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HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN CYPRUS
FROM 6 TO 10 DECEMBER 2004
IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE ACTION TAKEN
BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES
WITH REGARD TO THE UP-GRADING OF CERTAIN CLASSES
OF FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS,
ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROLS
AND CONTROLS OVER CERTAIN PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED
FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reorganisation of the Veterinary Services has been completed, conferring on them wider competences in approval, control and supervision of the main categories of food establishments.

The number of staff has been significantly increased, in order to fulfil EU requirements concerning the supervision of establishments and animal health control.

The process of transposition of the relevant acquis has been running according to the schedule and is almost complete.

The recommendations in the field of animal health control have been generally addressed:

- *The testing for Tuberculosis (TB) is now in compliance with Council Directive (CD) 64/432/EEC.*
- *The measures taken for the eradication of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) have resulted in the recognition of Cyprus as officially free by Commission Decision 320/2004/EC.*
- *A committee has been set up in order to analyse epidemiological data collected in case of new outbreaks of Brucellosis and for the classification of negative flocks.*
- *A serosurveillance programme for Bluetongue has been implemented together with a Culicoides monitoring programme.*

Contingency plans (CP) for the major epizootic diseases are in place.

Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) is applied in the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). Whilst the accreditation process of the Food Safety Department has been completed, the process of accreditation of the Department for Animal Diseases is running behind schedule (end of 2004).

The Bovine Central Database (CDB) meets the requirements laid down by the relevant EU legislation. It has been recognized as fully operational by Commission Decision 2004/590/EC.

Criteria for the selection of bovine holdings to be checked for animal identification have not yet been set, as required by Commission Regulation 1082/2003/EC.

The sheep database is operative but ear tagging of animals is not yet complete. The request for derogation from the requirement of having on-farm herd registers has not been notified yet to the Commission, as foreseen in Art. 5, point 6 of the Council Regulation (CR) (EC) 21/2004.

The pig database has recently been installed, but is not yet operative.

Reliable and updated lists of establishments approved for intra Community trade are available.

The approval procedure is followed correctly and well documented in the dairy sector. In the case of meat plants, the procedure was not always correctly followed, since approval was granted before verification that all detected deficiencies had been corrected.

The layout, structure and hygiene of the establishments inspected were, in general, in compliance with EU legislation.

Health marking of meat and offal was in compliance with the annexes of CD 64/433/EEC.

Products were obtained in conditions that fulfilled the EU legislation but wrapping and packaging materials were not marked in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/280/EC.

Post mortem (PM) examination was carried out according to CD 64/433/EEC. Ante mortem (AM) was not always performed and was not well documented.

Trichinella spiralis examination is carried out in accordance with the annexes of CD 77/96/EC.

Regular own-checks are applied but not always properly implemented by the producers. The official control on the own-checks in the meat sector was not adequate and not properly documented.

The frequency of supervision set by the CA for slaughterhouses, cutting plants and dairies was in compliance with EU legislation.

In the meat sector, in the case of serious shortcomings no actions were taken by the Official Veterinarians (OV).

2. ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

AM	Ante mortem Inspection
CA	Competent Authority
BT	Bluetongue
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CD	Council Directive
CDB	Central Database
CP	Contingency Plans
CR	Council Regulation
DG(SANCO)	Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General
DVO	District Veterinary Officer/Office
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leucosis
EU	European Union
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
MP	Meat products
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
OBF	Officially Brucellosis Free
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OV	Official Veterinarian
PM	Post mortem Inspection
SH	Slaughterhouse
TB	Tuberculosis
VI	Veterinary Inspector

3. BACKGROUND TO THIS MISSION

This mission was the first FVO mission in the specified sectors since accession of Cyprus to the EU. Prior to accession, the FVO carried out missions in the framework of the accession preparations of Cyprus, in order to assist and monitor progress with the adoption of the relevant EU requirements. Following these missions, recommendations were *inter alia* made with regard to the following points:

- *To urgently revise the evaluation of establishments taking into account the findings of the mission;*
- *To inform the Commission about the results of the re-evaluation of the establishments;*
- *To address the problems of staffing to fulfil the supervision requirements;*
- *To implement criteria for checks on bovine identification;*
- *To ensure that pig database is properly implemented as soon as possible;*
- *To ensure that epidemiological data for brucellosis is analysed to identify sources and trends in infection and thus to develop appropriate control strategies;*
- *To ensure that tuberculin testing is carried out according to Annex B of CD 64/432/EEC.*

Following these missions the Central Competent Authority (CCA) undertook to take the relevant corrective actions in response to recommendations made.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to review the action taken by the Competent Authority (CA) for the upgrading of certain classes of food-processing establishments and animal health controls in response to previous FVO missions and to evaluate the controls over certain products of animal origin intended for human consumption in the framework of the Community legislation listed in the Annex.

