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Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
FROM 22 TO 26 NOVEMBER 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

Please note that clarification and additional information provided by the competent authorities of the Slovak Republic are given as footnotes, in bold, italic, type, to the relevant parts of the report.



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Slovak authorities have provided the Commission services with information to support their request for recognition of officially free status for bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis. The national programme stated that 100% of animals over 24 months should be tested annually, but figures presented were different from those in the central database.

Classical swine fever is a problem in wild boars and recently some outbreaks in domestic pigs have been detected. There is a concern about the lack of awareness of the disease in some areas of the country.

Progress has been made in the registration of holdings and animal identification, but these are not yet complete. The percentage of ovine animals identified is very low due to ear infection problems during the summer, but is expected to be finished by April 2005.

The movements of pigs are now recorded on a central database on a monthly basis but there are some practical problems with the feedback from the receptor of the animals. There are also some technical problems in accessing the latest data from some District offices.

The bovine central database has been improved and includes a logical system to avoid certain errors detected previously.

Regarding checks on bovine identification, three stages have been planned to introduce a system for the selection of holdings, based on risk analysis, and including all the criteria foreseen in EU legislation. The final stage will be ready by the end of 2005.

By the time of the mission, the approval procedure had been completed for the food processing establishments in the sectors visited and was very well documented.

Some establishments visited did not comply with Community legislation as regards structure and hygiene of operations. Major problems were found in one establishment and the Central Competent Authority (CCA) committed itself to address the problems within a short time. The presence of a live mouse in one cooler and crossing of flows between fresh meat and meat products production was detected in another plant. The Competent Authority (CA) closed the establishment after the visit.

Some meat and milk products are placed on the market without health marks. The establishments were using their stock of pre-printed wrapping and packing material and labels, without the oval health mark, for products produced after 1 May 2004. The CCA stated that that was its understanding of Commission Decision 2004/280/EC.

No problems were seen in relation to eligibility of raw material.

In the majority of the establishments visited, own checks were carried out but the level of supervision from the CA was variable.

The frequency of supervision for red meat establishments complies with the requirements in Directive 64/433/EEC. Different levels of supervision were in place for other establishments visited.

2. ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

CA	Competent Authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CDB	Central Database
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
DG(SANCO)	Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General
DVFA	District Veterinary and Food Administration
EU	European Union
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
RVFA	Regional Veterinary and Food Administration
SVFA	State Veterinary and Food Administration
TB	Tuberculosis
VPO	Veterinary Prevention and Protection Plan

3. BACKGROUND TO THIS MISSION

This mission was the first Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission in the specified sectors since accession of Slovak Republic to the EU. Prior to accession, the FVO carried out missions in the framework of the accession preparations of Slovak Republic, 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 reinforce on the spot controls by the CCA on the regions and districts to ensure that accurate and reliable data are received and processed at central level.
- To take action in order to solve outstanding issues in relation to bovine identification.
- To take all necessary measures to address the shortcomings in relation to monitoring/eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis.
- To take all measures to address the control of swill feeding.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objectives of the mission was to review the action taken by competent authorities for the upgrading of certain classes of food-processing establishments and animal health controls 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	✓	At initial and final meetings
	Regional	✓	3 regions visited out of 8, 2 RVFA offices
	District	✓	During individual visits and at establishment level, 2 DVFA offices

LIVE ANIMAL SITES		
Farms	2	1 cattle, 1 pig farm

The table below indicates the number of activities evaluated by the mission team in food processing establishments. One establishment can have more than one activity.

ACTIVITIES IN FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS	HC Establishments
Slaughterhouses (red meat)	2
Cutting premises (red meat)	2
Meat product premises (red meat)	1
Milk processing premises	2
Coldstore	1

5. MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Competent authorities

Conclusions

The State Veterinarian and Food Administration (SVFA) has changed its administrative structure, but its powers and attributions remain the same.

The CCA has issued instructions for the supervision and approval of food-processing establishments.

