



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

DG(SANCO)/7620/2005 – MR Final

FINAL

REPORT OF A MISSION

CARRIED OUT IN MALTA

FROM 8 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2005

IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE UP-GRADING OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF FOOD
PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS, CONTROLS OVER CERTAIN PRODUCTS
OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION,
CERTAIN LIVE ANIMAL CONTROLS, AND CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR
EPIZOOTIC DISEASES

Please note that clarification provided by the competent authorities of Malta is given as a footnote, in bold, italic, type, to the relevant part of the report.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION	4
3. LEGAL BASIS.....	5
4. MAIN FINDINGS.....	5
4.1. Competent authority organisation and performance	5
4.2. Establishment upgrading and approval	6
4.3. Food safety controls	7
4.4. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls.....	9
4.5. Animal health controls	10
4.6. Contingency Plans	10
5. CLOSING MEETING.....	13
6. CONCLUSIONS	13
6.1. Competent authorities performance	13
6.2. Establishments upgrading and approval.....	13
6.3. Food safety controls	14
6.4. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls.....	14
6.5. Animal health controls	14
6.6. Contingency Plans	14
7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF MALTA.....	14
ADDENDUM.....	15
ANNEX- COMMUNITY LEGISLATION CITED IN THIS REPORT	16

ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

AI	Avian Influenza
CA(s)	Competent Authority (Authorities)
CCA(s)	Central Competent Authority (Authorities)
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
DB	Data Base
EU	European Union
FMD	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FVRD	Food and Veterinary Regulation Division
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
ND	Newcastle Disease
OV	Official Veterinarian
SH	Slaughterhouse

1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Malta from 8 to 17 November 2005. The mission team comprised two inspectors from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in the first week of the mission and three inspectors during the second week of the mission.

The mission was undertaken as part of the FVO's planned mission programme.

Representatives from the Central Competent Authority (CCA), the Food and Veterinary Regulation Division (FVRD) of the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, accompanied the inspection team during the mission.

An opening meeting was held on 8 November 2005 in Valletta with the CCA. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the mission were confirmed by the inspection team, and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the mission requested.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objectives of the mission were to review:

- the follow-up action taken by the CCA with regard to the up-grading of certain classes of food-processing establishments (red meat and milk);
- the operation of controls over certain products of animal origin intended for human consumption (fresh meat, meat products, minced meat and meat preparations, milk and milk products, farmed game);
- holding registration, animal identification and movement controls;
- certain animal health controls (tuberculosis, brucellosis, classical swine fever);
- the contingency plans for epizootic diseases, in particular Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza (AI), Newcastle Disease (ND).

In pursuit of these objectives, the following sites were visited:

Competent authority Meetings			Comments
Competent authority	Central	4	FVRD for the opening, closing, and one intermediary meeting, the Animal Databases (bovine and poultry) and the Food Health and Diagnostics Department
	Regional	1	Veterinary Service of Gozo

Food processing establishments		Comments
Slaughterhouses	1	Declared closed by the CCA, but with activity
Cutting premises	2	both integrated and high capacity
Meat product premises	2	both integrated
Meat preparations/Mince meat	2	both integrated
Milk processing premises	1	With derogation for milk quality until end 2009
Milk collection centres	1	
Laboratories	1	
Live animal sites: Farms	7	1 cattle, 2 pigs, 2poultry and 2 sheep/goats

3. LEGAL BASIS

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation and, in particular:

Article 12 of Council Directive 64/433/EEC, Article 12 of Council Directive 77/99/EEC, Article 17 of Council Directive 92/46/EEC, Article 9 of Council Directive 94/65/EC, Article 10 of Council Directive 77/391/EEC, Article 14 of Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993, Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Article 21 of Council Directive 2001/89/EC, Article 18 of Council Directive 92/40/EEC, Article 22 of Council Directive 92/66/EEC, Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998.

References to relevant Community legislation in the framework of this mission are listed in Annex I to the report.

4. MAIN FINDINGS

4.1. Competent authority organisation and performance

The FVRD has been reorganised and now has two Directorates: (1) International, Animal Health and Welfare and (2) Food Health and Diagnostics. They are both under the responsibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer who reports to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The Veterinary Service of Gozo depends administratively on the Ministry of Gozo, but organisationally works under FVDR command.

At the time of the mission, no action plan had been received from the CCA regarding report DG(SANCO)/7182/2004¹.