In pursuit of this objective, the following sites were visited:

COMPETENT AUTHORITY VISITS			Comments
Competent authorities	Central	1	Initial and final meeting
	District	2	2 District Veterinary offices out of 5
LABORATORIES			Comments
National Reference Laboratory		1	Animal health diagnostics
LIVE ANIMAL SITES			
Farms		2	1 cattle and 1 sheep/goat farm
ESTABLISHMENTS			
Dairy		1	
Slaughterhouses (red meat)		2	
Meat product premises (red meat)		1	

5. MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Competent Authorities

Conclusions

The reorganisation of the Veterinary Services has been completed, conferring on them wider competences in approval, control and supervision of the main categories of food establishments.

The number of staff has been significantly increased, in order to fulfil EU requirements concerning the supervision of establishments and animal health control.

Findings

The attribution of new competence and responsibilities in the system for control of food of animal origin has been definitively approved by the Parliament.

The Veterinary Services have been designated as CA and Authorised Services for approval and supervision, in all stages of production in establishments for red and game meat, poultry meat, snails and frog legs. The Veterinary Services have also been designated as Authorised Services on behalf of the Ministry of Health, which remains the CA for fishery products, milk and milk products, meat products and meat preparations and eggs (at farm level).

Following the recommendations contained in previous mission reports, a great effort has been made by the CA to fill the vacant posts. So far, 17 veterinarians have been recruited in addition to 46 veterinary inspectors and 6 pharmacists on a temporary contract, which will become permanent from February 2005.

On the basis of guidelines prepared by TAIEX, an intensive training programme was organised during 2004 on behalf of the staff of the Veterinary Services, both at Central and District level. Professionals involved at different levels in the food production chain (farmers, personnel from industries, custom officers, transporters, dealers etc.) were also invited to attend certain training events.

5.2. Legislation

Conclusions

The process of transposition of the relevant acquis has been running according to the schedule and is almost complete.

Findings

The EU veterinary legislation has been transposed through thirteen framework laws which are in force.

The legal texts transposing CD 2003/50/CE, amending CR (EC) 21/2004, and CD 2003/85/EC on the control of Foot and Mouth Disease have been submitted to the Parliament for approval.

5.3. Animal health controls

Conclusions

The recommendations in the field of animal health control have been generally addressed:

- *The TB testing is now in compliance with CD 64/432/EEC.*
- *The measures taken for the eradication of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) have resulted in the recognition of Cyprus as officially free by Commission Decision 320/2004/EC.*
- *A Committee has been set up in order to analyse epidemiological data collected in case of new outbreaks of Brucellosis, to make decisions about depopulation in problematic herds and for the classification of negative flocks as Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF).*
- *A serosurveillance programme for bluetongue has been implemented together with a Culicoides surveillance programme.*

Findings

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis has not been reported in the country since 1928. In early 2004, Cyprus applied for the recognition of Official Tuberculosis Free (OTF) Member State, on the basis of a programme aimed at testing all animal over 12 months. The Commission services rejected the application because the programme was not in compliance with Annex A of CD 64/432/EEC.

Since September 2004, all animals over six weeks are being tested, aiming to gradually grant the status of OTF for all bovine herds. The single intradermal test is used for screening. Normally, the veterinary inspectors (VIs) perform the tuberculin tests, while the reading and interpretation of the reaction is done by the OVs.

The mission team was informed that, during 2004, two inconclusive animals have been found, but they were later classified as negative after the conduction of the comparative test. In the affected farm, movement restriction and isolation of suspect animals have been applied.

Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

In order to gain officially free status, all holdings were tested twice between 2000 and 2002. In 2004, 204 herds were tested out of 340. A total of 21,109 animals over 24 months were serologically tested with negative results. In order to retain the official status, all herds are re-examined three years after the last negative test. Cyprus has been recently recognised as officially EBL-free by Commission Decision 320/2004/EC.