Findings

The administrative structure of the SVFA changed at central level in July 2004, but its powers and attributions remain the same. The SVFA now has six departments:

- Animal health and welfare
- Hygiene of animal products
- Veterinary certification and controls in trade, imports and exports
- Raw materials and foodstuffs of plant origin
- Feeding stuffs hygiene, ecology and veterinary pharmacy
- Laboratory diagnostic, rapid alert system and certification

The Ordinances establishing the conditions for establishments benefiting from a transitional period (Ordinance 281/2003 for fresh meat, 286/2003 for meat products and 312/2003 for dairies) were modified before May 2004 to transpose the respective EU Directives.

The SVFA has issued detailed instructions for the approval of high capacity meat and dairy establishments and also for the control of regional and district levels of establishments in a transitional period.

A national training programme is in place for 2004, including the meat and dairy sectors and the evaluation of layouts.

5.2. Animal health controls

Conclusions

The CCA has provided the Commission services with information to support their request for recognition of officially free status for bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis.

The procedures to investigate abortion in cattle are not properly followed.

There is concern about the lack of awareness, in some areas of the country, of the risk of classical swine fever in domestic pigs.

Findings

Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

In February 2004 the CCA submitted information to the Commission services to support their request for recognition of officially free status for bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis.

Blood samples and tuberculin tests are carried out by approved private veterinarians, controlled randomly by the DVFA.

The procedures and number of animals to be tested are set annually in the Veterinary Prevention and Protection Plan (VPO) by the CCA. The VPO for 2004 includes:

- Bovine tuberculosis: 100% of animals over 24 months must be tested. The intradermal comparative test is prescribed for herds with positive reactors to the single test in the last 2 years (caused by atypical mycobacteria or *M. paratuberculosis*).
- Bovine brucellosis: 100% of animals over 24 months must be tested within 12 months in *herds officially free of brucellosis*. All cows suffering abortion should be tested with 2 serological tests within 3 weeks and a microbiological test for the isolation of *Brucella abortus* from placenta or foetus must be done in indicated cases.

The CCA issued a guide for the control of the District Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) by the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration (RVFA); it includes specific monitoring to check that all criteria to grant “officially free status” from a disease are met and that a proper investigation of abortion is made. However, figures for 2004 presented at one RVFA showed a significant number of abortions where follow-up testing had not been respected: the total number of first serological tests was 413, the number of second serological tests was 257 and the number of microbiological tests was only 38.

The Government Ordinance No. 280/2003 Coll. (full transposition of Council Directive 64/432/EEC) and the instruction “Classification of herds and health requirements for movement of live animals and germinal products” (No. 359/2004-220) are the basis to grant the health status of herds in Slovakia. According to the data provided by CCA, out of 11145 cattle herd registered in Slovakia, 9751 are officially free from tuberculosis and 8849 are officially free from brucellosis.

The mission team observed:

- The number of animals tested for tuberculosis in the regions was different from the number of all animals registered in the Central Database (CDB)¹.
- An increase of 4 mm in the thickness of the skin fold after the injection of tuberculin was considered as an inconclusive result in one test, but according to Annex B of Council Directive 64/432/EEC should be considered positive.
- Some records of results of tuberculin test were incomplete and did not contain the information of skin measurements after 72 hours, although they defined the result (negative, doubtful or negative) of the test.
- Results for tuberculosis and brucellosis tests have been recorded on the CDB since February 2004. However, records on abortions are only available on the veterinary database VETPROF. The CCA stated that a new version launched from December 2004 would allow transmission of information to the CDB through conversion of the codes from the CDB to VETPROF.

Classical swine fever (CSF)

The new contingency plan for CSF was approved by Commission Decision 2004/431/EC and it has been distributed to the Regions and Districts. Slovakia also presented to Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (DG SANCO) an eradication programme for CSF in wild boar population for 2005, including oral vaccination.

