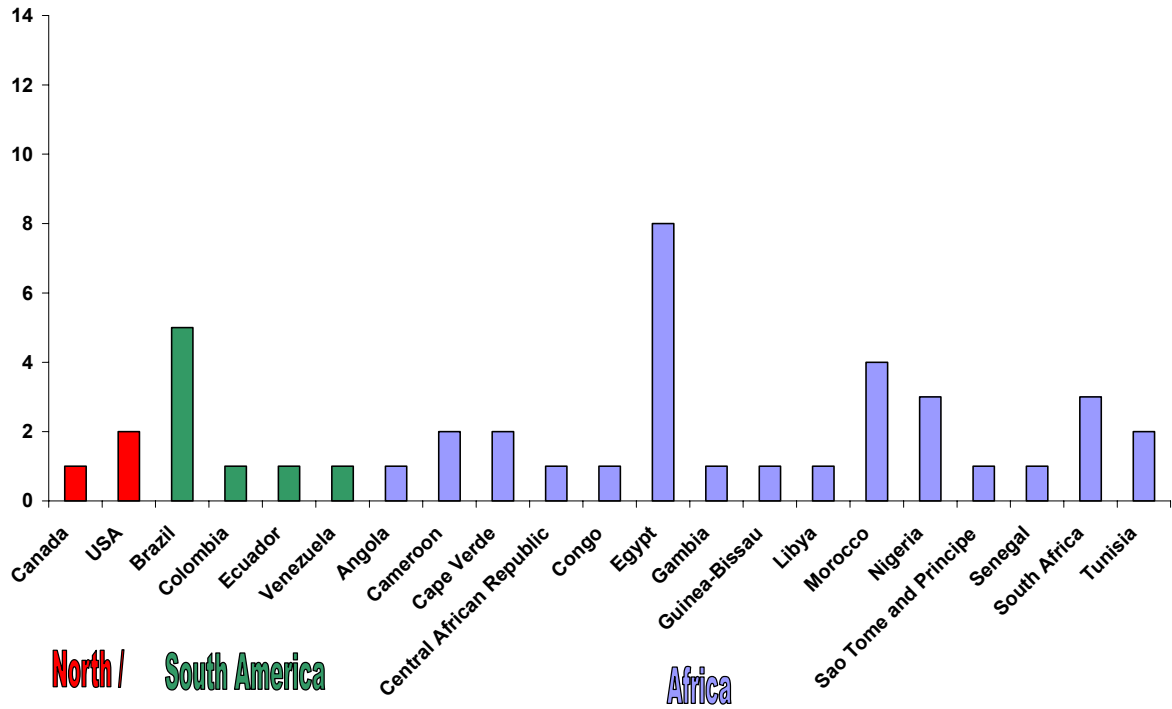


Figure 12: Top Third Countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2006

