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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
LITHUANIA
FROM 15 TO 19 OCTOBER 2007
IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
EU ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE
IN LIVE EQUIDAE



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ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

AC	Assembly Centre
AIRBC	Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre
AV	Authorised veterinarian
CA	Competent Authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CDB	Central Database
DVO	District Veterinary Office
EIA	Equine infectious anaemia
EU	European Union
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
ICT	Intra-Community trade in live equidae
LCA	Local Competent Authority
MS	Member State
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OJ	Official Journal
OV	Official Veterinarian
SFVS	State Food and Veterinary Service
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System

1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Lithuania from 15 to 19 October 2007. The mission team comprised two FVO inspectors. The mission was undertaken as part of the Food and Veterinary Office's (FVO) planned mission programme and forms part of a series of missions. The mission was carried out in parallel with a mission on animal welfare of transports of slaughter horses (mission DG(SANCO)2007-7333). The mission team was accompanied throughout the mission by a representative of the Central Competent Authority (CCA).

An opening meeting was held on 15 October 2007 with the CCA. At the meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for the mission were confirmed by the inspection team, and additional information was requested for its satisfactory completion.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures and control systems put in place to give effect to the requirements of the European Union (EU) concerning intra-Community trade (ICT) of live equidae in the framework of Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/425/EEC. In pursuit of this objective, the following sites were visited:

VISITS		COMMENTS
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES		
CENTRAL	2	Initial and final meeting
REGIONAL	2	Counties Taurage and Marijampole (however, also sites in Alytus and Vilnius counties were visited)
LIVE ANIMALS CONTROL SITES		
Equine holdings	2	2 stud farms, of which one had previously been approved as a dealer's premises
Dealers' premises	3	
Dealers	3	
Animal transporter	1	See report DG(SANCO)2007-7333
OTHER		
Transport vehicle cleaning site	1	

3. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation, and in particular Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

A list of the relevant EU legislation is attached to this report (see Annex).

4. BACKGROUND

4.1. Background to present mission

Council Directive 90/426/EEC lays down the animal health requirements applicable to ICT of live equidae.

In accordance with Council Directive 90/425/EEC the Member States (MS) have put in place control systems in order to ensure the implementation of veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in ICT. However, the ICT of live equidae represents a risk of spreading equine diseases.

Whilst certain aspects of ICT of live equidae have been subject to various FVO inspections, the control system as a whole has not yet been evaluated.

4.2 Information on intra-Community trade and exports and imports of equidae

The CA provided the following data, in relation to ICT and imports and exports of live equidae in 2006.

	HORSES LEAVING FROM LITHUANIA TO OTHER MS	HORSES ARRIVING IN LITHUANIA FROM OTHER MS	HORSES EXPORTED FROM LITHUANIA	HORSES IMPORTED TO LITHUANIA
Registered horses and horses for breeding and production	44	1	93	9
Slaughter horses	5 304*		0	190**
Total	5 348	1	93	199

* To Italy and Poland ** From Belarus

The CCA were not able to provide separate data for registered horses and horses for breeding and production. The CCA stated that the main trade partners for equidae leaving Lithuania are Italy and Poland.

Lithuania is a transit country for horses from Russia to Kaliningrad (two consignments with 10 horses were in transit in 2007).

5. OUTCOME OF THE MISSION

5.1. Legislation

According to the information received from the Lithuanian CA the main provisions for ICT of live equidae have been transposed by Order No. B1-720 of 23 December 2005 of the Director of State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS) "On the approval of veterinary requirements for trade of equidae and their import from third countries".

The Order B1-621 of 31 July 2007, issued by the Director of the SFVS prohibits the transport of Lithuanian slaughter horses destined for ICT if the journey lasts more than 8 h but allows on the other hand the extension of the duration of transports which should last under 8 h for an additional 4 h, if needed, without a journey log. This order, in force since 12 August 2007, had stopped the transports of Lithuanian slaughter horses to Italy in the counties visited (see report DG(SANCO)2007-7333 for details).

5.2. Competent Authority

5.2.1. Designation of competent authorities and operational criteria

The SFVS is the Lithuanian central CA (CCA) for animal health and welfare. It has a pyramidal structure with a clear chain of command between the central, regional and local levels.