During this year, outbreaks of CSF on domestic pig farms were reported from 2 regions of Slovakia – Trenčín and Banská Bystrica. The week before the mission, the CCA confirmed 3 new outbreaks (2 in contact holdings) in domestic pigs in District Lučenec (Region Banská Bystrica). Vaccination was not used, and 6190 pigs were killed.

The contingency plan was not available at one pig slaughterhouse visited. Moreover, the post-mortem inspection did not include the spleen, and the tonsils were not removed. The awareness by the official veterinarian of the disease and her knowledge of the procedures in case of suspicion (Article 14 of Council Directive 2001/89/EC) were very limited. In the same establishment, there was not evidence of official control on cleaning and disinfection of vehicles used for livestock although the establishment is in a territory included in Commission Decision 2004/625/EC concerning protection measures for CSF.

¹ *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that the actual number of animals in CDB was different from the number of animals in CDB at the time of their testing for TB.*

At one pig farm visited in a region under restriction for CSF in wild boar, the fence was damaged and the bio-security measures were poor (no disinfection for vehicles, for example). The official veterinarian did not indicate these as problems.

The CA selects farms at random to control swill feeding. During 2004, more than 700 holdings have been inspected, all without findings. Inspections of producers (caterings) are under the control of the Ministry of Health and Regional public health Offices. The SVFA is negotiating with them to perform joint inspections in the near future.

5.3. Holding registration, animal identification, movement controls

Conclusions

The registration of holdings is incomplete.

Registration of holdings with three or fewer sheep and goats or one pig is not compulsory.

Pig movements are registered in a database on a monthly basis.

Currently, not all the criteria laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 are taken into account in relation to the selection of the holdings to be inspected for bovine identification.

Findings

Holdings registration and holding registers

The State Breeding Institute in Žilina is operating the CDB. There has been progress in the registration of holdings comparing with the situation in January 2004, but the process is still incomplete. Commission Decision 2004/775/EC granted the Slovak Republic a derogation provided for in Article 3 (2) of Council Directive 92/102/EEC (to exclude natural persons who keep no more than three animals of the ovine or caprine species or one pig and which are intended for their own use or consumption) until 30 June 2005.

The following data on holdings registered in the CDB was provided:

	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goat
No. of holdings	18870	6018	3522	360
% of holdings registered in CDB	95%	90%	80%	80%

The national legislation requires that an updated on-farm register be kept for cattle and pig holdings registered in the CDB. For cattle, this should be updated within 24 hours after any event, although the official information for farms (brochure from 2002) set 2 days for this.

Some shortcomings were noted:

- The CA stated that there are still a significant number of farms registered, which no longer keep animals (25%).²
- Geographical localisation of pig farms as part of the farm register (Article 1 (d) of Commission Decision 2000/678/EC) is not yet in place. The Breeding Institute informed the mission team that data has been provided to the Ministry of Agriculture for this purpose, but the project is at a standstill due to lack of funds.
- In the bovine farm visited, the farm register was up-dated weekly, but it had all the information required³.

Animal Identification

For cattle, the Breeding Institute estimates that 95% of animals (571,167) are properly identified. The percentage is lower for pigs (90% or 1,465,049 animals of which 571,167 are sows). For these species, the non-identified animals belong mainly to very small holdings, usually intended for own consumption. For sheep, the situation is that only 25% of the animals (51,952) are identified. The ear tagging of sheep was interrupted during the summer (July to October 25th) due to ear infection problems. It is foreseen that all sheep, including new offspring, will be identified by April 2005. Goats from holdings having more than three animals are already identified (429 animals in total).⁴

The mission team received information that there is no time limit set for the replacement of a missing ear tag in national legislation. At the cattle farm visited, the last application form was sent to the CDB three months before, although a large number of animals on a farm had lost tags.

Some other problems were noted:

- Cattle passports do not contain the identification number of the holding where the animal was born as laid down in article 14 (3) C (2) of Directive 64/432/EEC.
- At the farm, there were fewer passports than animals.