Brucellosis

Only *Brucella melitensis* has been isolated so far in susceptible species.

Implementation of the eradication programme

The CCA informed the mission team that the following measures have been taken:

- In case of a new outbreak, an epidemiological questionnaire is filled and analysed to identify sources and trends in infection and to allow the appropriate targeting of the disease control strategy.
- A Committee has been set up, comprising three veterinarians, one from the CCA one from a District Veterinary Office (DVO) and an OV for the assessment of laboratory results, to decide about depopulation and for the classification of negative flocks as OBF.

An effort has been made to isolate *Brucella* from milk in new outbreaks.

Notification of abortions is compulsory, but, according to the information received in the DVOs visited, the number of notifications received is probably far below the actual figure. Aborted materials are tested by bacteriological examination.

When positive animals are found in a herd, the DVO issues a note to the farmer informing him that grazing and movements off are not allowed, and that the animals must be isolated until valuation and removal for slaughter. Information leaflets about actions to be taken in case of an outbreak were available at the farms visited.

The DVOs also provide approved disinfectants to farmers, in order to facilitate proper disinfection after removal of reactors.

Whilst in the ovine farm visited adequate pens were available for isolation, in the bovine farm the isolation facility was not adequate, being open and not properly fenced.

Reactors are removed by contracted hauliers and slaughtered in the designated slaughterhouse, on designated days, at the end of the day.

The time between the positive result and slaughter can vary, but normally it is within a limit of ten days. Compensation is calculated on the basis of the productive value of the animals and, according to the information provided by the farmers, is normally paid within an acceptable time.

Bovine brucellosis

The eradication programme is carried out in accordance with CD 64/432/EEC. The incidence of Brucellosis has been steadily decreasing. Whilst at the end of 2002 there were still 17 herds considered positive, at present out of 345 bovine herds only 6 are still considered infected. So far, the veterinary services have completed the milk tests and are now in the process of performing serological tests to grant the OBF status to negative herds.

Ovine and caprine brucellosis

The eradication programme is progressing. Out of 4,136 ovine herds, 1,240 have received the status of OBF, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A, chapter 1, point 1 of CD 91/68/EEC. At the end of 2002 there were still 230 positive flocks. At the moment, 36 herds are still restricted and subject to monthly testing. The remaining flocks have completed the tests and are being assessed by the Committee for obtaining the OBF status.

In accordance with Annex A of CD 91/68/EEC, when more than 5% of the animals in a flock have tested positive to the Rose Bengal test, all the animals of the herd are tested using the Complement Fixation test.

Brucella infection in human

Brucellosis is a notifiable disease. In recent years, the incidence of Brucellosis in humans has been very low:

Year	No. of positive cases
2001	1
2002	7
2003	5
2004	3

When possible, in the case of human infections, dogs associated with the cases are also tested.

Public health control

In the event of a new outbreak, the CCA informs all dairies in the country. In compliance with CD 92/46/EEC, milk from reactors is not delivered for human consumption.

During the visit to the bovine holding, the farmer stated that reactors are milked at the end of the milking process and, after heating, the milk is fed to calves. No cheese from raw milk is produced in Cyprus.

Bluetongue

The last outbreak of clinical Bluetongue was reported in 1977. A serosurveillance programme is in place since September 2003. Sera from seronegative sentinel

animals in 25 farms distributed in all districts, for a total of around 250 animals (cattle, sheep and goats), are sampled on a monthly basis.

In late 2003, seroconversion was found in one cattle herd and clinical signs similar to Bluetongue were noticed in seven ovine flocks. In the meantime, the virus serotype 16 was isolated. No other clinical cases have been seen since then, although seroconversion continued in cattle to a much lesser extent until February 2004.

An entomological surveillance programme started in October 2004 with the collection of *Culicoides* with light traps on a weekly basis.

5.4. Contingency plans

Conclusions

Contingency plans (CP) for the major epizootic diseases are in place and most of these have been approved by the Commission. Whilst at DVO level the awareness of CP was evident, in the SH visited the CP for Classical Swine Fever was not available.

Findings

CP have been drawn up and up-dated during 2004 for:

Foot and Mouth Disease;

Classical swine Fever;

Bluetongue.