A detailed description of the Lithuanian CA is available in the country profile at the website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm.

The regional CAs (RCAs) comprise the SFVS at the county and city level in 10 counties and 5 cities. The local CAs (LCAs) are formed by 34 district veterinary services.

The structure of the SFVS has remained as described in the country profile except that the former Internal Audit Department has been renamed as Audit Service and moved within the hierarchy of the SFVS on 1 April 2007.

According to the CCA the number of staff within the SFVS was 1.810, of which 110 are based at the headquarters. Besides the official veterinarians (OVs) the SFVS employs also contracted private veterinarians (authorised veterinarians, AVs) for routine animal health surveillance tasks. The AVs are contracted annually but the contracts can be extended. The contracts have to be approved by the LCA. Contracts with the AVs were available in the counties visited.

In the two counties visited official tasks, including certification for ICT, were carried out by the OV of the LCA. However, in Taurage the AVs could also carry out the inspection of the animals leaving for ICT and thus be responsible for a part of the health information section in the health certificate for ICT.

5.2.2. Training

Evidence of established training procedures was presented to the mission team. A TAEIX workshop on animal trade control in the EU (including live equidae, and welfare aspects in relation to animal transports) was organised on 17-18.9.2007 in Vilnius. In addition, the Training Centre of Continuing Education of Lithuanian Veterinary Academy is also organising trainings not only for private veterinarians but also for keepers and dealers of equidae.

5.2.3. Official controls, co-ordination and information flow within the veterinary service

A chain of supervision is in place within the SFVS. The inspection frequencies are determined in an annual national control plan (for the different types of control objects, for example dealer's premises, transporters, assembly centres, and livestock vehicle cleaning sites). The national control plan and the budget are published separately as Orders of the Director of the SFVS (copies were received).

Regular meetings are held between the different levels of CA, including the AVs (for example, quarterly meetings between the CCA and the RCA and between the RCA, LCA and the AVs). Documentation of these meetings was available.

Evidence of regular information flow and co-ordination between the CAs was available (for example, quarterly reports are sent from LCA to RCA in relation to the animal health surveillance programme).

Enforcement activities in respect of animal health and animal welfare were carried out by the OVs. Evidence of sanctions applied was available in the counties visited (e.g. fines) as well as suspension of approvals.

The Internal Audit Service had audited the counties visited in 2004 (Marijampole) and 2005 (Taurage). The audit report seen also comprised recommendations. However, the aspect of ICT of live equidae was not covered in the audit report seen.

5.3. Holding registration, Animal identification, and movement control

5.3.1. Holding registration

According to the Veterinary Law all keepers of animals have to be registered. In relation to horses this requirement was interpreted differently in the counties visited. In Taurage only keepers of horses with commercial activity (e.g. dealers' premises, big stud farms) were registered, whereas in Marijampole other horse holdings were also included in the register.

5.3.2. Animal identification

The Animal Breeding Department within the MA is responsible for livestock identification. However, in relation to horses it has delegated this responsibility to the Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre (AIRBC) which is a State enterprise. The AIRBC keeps a register of all passports issued but has the passports are issued by horse breeding organisations. One of these organisations was visited by the mission team.

The approval of identification forms and passports for registered horses are given in the Order No. 1A-63 of the MA of 28 November 2003. The use of these passports was made mandatory for registered horses by the Order No. 3D-274 of the MA of 28 June 2006. According to these rules, all registered horses born after first of May 2004 must have a passport. Also other horses can get a passport on a voluntary basis.

The rules for the identification document for horses for breeding and production are given in the Order No. 9 of the MA of 13 March 2002.

Horses which are moved for trade purposes in the country, including slaughter horses, need an identification document and delivery note in accordance with Order No. B1-207 of 16 March 2006 of the Director of the SFVS.

All horses must have an identification document or passport with them when they are moved. This document must be filled in at the holding of origin before they are moved for the first time.

The representative of a breeding organisation stated that the first description is taken up by the owner. The verification of the signalement of registered horses is carried out by inspectors approved for this task.