² *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that the indicated shortcoming is due to non-fulfillment of duties by the farmer in relation to the CDB and that it is possible to eliminate the shortcoming only by consistent physical control on the spot. Farms which already do not keep any animals and also do not have any animals registered in the farm database are, on the request of the farmer or the SVFA SR, put into “Non-active” position. However the farm remains registered in the CDB with this position.*

³ *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that in the instructions, as well as training, the farmers were informed that the individual register should be kept daily, with maximum delay of 24 hours.*

⁴ *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that it is foreseen that all sheep, including new offspring, shall be identified by the end of the year 2005 and that goats from holdings having more than three animals are already identified (currently 730 animals).*

- Passports of dead animals go to the rendering plant with the carcass and not directly from the keeper to the CA as set out in article 6, point 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.⁵

Movement controls

Cattle cannot be moved from a farm if they do not bear two ear-tags. If a replacement is needed the keeper must send an application form to the CDB at least 2 weeks in advance.

An accompanying document consisting of 3 parts - general licence issued by DVFA for a period of 3 months, statement of keeper and result of clinical examination carried out by private veterinarian – is compulsory to move animals. For cattle, the passport (or provisional document for calves younger than 28 days according to the legislation, 21 days according to the official brochure for farms) is also obligatory.

The Breeding Institute stated that recording of pig movements started in February 2004 and are now registered in the CDB on a monthly basis. However, there are still some practical problems with the confirmation of movements from the sender and receiver of the animals. In one slaughterhouse visited, the arrival of pigs was not reported and there were no official remarks about it in the documentation seen.

In one DVFA Office, the last movements of pigs available in the database were from August 2004, apparently due to technical problems. The data seen matched the information in the holding register on a pig farm. Other DVFA Offices had access to pig movements until the previous month without problems.

The system for registering pig movements is not useful for tracing in the event of an outbreak of disease. The system in place to control the movement of pigs in case of an outbreak is based on data kept in farm registers and accompanying documents. No cross control between veterinary records and databases is carried out. The number of pigs at one farm did not match data from the database.

The CCA informed the mission team that the TRACES system is fully functional at central level, at two border inspection posts and at forty DVFA.

5.4. Central database and on-the-spot inspections

Conclusions

The bovine database includes the information required on animals and holdings. The system includes a system of cross-checking designed to ensure the quality of the information recorded.

Currently, the selection of holdings to be inspected for bovine identification does not take into account all the criteria in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003.

⁵ *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that the existing system of animal movement within the Slovak Republic is functioning so that the passports of animals go together with the animals to the final keeper who reports their arrival; in the case of transfers to the rendering plant it is the rendering plant that returns the passports to the CDB.*

Findings

The CDB includes a logical system to avoid certain operational errors detected previously (such as the possibility to introduce movements for slaughtered or dead animals) and includes all the information required in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000. The Breeding Institute provided the Commission services, on November 2004, with a document describing the plausibility tests carried out to avoid the introduction of implausible data into the CDB.

Selected staff from all levels of the veterinary service have access to the database.

The cross checks made during the mission, on data from the central database and farm registers, delivered good results. Evidence was also seen for notifications of incorrect or missing reports from database to the farmers.

The database for the registration of pig holdings was operational in the RVFA and DVFA offices visited.

The following was noted:

- The software used for the CDB does not allow for the clearing up of old data and errors at district level, but this can be done at central level. The farmer can also change or clean up his own data.
- The CDB does not include information for tuberculosis and brucellosis (age of animals tested, individual numbers of animals tested and status of herd in CDB).⁶
- In the pig database, the country code is not registered at the beginning of the holding registration number as required by Article 1 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC.
- The system in use for pig holdings cannot be linked to a geographical localisation system of farms and the system does not provide information on the pig population density in a given area.