The CP for FMD has been approved by Commission Decision 2004/435/EC and the CP for CSF was approved by Commission Decision 2004/431/EC.

Despite the fact that the revision of the CP was not one of the objectives of the inspection, the mission team found out that in one of the slaughterhouses visited the CP for CSF was not available when requested and the OV was unaware of its content. In both the DVOs visited, updated CPs were available. In the two farms visited, leaflets on prevention of exotic diseases were available.

5.5. National Reference Laboratory

Conclusions

GLP is applied in the NRL. Whilst the accreditation process of its Food Safety Department has been completed, the process of accreditation of the Department for Animal Diseases is running behind schedule (end of 2004).

Findings

On foot of recommendations made in previous mission reports, GLP is applied in the NRL. The Food Safety Department has completed the accreditation process. The Department for Animal Diseases diagnosis is on the way to accreditation. The NRL carries out diagnostic tests for eradication and monitoring programmes and it is involved in several ring tests with other laboratories in Member States. At the moment the NVL has no direct access to the CDB yet. An informatic system for reception of samples is foreseen.

5.6. Holding registration, animal identification, movement controls

Conclusions

The Bovine CDB meets the requirements laid down in the relevant EU legislation. It has been recognized as fully operational by Commission Decision 2004/590.

Criteria for the selection of bovine holdings to be checked for animal identification have not yet been set, as required by CR 1082/2003/EC.

The sheep database is operative but ear tagging of animals is not yet complete. The request for derogation from the requirement of having on-farm herd registers has not yet been notified to the Commission, as foreseen in Art. 5, point 6 of the CR (EC) 21/2004.

The pig database has recently been installed, but is not yet operative.

Findings

Animal Identification

EU Regulations (EC)1760/2000 and (EC)21/2004 have been implemented and two national Regulations have been adopted laying down detailed procedures for their application.

Animals are tagged by the OV. The available time for notification of births to the CDB is five working days.

Bovine

In March 2004, the Bovine CDB was recognised as fully operational by Commission Decision 2004/590.

The CCA stated that the intention is to inspect, in the first round, 100% of bovine holdings. In 2004, out of 345 registered bovine holdings, 202 holdings, with a total of 26,177 animals, have been checked with the following results:

Animals checked	Animals without ear tag	Animals not found in the register	Animals not found in the farm
26,177	307	477	1,170

During on-the-spot inspections, the most common problem encountered is the late notification of events. In these cases a warning note is sent to the farmers, but until now no sanctions have been applied, as provided for in Commission Regulation (EC) 494/98.

The inspection team was informed that criteria for selection of farms to be inspected on the basis of risk analysis, as required by Regulation 1082/2003/EC, have not yet been formalised. Software aimed at establishing criteria to select the farms to be inspected on the basis of the risk analysis is in preparation.

Data available at the CDB matched with the information presented at farm and slaughterhouse (SH) level.

In the dairy farm visited, the farm register was presented to the mission team. It met the requirements of Commission Regulation 911/2004/EC, but the owner could not document the notification to the CDB of four animals found dead on the farm.

Ovine/caprine

A database following the same principles of the bovine database is in place. All animals over six months have been individually ear tagged, and identification of newborn animals is progressing in accordance with CR (EC) 21/2004. Cyprus decided to apply the derogation foreseen in Art. 5 (point 4) of the above mentioned Regulation so that holding registers are not required at farm level, but this has not yet been notified to the Commission, as foreseen in Article 5 (point 6). Starting from 2005, a project to electronically identify all animals is foreseen.

Data available at the CDB matched with the information presented at farm and SH level.

Pig

The pig database has been delivered by the contracting company in November 2004 and it is in the process of being tested. All holdings are now registered.

Movement control

Dealers are registered. Also transporters are now all registered and will be classified as temporary holdings.

Animals without ear tags cannot be slaughtered for human consumption. Nevertheless, in one of the slaughterhouses visited, a goat without identification was not properly recorded in the AM records.

Animals arriving at a slaughterhouse with only one tag can be slaughtered, provided a special is permit issued by the DVO.

A particular case is given by a local sheep breed which has very small ears: in this specific case, animals can be traded and slaughtered without ear tags, provided a special permit is issued by the DVO.