The following shortcomings were noted:

- Passports are mandatory for registered horses only;
- No passports are issued for slaughter horses;
- The identification sheet used for slaughter horses sent to other MS for slaughter was not completed at the holding of origin but at the dealers premises by the dealer; although according to Section III of Commission Decision 93/623/EEC, the initial identification, taken with dam, should have been verified by a qualified veterinary surgeon or competent authority;
- The identification document for horses for breeding and production lacked several parts of the passport as defined in the Annex to Commission Decision 93/623/EEC, for example part of section I (history of ownership), Sections V , VI, VI and IX (vaccination data, laboratory test results, details on medical treatments);
- In one horse passport seen, the identification marks of the animal were not described, as required by Section III of the Annex to Commission Decision 93/623/EEC, although this adult horse had participated in national breeding shows;
- No special training has been organised for the inspectors and CAs who are carrying out the verification of the identification marks; and
- No official system for identification of other live equidae than horses has been established.

5.3.3. *Movement control*

Horses are accompanied by a movement document for internal movements. This document is issued as a duplicate of which one stays at the place of departure and the other accompanies the animal(s) to the new destiny. The documents are signed by the sender at the place of origin and recipient only. The document comprises a statement about the use of veterinary medicines in the last two months and some health guarantees. The animal identification details are limited to sex, colour, age and the running number of the animal (often clipped into the hair coat).

Holding registers were available on the holdings and dealers premises visited and also registers for veterinary treatments. The stud farm visited was also responsible for keeping the stud books for the breed in question. The records in the stud-books seen were well kept.

The following shortcomings were noted:

- The movement documents used for pre-certification for ICT lacked statements which would back up points 4, 5 and 6 of part II of the certificate;
- The statement about medication of horses on the movement documents covers only treatments in the last 2 months; although several substances essential for the treatment of equidae, as listed in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 have a withdrawal period of 6 months;
- Although movement documents were in general available at the equine holdings (including dealers premises) visited, they were often filled in incompletely (details missing in relation to owner, destiny, transporter and time of departure);
- The CA stated that Lithuanian slaughter horses are dispatched for slaughter to national slaughter houses without an identification document;
- One dealer visited had the holding register available only for October 2007 and even then it was incomplete; and
- Some details were also missing in other holding registers (e.g. details of transport vehicle and the new owner).

5.4. Animal health requirements

5.4.1. Situation in the country

Concerning the animal health situation (source OIE¹), the following equine diseases have not been reported in Lithuania: African horse sickness, vesicular stomatitis, glanders, dourine, viral encephalomyelitis, equine viral arteritis, and West Nile fever. The last cases of anthrax in livestock was detected in 1998 and equine infectious anaemia in 2002. Rabies and trichinellosis occur.

5.4.2. Eradication and monitoring programmes

The latest annual sampling and programme for animal diseases is given in the Order No. B1-281 of 12 April 2006 of the Director of the SFVS. The budget for the monitoring programme is given in the Order No. B1-313- of 2 May 2006.

The annual monitoring programme comprises stud farms, equines in quarantine, registered horses to be sold further and horses destined for slaughter. The diseases to be tested for are, for example, glanders, equine infectious anaemia (EIA), dourine, contagious equine metritis, viral arteritis, and equine encephalomyelitis.

¹ World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); www.oie.int

The horses have to be tested for diseases eg. anthrax, rabies and leptospirosis in case of suspicion.

The tests which have been carried out comprise the obligatory testing of slaughter horses for EIA and glanders (paid by the owner) and some testing for dourine.

Data on animal diseases surveillance 2005-2007 is given the table below:

Disease	2005		2006		2007	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
African horse Sickness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vesicular stomatitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equine encephalomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glanders	7 456	0	5 251	0	2 042	0
Dourine	656	0	447	0	260	0
Equine infectious anemia (EIA)	7 750	0	5 692	0	2 412	0
Rabies	14	8	21	9	11	4
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trichinosis	0	0	1 314	0	1 016	0

The following shortcoming was noted:

- Although the national legislation requires testing for several equine diseases the budget for carrying out the monitoring in equidae in 2006 and 2007 has not been provided.

5.5. Controls on dealer's premises, other equine holdings and animal transporters

5.5.1. Approval of the sites

According to the information provided by the CA, the Order No. B1-146 of 1 January 2005 of the Director of the SFVS lays down requirements for approvals of assembly centres and animal dealers. It also defines the inspection frequencies for these sites.

The Order No. B1-136 of 26 January 2007 of the Director of the SFVS comprises requirements for the authorisation, registration and supervision of transporters.