Official veterinarians can also be private practitioners.

¹ A copy of the report may be downloaded from http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/index_en.htm

With regard to training of personnel, the CCA informed the mission team that three junior veterinary officers were following on-work training in different areas with senior colleagues, and one was receiving training abroad. The CCA also stated that staff had been trained in the digestive method of *Trichinella sp.* testing, but no documentation was provided on this issue (number of staff, course, dates, etc)

Observations:

- In Gozo Island, the official veterinarian (OV) is also the only private practitioner. Supervision of his activities is not carried out;
- The report DG(SANCO)/7182/2004 recommended that urgent action be taken to improve staffing levels (17 veterinarians on December 2004). According to the information received, there were 14 veterinarians working for the FVRD at the time of the mission and between 6 and 10 will be recruited before January 2006;
- The only official veterinarian responsible for the guidance, approval and inspections of all types of food establishments in Malta was also temporarily in charge of the laboratory. Evidence was seen that this official could not cope with the workload (see points 4.2 and 4.3 in this report).

4.2. Establishment upgrading and approval

A list of approved establishments has been drawn up. Most establishments working in December 2004 without approval were recently approved and only one establishment still operates under transitional conditions.

There is a formal procedure for assessment and approval of establishments in place, with standardised checklists to evaluate structural requirements, HACCP prerequisites and implementation.

The “guidance on investigation of unauthorised slaughter and handling of meat” was developed by the FVRD and the Health Inspectorate Service Department in order to set up procedures to deal with illegal processors.

The CA is registering and classifying all holdings producing cheese and intends formally approving those selling to retail shops. Checklists to inspect the holdings and processing areas have been developed as well as a generic HACCP plan for the sector. No deadlines for the completion of the exercise and the full implementation of Council Directive 92/46/EEC to on-farm production of cheese from un-pasteurised milk were provided.

Observations:

- Some approvals were granted before full compliance with all the criteria established by EU requirements (e.g. lack of cutting room in an establishment approved as a cutting plant, lack of doors separating the cutting room from the cleaning area in another, preparation rooms not temperature-controlled, upgrading works unfinished). Whilst the OV identified the deficiencies before the approval, they appear in the official report only as “conditions to be attached to the licence”. Deadlines for correction of deficiencies were not indicated and many of them were still pending at the time of the mission;

- The mission team visited two establishments declared closed by the CA (one slaughterhouse (SH) and one cheese plant). The SH was still in operation and, according to the OV's records, at least 51 sheep or goats and 49 cattle have been slaughtered during this year. The establishment, which was undergoing reconstruction, did not fulfil the requirements of Council Directive 64/433/EEC. The cheese plant visited was in disuse. No official documentation was presented relating to the closure of those establishments;
- The milk collection centre visited presented a good standard. However, it has not received formal approval according to Article 10 of Council Directive 92/46/EEC and it is not included on the official list of establishments;
- The dairy plant visited, operating under transitional conditions regarding the quality of raw milk, had a plan in place to bring the quality of milk in line with EU standards before the end of the transitional period, and was ahead of the schedule in this respect;
- The CA provided a table showing enforcement actions taken against establishments operating without adequate conditions or licence;
- Approximately 50% of holdings producing cheese have already been registered and classified with the collaboration of the Health Services (market surveillance). A user-friendly version of the generic HACCP plan is in preparation.

4.3. Food safety controls

4.3.1. Official controls

All meat and milk establishments are intended to be inspected once per month (except the SH, where there is a permanent OV). Even this frequency was not always achieved. Inspection protocols were regularly filled in by the OV.

According to the information received, a tender has been issued to purchase equipment for the digestive method for *trichinella* testing; all horses and 2-3% of pigs² slaughtered were subject to *trichinella* testing at the time of the mission.

With regard to recommendation (3) of report (DG)SANCO/7182/2004 to improve operational hygiene, maintenance and the system of own checks, in particular testing of water quality, the CA informed the mission team that an external laboratory has been contracted to test the water at the SH. In other establishments, water tests have been included in the sampling programmes.