Inspections

The CCA amended the “Methodical instruction to perform the control of bovine identification and registration on the spot” in April 2004. At present 10% of the holdings are selected and inspected for identification at DVFA level. The system to select the holdings does not fulfil all the requirements set out in article 2 point 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003. To comply with EU legislation, the CCA is developing a system to select holdings, based on risk analysis, in three stages – the first stage has finished, the second is being tested now and the third stage will be ready by the end of 2005.

Between January and October 2004, 762 farms were inspected for cattle identification and no sanctions were imposed. The cattle farm visited had documentation on an identification check performed in 2003.

⁶ *In their response to the draft report, the Slovak authorities noted that the CDB enables input of data on animals examined for tuberculosis and leucosis and that the status of herds is kept in the CDB within the holding statutes which are granted for cattle and diseases.*

The CA checks 100% of the animals on farms when there are fewer than 10 cattle. In farms keeping more than 10 animals, the manual issued by SVFA set a percentage of animals to be checked depending on the total number of animals as a rule. This does not comply with article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.

5.5. Establishment approval

Conclusions

Reliable and updated lists of establishments approved for intra-Community trade are available for the Slovak Republic on the official web site of SVFA.

The approval procedure is followed correctly and well documented

Game meat processing establishments and collection centres not trading with other Member States are not approved in accordance with Council Directive 92/45/EEC.

Findings

The SVFA publishes on its web site (www.svssr.sk/) the list of approved establishments. The list corresponds with the data kept at Regional Offices. The District and Central level are involved in the pre-approval inspections, and the Regional Office has a role as an observer. Before 1 May 2004, the CCA delegated its authority on some occasions to perform pre-approval inspection to officials from the Regional or District administration.

During the assessment and upgrading process before 1 May 2004, the CA closed some establishments and downgraded the capacity of others.

For low capacity meat plants and medium or low capacity dairy establishments, the approval is granted at DVFA level and then communicated to the CCA to obtain the official number.

All the steps of the approval procedure were followed and well documented in the establishments visited. However, one of the slaughterhouses visited, inspected by the SVFA and DVFA for approval purposes, presented structural deficiencies (detailed under section 6.6.) that were not documented. In one meat product establishment with a cutting plant, the flow for meat products crossed over that from the cutting plant, which was not indicated in the file presented to the mission team.

Only the game meat establishments exporting to other member states are approved according to Council Directive 92/45/EEC. There is no establishment approved for wild boar meat, although last year around 30000 wild boars were hunted in the country. The CCA stated that all the meat is distributed among the hunters or for catering within the national territory.

The collection centres for wild game are simply registered by the RVFA and listed at national level by the CCA, according to Veterinary Act 488/2002. The CCA issued instructions to the RVFA to visit the collection centres and to submit information before 13 November 2004 in order to update the national list.

5.6. Food safety controls

Conclusions

Food-processing establishments under transitional arrangements are evaluated on a monthly basis.

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 2004/280/EC, which only applies to products obtained before 1 May 2004.

No problems were found regarding the eligibility of raw material.

Findings

With regard to structure, layout and equipment, the following were observed in the meat establishments visited:

- No restraining facility for pigs at stunning in one slaughterhouse, but good restraining system in another. All the slaughterhouses visited had adequate stunning equipment.
- Lack of proper cutting rooms for pork and beef in a cutting plant: absence of doors in the pork cutting room and cutting of beef in a corridor.
- The layout of the establishments visited was adequate. However, a possible cross flow between fresh meat and meat products production was observed in one establishment.
- Lack of sterilising equipment for the splitting saw in one slaughterhouse.

The structure and equipment of the dairy establishments were found to be adequate, although full assessment was difficult since they were not in operation during the visits.

Transitional period establishments

The SVFA gave a temporary approval to these establishments, which will be valid until 30 April 2005 or until the establishments are removed from the list by a Commission Decision (except for one establishment allowed by the Accession Treaty to operate until 2006).