A clear procedure for the authorisation of dealers and dealers' premises, assembly centres and transporters was in place. It is initiated by the application of the operator, followed by an inspection by the LCA and submission of the inspection report and proposal for approval to the RCA. The RCA gives the approval and informs the CCA. All horse dealers and transporters must be approved, including those involved in internal trade. The operation of separate livestock vehicle cleaning and disinfection point is also subject to approval.

At the start of the mission there were 40 approved dealers and 47 approved transporters in Lithuania.

Lithuania has no approved staging points for equidae.

Lists of approved operators were available in the counties visited. The list of equine assembly centres is kept at central level and has been transmitted to the Commission². However, these sites are considered as assembly centres only as defined in Art 2, point b, of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, but not as defined in Art 2, point 2(o) of Council Directive 64/432/EEC. Thus the assembly centres seen did not fulfil all the requirements as given in Article 11 of Council Directive 64/432 (for example, no facility was dedicated exclusively for this purpose when used as an assembly centre, no office was provided for the OV).

One of the holdings visited had been earlier approved as a dealer with premises but had ceased this activity and had applied to get the approval withdrawn in October 2007. Documentation in relation to this withdrawal was available and the RCA had informed the CCA about the situation. The CA explained that the holding would be approved as a stud farm.

All sites were under the supervision of an OV or AV. The procedure for approval had been followed in the counties visited.

However, the following shortcomings were noted:

- One dealer with premises had been approved although the structures and equipment were not suitable for the keeping of horses. Although the same dealer had been inspected a few days earlier and had got his approval as a dealer for cattle and pigs suspended, the CA had not suspended the approval as a horse dealer. However, after the mission team's visit the CA took immediate action and the authorisation was suspended until the shortcomings are rectified (written guarantees about the suspension of the approval were received the following day).

5.5.2. Official control of the sites

According to the national legislation (Order No. B1-146 of 1 January 2005 of the Director of the SFVS) assembly centres, dealers' premises and dealers, and transporters have to be inspected regularly by LCAs, with a frequency set by SFVS, as part of the annual control plan. The inspection frequencies are determined based on risk (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or twice annually). In the counties visited, the frequency was 4 times annually for dealer's premises, transporters and livestock vehicle cleaning and disinfection points. Checklists were used for inspections and the CCA had recently developed new checklists. However, the new lists had not yet been used in all the counties visited. Quarterly inspection reports were available. The inspection reports seen comprised shortcomings with set deadlines to fix the problems.

² <http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/sanco/vets/info/data/assembly/assembly.htm>

Two of the 3 dealers' premises visited and the approved transport vehicle cleaning and disinfection point visited had in general adequate facilities and equipment. A logbook of cleaning and disinfection was available at the vehicle cleaning and disinfection point.

The following shortcomings were noted:

- Of the 3 approved dealer's premises visited, one had severe maintenance problems and the floor and installations were inadequate for keeping equidae (old cattle barn with poor maintenance, broken slatted floor and protruding broken fixtures in which the animals can get hurt). These premises were clearly not in compliance with the requirements of Annex I, Chapter II, point 1.3, of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. However, during the FVO visit the stables were empty and the horses were kept in a field;
- The OV responsible for the controls of the animal transport vehicle cleaning and disinfection point had not noticed that the cleaning and disinfection instruction of the company was outdated and that the procedure applied for livestock vehicles in practice was a different one;
- The dealers premises visited were in general not easy to disinfect (wooden structures);
- On one dealer's premises the activities of a dealer and fattening holding were not separated (some young horses kept for a period of over thirty days);
- The disinfectant used on one of the dealer's premises visited had expired;
- Some deficiencies were noted in relation to cleaning and disinfection of horse transport vehicles; and
- The 2 equine holdings visited had some minor deficiencies in relation to maintenance and cleaning and disinfection of the premises.

5.6. Controls on Intra-Community trade in live equidae

5.6.1. Controls on animals arriving in Lithuania

The OVs are informed about any movement restrictions of live animals imposed within other MS via the TRACES system and close cooperation within the different CA levels.

For ICT, the pre-notification is received by the LCA (usually by fax). The CA met stated that for arriving horses the controls comprise documentary checks of the certificates, correspondence of the certificate with the arriving animals, 100% physical checks, and testing for glanders, dourine and EIA. The owner has to pay the testing for the above-mentioned diseases.