Observations:

- There were no deadlines or agreed action plan to correct several deficiencies reported by the OV. In some cases, the follow up was insufficient and the deficiencies were still pending after the time limit expired;

² *In their response to the draft report, the Maltese authorities noted that the actual number of pigs tested for trichinella is now 12%*

- There is not yet a national reference laboratory for the analysis and testing of milk, as required by Article 27 of Council Directive 92/46/EEC;
- The dairy plant is not applying any health mark to its products, which is not in accordance with Annex XI, point 1., paragraph (b) of the Act concerning the conditions of accession of Malta to the EU;
- A guideline to control the health marking of animal products has been developed and forwarded to approved meat establishments.

4.3.2. *Hygiene requirements*

In general, maintenance and operational hygiene in the establishments visited was adequate. Several deficiencies observed during the visits were not documented in the official reports, and some of the documented deficiencies were not properly followed up:

- Inadequate working space to allow for the hygienic performance of all operations and bad operational procedures in one meat establishment visited (e.g. carton boxes assembling and packing in the cutting and preparation room, inadequate storage of products, cleaning with hose beside exposed meat product);
- Annual programmes for pest control were in place in all the establishments visited. However, many flies were seen in some processing areas. Insufficient protection from insects was noted in storage areas of two establishments and some doors were not rodent proof;
- Programmes for cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment were in place in all establishments visited, but insufficient cleaning of equipment was seen in a meat establishment and very bad hygiene conditions in the store of spices and additives in another (infested with booklice);
- Presence of significant amounts of expired products in three establishments visited (additives, spices, fruit preparations).

4.3.3. *HACCP and own check controls*

Programmes in accordance with the HACCP principles were available in all establishments visited. Evidence of supervision by OV's was seen.

Observations:

- One meat processing establishment, recently approved, was at the first stage of HACCP implementation (e.g. personnel were being trained to fill the monitoring records but corrective actions were not yet documented, the sampling programme was adequate but not the follow up after inadequate results);
- The areas of the HACCP system checked during the visit to the dairy plant were correctly developed and implemented (pasteurisation, raw milk controls, and final products controls);

- In another meat establishment recently approved, structural modifications were still being carried out, and the layout and production flow presented in plans did not correspond with those seen.

4.3.4. *Welfare at slaughter*

Regarding recommendation (5) of report DG(SANCO)/7182/2004 on animal welfare for slaughtered pigs, the CCA presented a document to prove the purchase of adequate stunning equipment for the State owned SH.

4.4. **Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls**

4.4.1. *Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls*

The registration of holdings has been completed. Official holding registers are in place for all species.

The FVRD is responsible for applying animal identification (except in one pig farm) and for maintaining the central database (DB), which is recognised as fully operational for cattle. Identification of all small ruminants according to Regulation (EC) 21/2004 was continuing, and the CA expects to finish it by June 2006.

Large holdings are regularly visited for identification purposes (fortnightly in pigs, every 3 weeks for cattle) but small holdings should notify any event to the officials.

Before animals may move from a holding, a movement permit (valid for 7 days) from the FVRD is required. Authorisation to move could be withheld depending on the animal health situation of the holdings involved. A form signed by the buyer and seller must be returned to the DB after the movement. A computerised system is in place for movement controls of all species.

Observations:

- The holding registers seen on the farms visited were correctly completed;
- There are random manual quality checks on information kept in the DB, and the discrepancies detected are correctly followed-up;
- In the farms visited, the animals were correctly identified;
- There is no time limit to notify the movements of cattle to the DB, which is not in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000;
- In one case, the data kept on the DB regarding animal species and addresses of the holdings for one owner did not match reality.

4.4.2. *Identification controls*

At least 5% of the cattle farms should be checked every year. On-the-spot checks are always unannounced and on 100% of the animals present on the farm. The selection criteria of holdings to be inspected include in general the ones in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003. The CA informed the mission team that financial penalties are applied for some types of non-conformities, but a ban on movements is not yet applied at this first stage of the implementation.

Observations:

- During 2005, the CA inspected 49 cattle holdings (out of 156) for identification purposes. However, no documentation was presented concerning the nature of breaches found and the nature and number of sanctions applied to animals or holdings following the controls;
- In one check during May 2005, out of 158 animals, two were not registered on the DB and 29 registered were not present. There was no documentation available on the follow-up on the missing animals and no sanctions had been applied. The CA stated that financial sanctions would be imposed at the end of the year.

4.5. Animal health controls

Malta has requested recognition as officially free of bovine brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis and Brucellosis (*B. melitensis*), but these have not been granted yet.