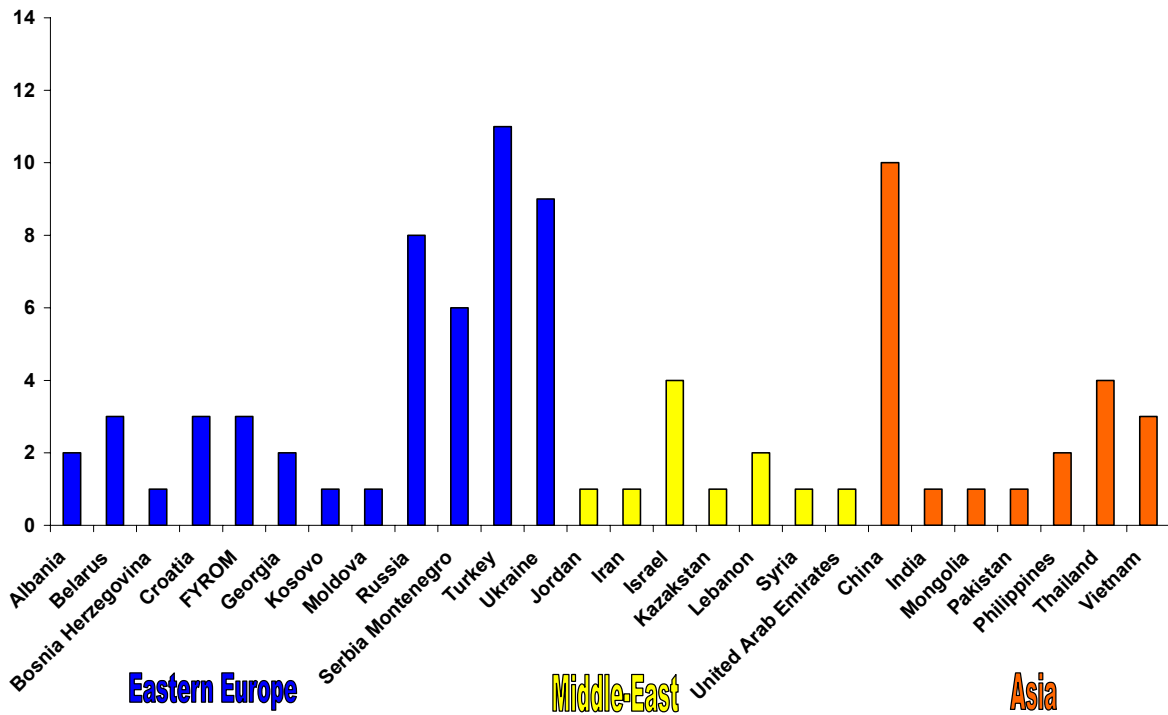
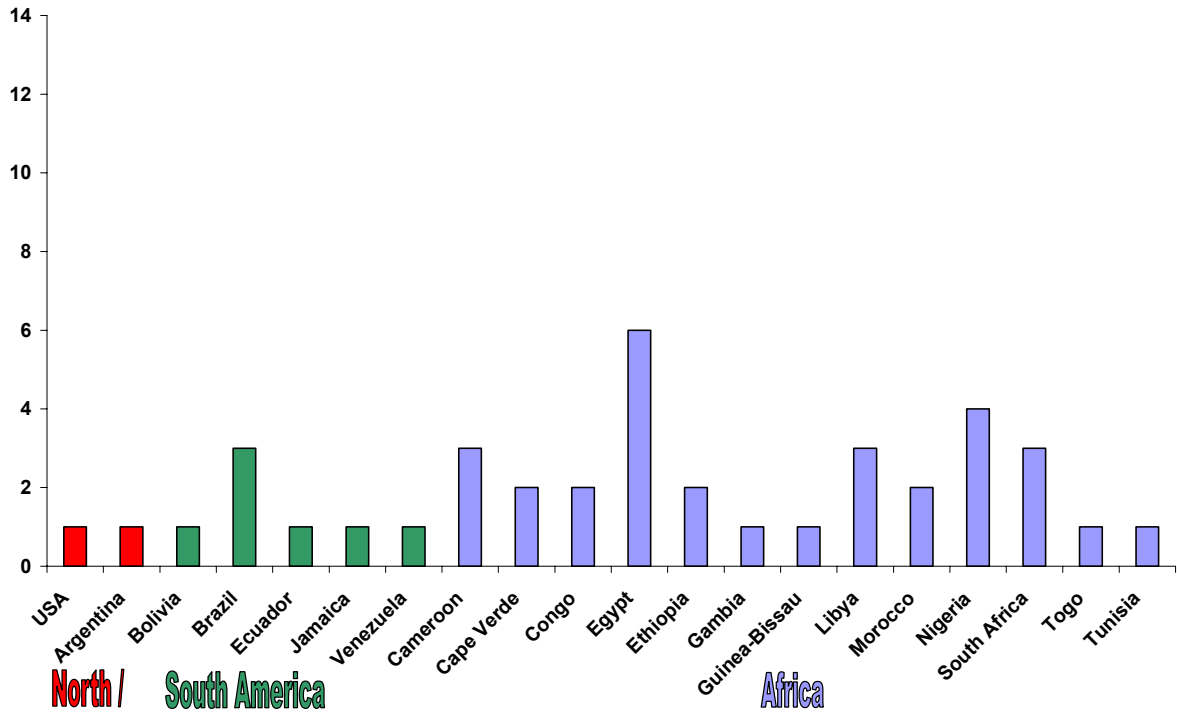


Figure 13: Top Third Countries from which passengers were most regularly found to be carrying illegal meat and dairy products consignments in 2007