The CA met stated that all equidae other than slaughter arriving from other MSs to a holding have to be kept under quarantine for 21 days. This quarantine takes place at the holding of destination.

According to the CA no equidae arrived in 2006 and 2007 (data available up to 15 October) from other MS for slaughter in Lithuania. Three slaughterhouses exist which are approved for slaughter of equidae. According to the national legislation all horses sold for slaughter have to be tested for EIA and glanders. These tests are paid for by the owners.

No live equidae had been received from other MSs in the districts visited in recent years.

The following discrepancies with Community legislation were noted:

- The controls on equidae arriving from other MS at the holding of destiny are not carried out randomly as required in Article 5.1.a of Council Directive 90/425/EEC; and
- Registered horses and horses for breeding and production are kept 21 days in quarantine at the holding of destiny.

5.6.2. Controls on animals leaving Lithuania

The requirement to test all slaughter horses for glanders and for EIA applies also to horses sent for slaughter to other MS. This testing has to be paid by the owner of the horses. Evidence that these tests had been carried out for horses sent to slaughter in another MS was seen.

5.6.3. Certification

A procedure for issuing certificates for ICT is in place. The certificate is completed on the basis of the internal movement document signed by the keepers, sheet comprising the identification details, and the internal animal health certificate signed by either the AV or the OV carrying out the physical and documentary checks. The data is entered into the TRACES system by the OV at the district office.

According to the CA met the equidae intended for ICT are checked by an OV (Marijampole county) or by an OV or AV (Taurage county) within 48 hours before departure. The OV or AV is responsible for checking that the animal health guarantees are valid, that animals are fit for travel, that the truck is in compliance with the animal welfare regulations and that it has been previously cleaned and disinfected.

The ICT health certificate models used were in compliance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 599/2004. The certificates seen were issued in two languages, Lithuanian and the language of the country of destiny.

The files and supporting documentation for all certificates requested by the mission team were available but several shortcomings were noted:

- In some certificates, Part I was incorrectly filled in with regard to places of origin or destination of the animals;
- In some certificates, in Part II relevant options with regard to animal health were not ticked;
- In some certificates the cross-reference to the list of animals was lacking;
- In some certificates passports were ticked as identification documents for slaughter horses although these had not been issued;
- Some certificates had been issued for slaughter equidae destined for other MSs without supporting internal certificates; and
- Many certificates of slaughter horses destined for Italy contained incomplete or unrealistic route plans or journey logs and insufficient controls on them (for details, see report DG(SANCO)2007-7333).

5.6.4. Miscellaneous

The CA stated that horses in transit to and from Kaliningrad are transported without the trucks being sealed.

Medical treatment registers, as required by Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC, were available on the holdings visited but on one holding antiparasitic treatments were not recorded.

None of the horse passports seen or identification documents included any documentation of medical treatments.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. Legislation

The national provision on compulsory testing of slaughter horses of Lithuanian or Polish origin for EIA and dourine does not have a legal background in Community legislation. Furthermore, the epidemiological situation of the country does not justify additional testing.

The provision of compulsory testing of registered horses and horses for breeding and production arriving from other MS for EIA and dourine and the requirement to have them under quarantine for 21 days are not in compliance with Community requirements as given in Article 5.1.a of Council Directive 90/425/EEC and Chapter II to Council Directive 90/426/EEC.

The order on restriction of transport times of slaughter horses of Lithuanian origin to other MS is not in line with the rules given in Annex I, Chapter V, of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in relation to journey times.

6.2. Competent authorities

The CAs are in general well organised. A clear chain of command is in place and responsibilities regarding official control in ICT are clearly allocated.

However, some discrepancies were noted in relation to the interpretation and implementation of national legislation in the counties visited (for example in relation to registration of equine holdings and clinical examination of animals for ICT by only an OV in one county and either OV or AV in another county).

6.3. Animal identification, holding registration, holding registers and movement control

Significant shortcomings exist in relation to the identification and movement controls of live equidae. These deficiencies undermine the traceability as required in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council for Lithuanian slaughter horses and horse meat derived from these horses.