Dairy cattle over 6 months of age are subject to official tuberculin testing. Milking cows, heifers older than one year and bulls for breeding are serologically tested for brucellosis annually. Milking sheep and goats are tested for *B. melitensis* every 6 months. The individual herds/flocks do not receive any official health status.

In dairy holdings, when goats are kept together with cows, they do not undergo a tuberculosis check according to Annex I, Chapter I, point 3 of Council Directive 92/46/EEC. However, until 31 December 2009, the only approved dairy plant in Malta may receive raw milk coming from dairy farms not complying with Annex A, Chapters I and II of that Directive according to Annex XI of the Act of Accession to the EU.

The last testing for leucosis in cattle was in 2002, when around 25% of the holdings (10% of animals) tested positive. The CA informed the mission team that holdings are still considered positive or negative based on that survey.

Observations:

- During 2005, 225 samples were analysed for Bluetongue, all with negative result. There are also six traps installed to monitor the presence of *Culicoides imicola*, but its presence has never been detected;
- Veterinary treatments were generally not recorded on the holdings, except in Gozo, where the only OV is also the only private practitioner.

4.6. Contingency Plans

4.6.1. Plan Documentation and availability

Contingency plans (CPs) for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND) have been approved by Commission Decisions and updated afterwards.

The mission team asked for updated versions of the four plans during the mission, but they have not yet been provided.

Article 12 of the Horizontal Contingency Plan for List A diseases in the Maltese Islands draws up the list of prepared forms and other documents specifically for use in dealing with List A. The mission team asked for them, but they were not available and they have not yet been provided.

Observations:

- The horizontal CP is not adapted in some areas to the Maltese situation (e.g. scheme of chain of command, transit of pigs, surveillances centres) and the forms indicated in the horizontal CP did not appear in the annexes. Gozo Island has not been sufficiently included (e.g. no contact telephone numbers);
- The CPs were not available at the national disease control and surveillance centres. At least two OV veterinarians with responsibilities in case of an emergency did not have the complete CP and they were not aware of that. In one case, the CP was sent to the official veterinarian 2 or 3 weeks before the mission;
- The identification of the latest CP version is difficult since the updating dates are not correct;
- The issue of strategic vaccination is only generally covered. However, the CA presented a more detailed paper on vaccination for AI;
- The methods for killing animals on infected holdings are very theoretical and sometimes unrealistic considering the equipment available (e.g. CO₂ for poultry, but there were no boxes in the stores to apply it, lethal injections not available). The CA presented a separate paper for euthanasia of poultry, detailing the different techniques;
- Updated lists were kept for contact numbers of personnel and institutions. Although not included in the CP, the OV in Gozo himself prepared a list of important contact numbers for the island in case of emergency.

4.6.2. Legal provisions and emergency powers

The Veterinary Services Act, No. XXIII of 2001 provides the necessary legal framework. No compensation rules are in force at national level for AI.

4.6.3. Organisation

The plan refers separately to an expert group, national disease control centre and the central decision making unit, which are one and the same in Malta. The only local disease control centre (Gozo) did not have the equipment specified in the CP, not even the basic ones such as fax, computer and printer.

The practical organisation of some aspects of the CPs seems difficult in Gozo (e.g. disinfection of people and vehicles coming from infected holdings, destruction of milk) considering the resources available.

4.6.4. *Provision of resources*

It is foreseen that staff from Civil Protection, Police and Army could assist the FVRD in case of crisis in different activities, but not to cull animals. Therefore, the availability of personnel to cull animals is questionable.

Emergency kits were prepared for AI/ND emergencies, but not for other diseases (e.g. no marking spray, no sedatives, no equipment for post-mortem examination). The kits were not available in Gozo and were not complete in the OVs' cars seen. Some forms needed in case of emergency were not easily available.

The equipment in the emergency stores did not match the provisions in the CP and the surveillance centre in Gozo did not have all the equipment specified in the CP, not even the basic ones such as fax, computer and printer.

An agreement has been signed with a company to ensure a supply of protective disposable clothing in case of an outbreak.

According to the CCA the rendering capacity is considered to be sufficient to cope with outbreaks covering the whole country.

4.6.5. *Laboratories*

There was no written contract or agreement between the Maltese Authorities and the relevant laboratories despite the fact that such a contract or agreement was supposed to be drafted, according to a letter sent on 6 January 2004 to the Commission services by the Maltese Authorities.