These establishments can only place their products on the national market. The frequency set to monitor the upgrading process is at least one visit a month from the DVFA and once every two months from the RVFA. The District and Regional offices are also controlling the clients of the establishments to ensure that the products do not reach establishments approved for intra-community trade.

Of the nine meat establishments benefiting from a transitional period, the CCA informed the mission team that two were closed by the operators themselves and three were ready to be removed from the list since the upgrading process has been finished; the only milk establishment on the list is also ready to be removed from the list.

Eligibility of raw material, marking of finished products

In the slaughterhouses visited, the health marks were correctly applied to meat and offal. However, packaged bovine meat was dispatched without health marks on the packaging.

Some of the 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 because that was their understanding of article 4 of Commission Decision 2004/280/EC.

A good traceability system was in place in the bovine slaughterhouse visited, allowing the tracing back of final products to the individual animal, its farm and the day of slaughter. The labelling of meat was complied with Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.

The raw materials seen at EU-approved establishments were from legitimate sources. However, in one meat product plant, frozen meat without identification was kept in one freezer.

Operational hygiene and associated own checks

All the establishments visited had a HACCP plan.

Evidence of supervision of the HACCP and own-controls by the official veterinarians was available in most establishments. However, at one meat product plant visited, there was no evidence that the establishment carried out its own checks as set out in article 7 of Council Directive 77/99/EEC and the documentation showed inadequate follow-up from the CA.

Some deficiencies were noted regarding the operational hygiene:

- In one cutting plant, excessive condensation was dripping on exposed raw meat and products. The official veterinarian stopped the production during the visit but the documentation showed the problem was recurrent and there was no evidence that the CA had requested the establishment to find the reason for it. In the same establishment, the meat was placed on crates full of water from the cleaning process without any reaction from the official in charge.
- During the visit to a meat product plant, a mouse was seen running in the cooler.
- In one slaughterhouse, pig carcasses were stored touching the floor and the axe to cut the carcasses in halves was placed on the floor between use.

5.7. Competent authority supervision

Conclusions

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

Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection are not always carried out properly.

Findings

There is a permanent presence of official veterinarians during operations at slaughterhouses and a daily presence at cutting plants. There are also monthly visits to these establishments from the DVFA.

There is an instruction from the CCA to the DVFA to set the frequency of visits to the dairy plants. The dairies visited were controlled at least once a month and the cold store once every two months.

In the slaughterhouses visited, an official veterinarian carried out ante-mortem inspection. However, in one establishment there was no observation in the ante-mortem register for 2004. In another, the animal identification was not recorded when it was an observation, although this was indicated in the internal instructions.

With regard to post-mortem inspection, the spleen was not inspected in one pig slaughterhouse, and the tonsils were not removed. The registration of findings during post-mortem inspection was not complete. In the other slaughterhouse, post-mortem inspection was performed according to Council Directive 64/433/EEC and the records were complete and well kept.

Examination for trichinae was in place for 100% of slaughter pigs. Method VI (magnetic stirrer method for pooled sample digestion) of Council Directive 77/96/EEC was correctly followed.

6. OVERALL CONCLUSION

The CA has taken into account the recommendations of the previous missions. Although the supervision of food establishments is sometimes deficient, the control systems in place guarantee, in general, that provisions of Community legislation are generally complied with.

7. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 26 November 2004 in Bratislava 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 conclusions and informed the mission team of the action taken. A written guarantee regarding the temporary suspension of the meat product establishment with hygiene deficiencies was received. The CCA committed itself to urgently addressing the structural and hygiene shortcomings of one slaughterhouse visited and also to improve the performance of the officials.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

- 8.1. To complete the registration of bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine holdings, and complete the animal identification.
- 8.2. To increase the awareness and implementation of preventive measures regarding classical swine fever in domestic pigs.
- 8.3. To ensure that only establishments complying with the relevant EU requirements regarding structure, layout, equipment and operational hygiene are approved, and that appropriate action is taken with regard to non-compliant establishments.
- 8.4. To take action to enforce the health marking requirements set out in Community legislation.

ADDENDUM

On 28 February 2005, the Slovak Competent Authorities sent their comments to the draft report. Where appropriate these comments have been incorporated into the final report. They also include an action plan to address the recommendations made and the following actions in response to certain findings:

1. The registration of holdings has been completed for porcine, ovine and caprine. The number of sheep registered in the CDB has increased to 113,000.
2. The CDB is able to settle and send replacement eartags within 48 hours. It has developed a system to elaborate and send the order of replacement eartags electronically via the Internet.
3. At the end of 2004, new passports for cattle were presented and issued also containing information about the holding where the animal was born.
4. The CDB will be amended with the country code for pig holdings by June 2005. The GIS system shall be introduced after the realisation of a GIS project by the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. The second stage of risk analysis to select bovine holdings is completed and functioning.

9. 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 91/495/EEC	L 268, 24.09.1991, p.41	Council Directive 91/495/EEC of 27 November 1990 concerning public health and animal health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of rabbit meat and farmed game meat
Council Directive 92/45/EEC	L 268, 14.09.1992, p. 35	Council Directive 92/45/EEC of 16 June 1992 on public health and animal health problems relating to the killing of wild game and the placing on the market of wild-game meat
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
Council Directive 97/78/EC	L 24, 30.01.98, p. 9	Council Directive of 18 December 1997 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries.
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
Council Directive 2001/89/EC	L 316 , 01.12.2001, p. 5	Council Directive 2001/89/EC of 23 October 2001 on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever
Council Directive 2003/85/EC	L 306, 22.11.2003, p.1	Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC
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 90/423/EEC	L 224, 18.08.1990 p. 13	Council Directive 90/423/EEC of 26 June 1990 amending Directive 85/511/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, Directive 64/432/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine and Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat or meat products from third countries
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 92/45/EEC	L 268, 14.09.1992, p. 35	Council Directive 92/45/EEC of 16 June 1992 on public health and animal health problems relating to the killing of wild game and the placing on the market of wild-game meat
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 92/118/EEC	L 062, 15.03.1993, p. 49	Council Directive 92/118/EEC of 17 December 1992 laying down animal health and public health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of products not subject to the said requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (I) to Directive 89/662/EEC and, as regards pathogens, to Directive 90/425/EEC
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

European legislation	OJ	Title
Council Directive 96/23/EC	L 125, 23.05.1996, p. 10	Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC
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
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
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 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.
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 1774/2002	L 273, 10.10.2002, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption
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
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
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

European legislation	OJ	Title
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 2000/571/EC	L 240, 23.09.2000, p. 14	Commission Decision of 8 September 2000 laying down the methods of veterinary checks for products from third countries destined for introduction into free zones, free warehouses, customs warehouses or operators supplying cross border means of sea transport
Commission Decision 2000/678/EC	L 281 , 07.11.2000, p. 16	Commission Decision of 23 October 2000 laying down detailed rules for registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals as foreseen by Council Directive 64/432/EEC
Commission Decision 2001/471/EC	L165, 21.06.2001, p.48	Commission Decision 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
Commission Decision 2004/280/EC	L 087 , 25.03.2004, p.60	Commission Decision of 19 March 2004 laying down transitional measures for the marketing of certain products of animal origin obtained in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia
Commission Decision 2004/625/EC	L 280 , 31.08.2004 p. 36	Commission Decision of 26 August 2004 amending Decision 2003/526/EC as regards the termination of the classical swine fever control measures applied in Saarland, Germany and the enlargement of the area of Slovakia where the classical swine fever control measures apply
Commission Decision 2004/775/EC	L 342 , 18.11.2004 p. 29	Commission Decision of 18 November 2004 granting Slovakia the derogation provided for in Article 3(2) of Council Directive 92/102/EEC on the identification and registration of animals
Transitional measures specified in the relevant Annex to the Act of the Accession of the country		