In addition, the obligation to include a statement about medication of horses on the movement documents only in relation to medical treatments in the last 2 months does not cover several substances essential for the treatment of equidae, as listed in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 which have a withdrawal period of 6 months.

6.4. Animal health requirements

Although the annual animal health surveillance programme for equidae covers several diseases, it is not implemented according to the plan due to a lack of budget. However, the animal disease situation in relation to equidae is satisfactory except for rabies.

6.5. Controls on assembly centres, dealer's premises and animal transporters

The procedure for approvals is in general followed. The frequency and level of controls of equine holdings, dealers and transporters visited was in general satisfactory.

However, the CA had not taken adequate measures in relation to one horse dealer with premises not in compliance with the requirements of Annex I, Chapter II, point 1.3, of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

6.6. Controls on intra-Community trade in live equidae

Controls on animals arriving from other MS were carried out routinely and thus the principle of non-discriminatory veterinary spot checks, as given in Article 5.1.a of Council Directive 90/425/EEC was not respected. The additional testing of slaughter horses destined for other MS for glanders and EIA has no legal basis in the Community legislation.

Although a clear procedure is in place for certification, it does not ensure that all certifiable requirements for live equidae participating in ICT are complied with. The

shortcomings related to the identification of horses and the movement controls undermine the reliability of the certification.

6.7. Miscellaneous

The lack of records with antiparasitic treatment in the medical treatment register is not in compliance with Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC with regard to the obligation of keeping a register for the date and nature of treatment prescribed or administered, the identification of the animal treated and the corresponding withdrawal period.

The CA stated that horses in transit to and from Kaliningrad are transported without the trucks being sealed.

Medical treatment registers were available on the holdings visited but on one holding antiparasitic treatments were not recorded.

None of the horse passports seen or identification documents included any documentation of medical treatments.

In addition to the insufficient traceability of live slaughter equidae destined for ICT, the traceability of horsemeat produced in Lithuania is not guaranteed.

7. OVERALL CONCLUSION

Although the CA are in general well organised and controls cover different types of equine holdings and their keepers and transporters, several shortcomings exist in relation to identification and movement controls of live equidae. These deficiencies are mirrored in the deficiencies detected in relation to the certification. The traceability as required in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 at the European Parliament and of the Council for both Lithuanian slaughter horses and horse meat is not guaranteed for all stages of production.

8. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 19 October 2007 with the representatives of the CCA during which the inspection team presented the main findings and conclusions of the mission. At this meeting, the CCA did not express major disagreements with the findings.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF LITHUANIA

- 9.1 To ensure that checks at arrival are carried out in a non-discriminatory way, as required by Article 5.1.a of Council Directive 90/425/EEC.
- 9.2 To ensure that requirements in place for registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production arriving from other Member States are in compliance with the requirements of Chapter II of Council Directive 90/426/EEC.
- 9.3 To ensure that checks of equidae destined to be slaughtered in Lithuania or in other Member States are not exceeding the requirements of Chapter II of

Council Directive 90/426/EEC and Article 3 of Council Directive 90/425/EEC, respectively.

- 9.4. To ensure the correct application of Annex I to Chapter V of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in relation to maximum transport times of domestic equidae.
- 9.5. To bring the system in place for identification of equidae into compliance with the requirements of Commission Decisions 93/623/EEC and 2000/68/EC and to ensure training is provided for the qualified veterinary surgeons and competent authorities carrying out the identification or its verification.
- 9.6. To ensure that the annual disease monitoring programme can be carried out according to the plan.
- 9.7. In order to comply with Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council to improve the traceability of equidae participating in ICT trade by:
 - ensuring that all equidae moving are accompanied by a movement document;
 - amending the internal certificate (movement document) by making a specific reference to all health guarantees as mentioned in Council Directive 90/426/EEC; and
 - taking into account the requirements of Article 13 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC in relation to the information necessary for holding registers at dealers' premises.
- 9.8. To ensure that the principles of certification, as laid down in Article 3 of Council Directive 96/93/EC are respected.
- 9.9. To ensure that veterinary treatments are recorded as required by Article 10 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.
- 9.10. To ensure that the internal certificate includes all veterinary treatments where the withdrawal period has not yet expired.

10. COMPETENT AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Competent Authority's response to the recommendations can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_lithuania_7374_2007.pdf

ANNEX I

RELEVANT COMMUNITY LEGISLATION

The following is a list of EU legislation³ relevant to this series of missions:

LEGISLATION RELATED TO OFFICIAL CONTROLS IN THE VETERINARY FIELD		
Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules	OJ L 165, 30/04/2004, p. 1, corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28/05/2001, p.1
Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council	Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption	OJ L 139, 30/04/2004, p. 206, corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25/06/2004, p. 83
Commission Decision 98/139/EC	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 the Member States	OJ L 38, 12/02/1998 p. 10
Council Directive 90/425/EEC	Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market	OJ L 224, 18/08/1990, p. 29
LEGISLATION RELATING TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE OF LIVE ANIMALS		
Council Directive 90/426/EEC	Council Directive 90/426/EEC of 26 June 1990 on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae	OJ L 224, 18/08/1990, p. 42
Council Directive 64/432/EEC	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June of 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine	OJ L 121, 29/07/1964, p. 1977
Council Directive 90/427/EEC	Council Directive 90/427/EEC of 26 June 1990 on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing Intra-community trade in equidae	OJ L 224, 18/08/1990, p. 55
Commission Decision 93/623/EEC	Commission Decision 93/623/EEC of 20 October 1993 establishing the identification document (passport) accompanying registered equidae	OJ L 298, 3/12/1993, p. 45
Commission Decision 2000/68/EC	Commission Decision 2000/68/EC of 22 December 1999 amending Commission decision 93/623/EEC and establishing the identification of equidae for breeding and production	OJ L 23, 28/01/2000, p. 72
Commission Decision 2007/269/EC	Commission Decision 2007/269/EC of 23 April 2007 on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania	OJ L 115 , 03//05/2007, p.18
LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE NOTIFICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES		
Council Directive 82/894/EEC	Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the Community	OJ L 378, 31/12/82, p. 58

³ EU legislation quoted in the Annex refer to the last amended version.

Commission Decision 2004/292/EC	Commission Decision 2004/292/EC of 30 March 2004 on the introduction of the Traces system and amending Decision 92/486/EEC	OJ L 94, 31/03/2004, p. 63
LEGISLATION RELATED TO ANIMAL WELFARE		
Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005	Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and other related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulations (EC) No. 1255/97	OJ L 3,05/01/2005, p. 1
LEGISLATION RELATING TO CERTIFICATION		
Council Directive 96/93/EC	Council Directive 96/93/EC of 17 December 1996 on the certification of animals and animal products	OJ L 13, 16/01/1997, p. 28
Commission Regulation (EC) No 599/2004	Commission Regulation (EC) No 599/2004 of 30 March 2004 concerning the adoption of a harmonised model certificate and inspection report linked to intra-Community trade in animals and products of animal origin	OJ L 94, 31/03/2004, p. 44
LEGISLATION RELATING TO IMPORT OF LIVE EQUIDAE		
Commission Decision 2004/211/EC	Commission Decision 2004/211/EC of 6 January 2004 establishing the list of third countries and parts of territory thereof from which Member States authorise imports of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species, and amending Decisions 93/195/EEC and 94/63/EC	OJ L 73, 11/03/2004, p. 1
Commission Decision 93/196/EEC	Commission Decision 93/196/EEC of 5 February 1993 on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of equidae for slaughter	OJ L 86, 06/04/1993, p.7
Commission Decision 93/197/EEC	Commission Decision 93/197/EEC of 5 February 1993 on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production	OJ L 86, 06/04/1993, p. 16
LEGISLATION RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICAL PRODUCTS		
Council Directive 96/23/EC	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.	OJ L 125, 23/05/1996, p. 10
Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90	Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 of 26 June 1990 laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medical products in foodstuff of animal origin	OJ L 224, 18/08/1990, p.1
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 of 13 December 2006 establishing, in accordance with Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products, a list of substances essential for the treatment of equidae	OJ L 367, 22/12/2006, p. 33

LEGISLATION RELATING TO FOOD HYGIENE

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council	Regulation (EC) No 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	OJ L 31, 01/02/2002, p. 1
Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council	Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs	OJ L 139, 30/04/2004, p. 1 Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25/6/2004, p. 3
Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council	Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin	OJ L 139, 30/04/2004, p. 55 Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25/6/2004, p. 22