Pig movements are not yet recorded in the database. Pigs moved to be slaughtered are identified by tattoos indicating the holding number. At the slaughterhouse visited, all pigs were identified as required.

5.7. Establishment approval

Conclusions

Reliable and updated lists of establishments approved for intra Community trade are available.

The approval procedure is followed correctly and well documented in the dairy sector. In the case of meat plants, the procedure was not always correctly followed and documented, since approval was granted before verification that all detected deficiencies had been corrected.

Findings

Following the recommendation on foot of previous missions to urgently revise the evaluation of the establishments, two three-member Committees were set up in order to reevaluate all of the establishments. The reassessment was completed on 30/03/2004, drawing up a list totalling 160 establishments compared to 119 when the Committees started their work. This new list was sent to the Commission.

The increased number of plants was mainly due to the fact that new establishments were initially classified under one category, whilst, in reality, in the same plant more activities were carried out, e.g. production of mince meat and meat preparations. No transitional periods were granted to any kind of establishments. After the work of the Committees, new applications were presented to the veterinary services for the approval of establishments and at the moment 206 establishments have been approved. An updated list of establishments can be found on the veterinary services website at: www.moa.gov.cy/vs.

At present, approval of an establishment is granted by auditors from the VS, on the basis of a detailed checklist for each kind of plant. Following the application presented by the owner at central level, the DVO concerned visits the establishment and decides on conditions of approval. When the DVO deems that the plant is in compliance, the sector co-ordinator from the central administration will carry out the final visit to grant approval.

In the case of dairy establishments, the approval procedure was correctly followed and very well documented. In the case of meat plants, the approval procedure was not always correctly followed as, in two cases out of five checked, approval was granted before verification that all the detected deficiencies had been corrected.

Furthermore, the CCA gave temporary approval to a SH slaughterhouse for the local market (round stamp), limiting the capacity to 600 and 400 goat/sheep a day. These approval conditions are not in accordance with Art. 4 of CD 64/433/EEC.

5.8. Food safety control

Conclusions

The layout, structure and hygiene of the establishments inspected were in general in compliance with EU legislation.

Health marking of meat and offal was in compliance with CD 64/433/EEC.

Products were obtained in conditions that fulfilled the EU legislation but wrapped packaging materials were not marked in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/280/EC.

PM examination was carried out according to CD 64/433/EEC. AM was not always performed and was not well documented.

Trichinella spiralis examination is carried out in accordance with the Annexes of CD 77/96/EEC.

Regular own-checks are generally applied but not always properly implemented by the producers. The official control on the own-checks in the meat sector was not adequate and not properly documented.

Findings

Establishments

The layout, structure and hygiene of the establishments (meat plants and dairies) and SHs visited were in general satisfactory, although in a SH certain maintenance problems were found (a rusty saw, insulation material of pipes damaged).

In the SH inspected, adequate stunning and restraining equipment was in place.

A full assessment of the dairy and the meat products (MP) establishments was difficult since they were not in operation during the visits. In the pig/sheep SH visited no major problems of hygiene were noted but there were few animals for slaughter that day and the speed of the working chain was very slow. However, taking into account the space available, the distribution of activities and the equipment, there is serious concern that the establishment could keep an acceptable standard of operational hygiene when slaughtering high numbers of animals daily.

No reliable documentation was found that an animal showing diarrhoea and lameness had been properly inspected and that an animal without identification would not have been slaughtered for human consumption.

PM examination was carried out in accordance with CD 64/433/EEC. In the SH visited, the number of veterinarians and inspectors available on the slaughter lines was adequate.

According to the available records, *Trichinella spiralis* larvae have not been found in slaughtered pigs since 1969. Starting from 2004, all slaughtered pigs are tested with the Digestion method VI (Magnetic Stirrer Method for pooled Samples), as provided for in CD 77/96/EEC, with negative results.

Eligibility of raw material, marking of finished products

No problems were found with the eligibility of raw materials in EU approved plants. In a SH visited, the health marks were correctly applied to meat and offal.

Hygienic conditions of production were in compliance with EU requirements. Nevertheless, most establishments visited were using pre-printed wrapping and packing material, without the health mark. The CA has allowed operators to use stocks of pre-printed wrapping and packaging material and labels on packaged products obtained after 1 May 2004, until 31 December 2004. This concession is not in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/28/EC, which only applies to products obtained before 1 May 2004.

Operational hygiene and associated own checks

All the establishments visited presented a complete own-checks programme. Microbiological checks on fresh meat as foreseen by Article 10(2) of CD 64/433/EEC were generally implemented. However in the MP plant visited, the results of bacteriological sampling were not presented in the form of charts or tables containing a summary of results, as specified by Commission Decision 2001/471/EC.

Evidence of supervision of the HACCP plan and own-control checks by the OVs was available in the two dairies. In the MP visited, the mission team found that the system for control of the temperature in the cutting room indicated that, for several days, the temperature was well above the limit. No action had been taken by the plant management and the responsible VO was clearly not aware of the problem.

5.9. Competent Authority supervision

Conclusions

The frequency of supervision set by the CA for slaughterhouses, cutting plants and dairies was in compliance with EU legislation.

In the meat sector, in the case of severe shortcomings no actions were taken by the OVs.

Findings

In one of the DVOs visited, it was reported that, following instructions provided by the CCA, cutting plants were visited daily, dairy establishments were visited twice a year, and MP and meat preparation establishments four times per year.

In the milk sector, evidence of accurate supervision was provided by the CA. In the meat sector, the mission team found that:

- In a MP plant, a refrigerated container was located in the yard, containing different products (boxes of frozen meat not from the establishment, plastic bags with unidentified meat) in inappropriate storage conditions. No documentation was available about its content and apparently, the OV was not aware of the situation.

- In a SH, a small freezer containing unidentified offal and meat in very bad storage conditions was situated behind the main building. Apparently it was never checked by the OVs if any action had been taken. Furthermore, the mission team was informed that, located in the back of the slaughterhouse, there was a casings establishment, which was closed, in the process of being upgraded. Inside this plant, barrels and bags without identification containing salted intestines were found. The officials accompanying the team were not aware of the situation, despite the fact that the owner of the establishment had been prosecuted in October for operating without permission.

6. OVERALL CONCLUSION

The CA has acted upon most of the recommendations made in previous mission reports. Although the supervision of food establishments in the meat sector is sometime deficient, the control system in place guarantees that provisions of Community legislation are generally complied with.

7. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 10 December 2004 in Nicosia with the CCA. At this meeting, the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission were presented by the inspection team.

The CCA took note of the findings and informed the mission team of actions taken. Official letters have been sent to the VOs responsible for the SH and the MP establishment where the major shortcomings have been found. Written guarantees were also provided that an investigation will be carried out and that non-compliant frozen meat, offal and casings from that establishment will be confiscated and destroyed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Competent Authorities of Cyprus

- 8.1 To complete the transposition of relevant EU legislation.
- 8.2 To proceed with the accreditation of the Department of Animal Health in the NRL.
- 8.3 To implement criteria for checks on bovine identification, on the basis of risk analysis, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) 1082/2003.
- 8.4 To proceed with the full implementation of the ovine and caprine and pig database and to send the Commission a request for a derogation from the requirement for a holding register, on the basis of article 5 (point 6) of Council Regulation 21/2004/EC.
- 8.5 To ensure that the procedures for approval of all types of establishments are correctly applied.
- 8.6 To take action to enforce the health marking and packaging requirements set out in Community legislation.

- 8.7 To guarantee that the own-checks in the meat establishments are correctly implemented and that an appropriate official control is in place.
- 8.8 To guarantee that the supervision of the meat establishments is effective and that AM inspection is carried out according to CD 64/433/EEC.

The CA from Cyprus should submit an action plan, detailing the actions taken and planned, including deadlines for implementation in order to address the above recommendations, within one month of receiving the final report.

9. ADDENDUM

The Competent Authorities of Cyprus, by means of a note received from the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, on 09.03.2005, whilst expressing their agreement in broad terms with the content of the draft report, offered some comments that have been incorporated into the final report, where appropriate. Furthermore, they provided information on progress made in response to issues raised during the mission. In particular, they provided further documentation on the process of harmonization of legislation, the Brucellosis eradication programme and the availability of contingency plans at SH level.

In their response, they also provided an extensive reaction to most conclusions and recommendations in the report, providing evidence that an action plan has already been put in place.

10. ANNEX 1: LEGISLATION

LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

European legislation	OJ	Title
Council Directive 64/432/EEC	L 121, 29.07.1964, p. 1977	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine.
Council Directive 64/433/EEC	L 121, 29.07.1964, p. 2012	Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat.
Council Directive 77/99/EEC	L 026, 31.01.1977, p. 85	Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems affecting the production and marketing of meat products and certain other products of animal origin.
Council Directive 92/46/EEC	L 268, 14.09.1992, p. 1	Council Directive 92/46/EEC of 16 June 1992 laying down the health rules for the production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk-based products.
Council Directive 92/102/EEC	L 355, 05.12.1992, p. 32	Council Directive 92/102/EEC of 27 November 1992 on the identification and registration of animals.
Council Directive 94/65/EC	L 368, 31.12.1994, p. 10	Council Directive 94/65/EC of 14 December 1994 laying down the requirements for the production and placing on the market of minced meat and meat preparations.
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No. 1760/2000	L 204 , 11.08.2000, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation EC No. 820/97.
Commission Decision 98/139/EC	L 038, 12.02.1998, p. 10	Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998 laying down certain detailed rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in Member States.

RELEVANT COMMUNITY LEGISLATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS MISSION

European legislation	OJ	Title
Council Directive 72/461/EEC	L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 24	Council Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat.
Council Directive 77/96/EEC	L 026, 31.01.1977, p. 67	Council Directive 77/96/EEC of 21 December 1976 on the examination for trichinae (<i>trichinella spiralis</i>) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine.
Council Directive 77/391/EEC	L 145, 13.06.1977, p. 44	Council Directive 77/391/EEC of 17 May 1977 introducing Community measures for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis in cattle.
Council Directive 80/215/EEC	L 047, 21.02.1988, p. 4	Council Directive 80/215/EEC of 22 January 1980 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products.
Council Directive 89/397/EEC	L 186, 30.6.1989, p. 23	Council Directive 89/397/EEC of 14 June 1989 on the official control of foodstuffs.
Council Directive 89/662/EEC	L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 13	Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market.
Council Directive 91/68/EEC	L 046, 19.02.1991, p. 19	Council Directive 91/68/EEC of 28 January 1991 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals.
Council Directive 93/99/EEC	L 290, 24.11.1993, p. 14	Council Directive 93/99/EEC of 29 October 1993 on the subject of additional measures concerning the official control of foodstuffs.
Council Directive 93/119/EC	L 340, 31.12.1993, p. 21	Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing.
Council Directive 96/93/EC	L 013, 16.01.1997, p. 28	Council Directive 96/93/EC of 17 December 1996 on the certification of animals and animal products.
Council Directive 98/83/EC	L 330, 05.12.1998, p. 32	Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

European legislation	OJ	Title
Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98	L 060, 28.02.1998, p. 78	Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98 of 27 February 1998 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards the application of minimum administrative sanctions in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals.
Council Directive 200/75/EC	L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 74	Council Directive 2000/75 /EC of 20 November 2000 laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue.
Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1825/2000	L 216, 26.08.2000, p. 8	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1825/2000 of 25 August 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the labelling of beef and beef products.
Regulation (EC) No 178/2002	L31, 01.02.2002, p.1	Regulation (EC) 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.
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003	L 156, 25.06.2003, p. 9	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 of 23 June 2003 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals.
Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004	L 5, 9.01.2004	Council Regulation establishing a system for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC.
Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004	L 163, 30.04.2004, p. 65	Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers.
Council Decision 90/424/EEC	L 224 , 18.08.1990, p. 19	Council Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field.

European legislation	OJ	Title
Council Decision 90/638/EEC	L 347, 12.12.1990, p. 27	Council Decision 90/638/EEC of 27 November 1990 laying down Community criteria for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases.
Commission Decision 91/42/EEC	L 023, 29.01.1991 p. 29	Commission Decision 91/42/EEC of 8 January 1991 laying down the criteria to be applied when drawing up contingency plans for the control of FMD, in application of Article 5 of Council Directive 90/423/EEC.
Commission Decision 2001/471/EC	L165, 21.06.2001, p.48	Commission Decision 2001/471/EC of 8 June 2001 laying down rules for the regular checks on the general hygiene carried out by the operators in establishments according to Directive 64/433/EEC on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat and Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of fresh poultry meat.