The national laboratory would organise the sample collection and send the samples abroad. However, cooling blocks to maintain the samples cool during transport were not available. Transport of samples from Gozo has also been considered.

The Central Veterinary Laboratory in Weybridge (United Kingdom) was said to be the national AI laboratory for Malta. According to Council Directive 92/40/EEC the national AI laboratory for Malta is the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie* in Padova (Italy).

In the framework of the surveillance programme for High Pathogenic AI in poultry flocks and migratory wild birds, Elisa tests are carried out in the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Malta. The laboratory has not yet participated in any proficiency test. In case of positive result, the sample is sent to the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Weybridge. Samples from migratory wild birds are sent directly to this laboratory.

4.6.6. *Animal tracing – pre and post outbreak*

The DBs available provide the CA with a good tool for tracing animals. However, due to the fact that movement permits are valid for 7 days and there is no time limit to inform the DB on animal movements it is possible that the exact location of some animals could not be established quickly.

4.6.7. Provisions for emergency vaccination

The vaccination policy for AI was under discussion at the time of the mission. Emergency vaccination has been considered in the CPs. However, for some diseases, there was no evidence of preparedness to obtain vaccine in case of emergency (e.g. no contract or agreement for the supply of vaccines has been signed with any company).

4.6.8. Training and awareness of programmes, simulation

According to the documentation received, a one-week course on CP took place during February 2005. A simulation exercise for AI was organised in October 2005, with participants from the Civil Protection and Police. The conclusions were not public at the time of the mission. For other diseases, the last exercise, on FMD, was organised in 1999.

Knowledge of the contents and provisions of the contingency plans by officials was not very good.

A good awareness campaign for AI was being conducted. Private practitioners, hunters and farmers have been informed by different means. Telephone lines for general information and for emergencies were in place.

At farm level, the awareness for FMD and CSF symptoms was good.

The CP stated that courses and lectures have been organised for private practitioners. No evidence of these was presented during the mission.

5. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 17 November 2005 with the CCA. At this meeting, the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission were presented by the inspection team. The representatives of the CCA took note of these and expressed their willingness to send more information by email during the following week.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. Competent authorities performance

The staffing levels within the Food Health and Diagnostics Department are insufficient to control food establishments effectively.

The lack of supervision of the official activities could lead to a lack of uniformity and guarantees of official activities.

6.2. Establishments upgrading and approval

While a systematic approval process is in place, deficiencies are generally recognised and most establishments in operation have received formal authorisation, the establishments approved without fulfilling all EU requirements compromise the validity of the exercise.

The lack of approval for farms producing cheese and selling to retail outlets is not in line with Council Directive 92/46/EEC.

6.3. Food safety controls

The frequency of the official inspections of establishments does not allow proper follow up of the shortcomings found.

Testing for trichinosis is not in line with Article 6 of Council Directive 64/433/EEC.

The design of systems for own controls are generally in line with EU requirements. However, delays in their implementation are a breach of Article 3 of Council Directive 93/43/EEC.

6.4. Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

The overall system for holding registration, animal identification and movement controls is in place and, in general, works effectively. However, the lack of a time limit to notify the movements of animals to the DB could lead to loss of traceability for long periods and, for bovines, this is not in line with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.

Identification controls on bovine holdings are carried out in line with EU provisions, but the absence of evidence concerning the nature of breaches found and the nature and number of sanctions applied may indicate a failure in the application of Commission Regulation No (EC) 494/98 and Commission Regulation No. (EC) 499/2004.

6.5. Animal health controls

The testing regimes in place for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are not any of those provided for in Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

The lack of a plan to eradicate enzootic leucosis in cattle is not in line with Article 4 of Council Directive 77/391/EEC.

6.6. Contingency Plans

With the exception of minor shortcomings, the contingency plans are well structured, detailed and provide a clear chain of command. However, except for AI, for which the situation was better in terms of awareness programme, disease information and simulation exercise, the majority of elements necessary for an effective implementation are not all in place, which may compromise the rapid confirmation, control and eradication of the diseases.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF MALTA

- (1) To ensure sufficient staff are available for proper supervision of food establishments and that appropriate follow-up actions are taken.
- (2) To implement consistent supervision of official activities.
- (3) With regard to the approval of establishments:

- To ensure that only compliant establishments are approved and to continue taking legal actions against establishments working without approval;
 - To grant formal approval to all compliant establishments that need it according to Council Directive 92/46/EEC;
 - To include holdings producing cheese, and not selling directly to consumers, in the approval procedure.
- (4) To bring testing for trichinosis in line with Article 6 of Council Directive 64/433/EEC.
 - (5) To implement and document a full control system on bovine identification in accordance with the requirements of Commission Regulation No. (EC) 1082/2003, Commission Regulation no. (EC) 494/98 and Commission Regulation No. (EC) 499/2004.
 - (6) To fix a time period within which all movement to and from the holding and all births and deaths of cattle on the holding should be communicated to the central database, in accordance to Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.
 - (7) To consider bringing the testing regimes for brucellosis and tuberculosis in line with those in Council Directive 64/432/EEC and officially allocate a health status to the holdings.
 - (8) To draw up a plan for the eradication of enzootic bovine leucosis in accordance with Council Directive 77/391/EEC.
 - (9) To provide the forms and documents listed in article 12 of the Horizontal Contingency Plan for List A diseases and to include specific conditions for Gozo in all the CPs.
 - (10) To ensure general knowledge and easy availability of the last version of the contingency plan among the personnel involved in case of an emergency.
 - (11) To implement all the provisions included in the CPs to ensure that rapid confirmation, control and eradication of diseases is feasible, in particular:
 - To conclude contracts or agreements with the relevant laboratories to ensure prompt diagnosis in case of emergency;
 - To equip the surveillance centre, stores and emergency kits with the necessary equipment to cope with all diseases covered by the contingency plans.

ADDENDUM

On 19 January 2006, the Maltese Competent Authorities sent their comments to the draft report. Where appropriate these comments have been incorporated into the final report. They also included an action plan to address the recommendations made.

ANNEX- COMMUNITY LEGISLATION CITED IN THIS REPORT

Legal acts cited in this annex refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

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 of June 1964 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat
Council Directive 71/118/EEC	L 55, 08.03.1971, p. 23	Council Directive 71/118/EEC of 15 February 1971 on health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of fresh poultry 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 meat products and certain other products of animal origin
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 92/40/EEC	L 167, 22.06.1992, p. 1	Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza
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 92/66/EEC	L 260, 05.09.1992, p. 1	Council Directive 92/66/EEC of 14 July 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease.
Council Directive 93/43/EEC	<i>L 176 , 20.07.1993, p.29</i>	Council Directive 93/43 EEC of 14 June 1993 on the hygiene 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 94/65/EEC	L 368, 31.12.1994, p. 10	Council Directive 94/65/EEC of 14 December 1994 laying down the health rules for the production and placing on the market of minced meat and meat preparations.
Commission Decision 98/139/EC	L 38, 12.02.1998, p. 10	Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998 laying down certain rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in the Member States
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 77/99/EEC	L 026, 31.01.1977, p. 85	Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products
Regulation (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

European legislation	OJ	Title
		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
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, 09.01.2004, p. 8	Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) 1782/2003 and Directive 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC
Commission Regulation (EC) 499/2004	L 80, 18.03.2004, p. 24	Commission Regulation (EC) No 499/2004 of 17 March 2004 amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 as regards the time limit and the model for reporting in the bovine sector
Commission Decision 2004/320/EC	L 102, 07.04.2004, p. 75	Commission Decision 2004/320/EC of 31 March 2004 amending Decisions 93/52/EEC, 2001/618/EC and 2003/467/EC as regards the status of acceding countries with regard to brucellosis (<i>B. melitensis</i>), Aujeszky's disease, enzootic bovine leukosis, bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis and of France with regard to Aujeszky's disease
Commission Decision 2004/402/EC	L 123, 27.04.2004, p.111	Commission Decision 2004/402/EC of 26 April 2004 approving contingency plans for the control of avian influenza and Newcastle disease
Commission Decision 2004/431/EC	L 189, 27.05.2004, p. 31	Commission Decision 2004/431/EC of 29 April 2004 approving certain contingency plans for the control of classical swine fever
Commission Decision 2004/435/EC	L 189, 27.05.2004, p.45	Commission Decision 2004/435/EC of 29 April 2004 approving certain contingency plans for the control of foot-and-mouth disease
Commission Decision 2004/588/EC	L 257 , 04.08.2004, p.8	Commission Decision of 3 June 2004 recognising the fully operational character of the Maltese database for bovine animals
Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Republic of Malta to the EU	L 236 , 23.09.2003, p. 859	Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded.