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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN
BULGARIA
FROM 15 JANUARY TO 18 JANUARY 2008
IN ORDER TO
EVALUATE THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL IN RELATION TO ANIMAL WELFARE
OF LAYING HENS AND ANIMAL WELFARE DURING LONG DISTANCE
TRANSPORT

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of a mission carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in Bulgaria, from 15 to 18 January 2008.

The objectives of the mission were to verify the implementation of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to laying hen farms and for the long distance transport of animals and to assess how the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council have been integrated into the controls of these sectors. A follow-up assessment was also made of the actions taken following previous pre-accession missions on animal welfare.

The report concludes that progress from the previous mission has been very limited and although certain measures have been taken, these have been largely ineffective in ensuring that the system of control for animal welfare is satisfactory. Steps have been taken to establish functioning controls, such as the registration of laying hen farms; however, serious non-compliances in this sector, including the major problem of non-compliant unenriched cages for laying hens, which were already identified on the previous mission, continue to be seen and have not been adequately addressed by the authorities.

In relation to animal welfare during transport some of the measures taken, such as authorisation of transporters and means of transport, provide a basic framework for controls, but inspections have not been implemented so that requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 are adequately enforced.

The requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 have not been adequately integrated into the controls of animal welfare in either the transport or the laying hen sectors.

The report makes a number of recommendations addressed to the Bulgarian competent authorities, several of which were also made in the previous report, aimed at rectifying the identified shortcomings and further enhancing the control measures in place.

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ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

Abbreviation	Explanation
CCA	Central Competent Authority
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OV	Official Veterinarian
RCA	Regional Competent Authority
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Office of the EU Commission

1 INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Bulgaria from 15 to 18 January 2008, as part of the planned mission programme of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).

An opening meeting was held with the competent authorities of Bulgaria on 15 January 2008. 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.

The inspection team comprised two inspectors from the FVO and one national expert, and was accompanied throughout the mission by the representatives from the Central Competent Authority – the National Veterinary Service.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objectives of the mission were to verify:

- The implementation of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to laying hen farms, in particular the measures put in place to give effect to Council Directives 1999/74/EC, 98/58/EC, Commission Directive 2002/4/EC and Commission Decision 2000/50/EC (repealed by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC).
- The implementation of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to the long distance transport of animals as required by Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
- How the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council have been integrated into the controls of the laying hen sector and in relation to checks of the transport of animals.

A follow-up assessment was also made of the actions taken in response to certain commitments given by the CCA following pre-accession missions from 2005 and 2006.

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

Visits			Comments
Competent authority	Central level	2	Opening and closing meetings with the CCA.
	Regional level	2	Regional offices in Sofia district Region and Plovdiv Region were visited.
Farms		3	Two farms with unenriched cages and one with an alternative system of production were visited. The farms were selected by the inspection team from lists provided by the CCA.

3 LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

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

- (a) Article 7 of Council Directive 98/58/EC
- (b) Article 9 of Council Directive 1999/74/EC
- (c) Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
- (d) Article 28 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

Full legal references are provided in Annex 1. Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 BACKGROUND

Previous missions concerning the welfare of animals took place in Bulgaria (ref: DG(SANCO)/7717/2005 and DG(SANCO)/8054/2006) as a part of the monitoring of the action taken by the competent authorities to ensure the transposition of the acquis, in particular veterinary legislation, into its national legislation, and to ensure effective implementation, and enforcement of these rules. Following these pre-accession missions the Bulgarian CA undertook the implementation of an action plan to address the recommendations. Further clarification on actions taken in response to the recommendations of the pre-accession reports are provided in report 7465/2007 – Country profile of Bulgaria, which is available on the web site of the Health and Consumer Protection DG, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm

5 MAIN FINDINGS

5.1 COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The organisation of the Competent Authority (hereafter: CA) is described in the country profile of Bulgaria (DG(SANCO)/7465/2007).

From July 2007 an Animal Welfare Department was established within the Animal Health Directorate, which currently consists of one person, who is responsible also for other tasks of the Directorate.

5.1.1 Verification of checks

The report of the pre-accession mission recommended to the CCA to ensure that supervision of the different levels of the CA takes place in relation to animal welfare checks to ensure the effectiveness, quality and consistency of official controls at all levels

(Articles 4.2(a) and 4.4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) and verification of the effectiveness of inspections and any corrective actions taken (Article 8.3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004).

It was noted that:

- The CCA had not put in place any system of supervision regarding Animal Welfare yet.
- In Sofia district region the OV responsible for animal welfare explained that the checks are performed by the municipal OV. Occasionally the checks are performed by the OV responsible for animal welfare himself and if during these checks deficiencies regarding the checks of municipal OVs are noted, they would be informed about the shortcomings in their checks; however, no evidence that the municipal OVs had been informed about shortcomings in their checks had been noted by the mission team. Furthermore the regional OV responsible for animal welfare did not detect that on one farm visited the municipal OV previously performed a check and recorded that this was a farm with enriched cages, but the mission team noted that actually the cages used were old, worn out unenriched cages, which were in addition non-compliant regarding minimum height and slope.
- On its own initiative the Plovdiv region have started a documentary supervision of the municipality OVs. This is carried out by the regional OV responsible for animal welfare and the findings and comments are recorded; however, during these office exercises the shortcomings and inconsistencies in the checks performed by the municipality OVs on the farms, remained undetected.

5.1.2 Training of veterinarians

In response to the recommendation from the report of the pre-accession mission that training takes place in order to ensure that all official veterinarians have received, for their area of competence, appropriate training to undertake their duties competently and to carry out official controls in a consistent manners required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, the CCA in co-operation with different institutions, including NGOs and TAIEX, organised a series of training courses including animal welfare of laying hens and transport of animals. The OVs from regions which were trained during these sessions were obliged to convey the information gathered during the training to the municipality OVs.

It was noted that:

- The OVs trained during these training sessions were not sufficiently trained in some practical aspects of animal welfare controls, such as practical measurements of installations on laying hen farms and assessment of journey times for animal transport.
- The subsequent training of municipality OVs had not been efficient, as the OVs met lacked the knowledge on how to perform animal welfare checks and in many cases even when they were aware that they have to check some specific requirements, such as measurement of cage area and slope of the cage floor, they did not know how to do it in practice.

5.1.3 Documented procedures

In response to the recommendation from the report of the pre-accession mission that there are sufficient documented procedures for all animal inspections, as required by Article 8.1 of the Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, the CCA updated the check list which is used during the checks of laying hens holdings and very recently also the check list for transport of animals.

A general instruction for animal welfare checks in 2008 had been issued by the CCA very recently stating the nature of checks and reporting procedures to be followed during the checks.

It was noted that:

- There was no further guidance and instruction explaining how to check specific provisions of animal welfare legislation regarding laying hens and the OV's met did not correctly check certain requirements, such as necessary measurements of laying hen farms and correct assessment of maximum capacity of the establishment, both with cages and alternatives systems of production.
- There was no instruction and guidance on how to perform checks of specific requirements of the Regulation EC (NO) 1/2005, such as on how to check journey logs before long distance animal transport.
- Check list for laying hens contain national requirements, such as velocity of the airflow in the farm and intensity of the light; however, although marked in the check list as in compliance, these were not verified by the OV's, due to the lack of specific equipment, which would be necessary to perform these measurements.

5.2 LEGISLATION

A comprehensive check of national legislation was not carried out. However, during the evaluation of the control system for animal welfare, it was noted that the requirement for usable area was not correctly transposed into Bulgarian national legislation as it requires that the floor slope does not exceed 14 degrees. This is approximately 25%, well above 14%, which is the maximum allowed by Article 2.2(d) of Directive 1999/74/EC.

5.3 REGISTER OF LAYING HEN ESTABLISHMENTS

In response to the recommendation from the report of the pre-accession mission regarding the registration of laying hen holdings, the CCA put in place a system for registering every laying hen establishment, with a distinguishing number as required by Article 7 of Directive 1999/74/EC and Article 1.1(a) of Directive 2002/4/EC. The register of the establishments is kept at the central level and the CCA explained that in order for this to be regularly updated when changes occur, as required by Article 1.4 of Directive 2002/4/EC, the regional CA have to supply data.

It was noted that:

- All laying hen establishment visited had been registered; however, as the new

registration procedures were based on previous national registration files, not all requirements of the EU legislation had been taken into account, such as the maximum capacity of birds per establishment. This was not registered in the register contrary to point 1 of the Annex to Directive 1999/74/EC and the CCA explained that the number of birds registered in the central register was the number of birds present at the time of the OVs' visit.

- Even though in both regions the CAs explained that figures recorded in the regional registers reflect the maximum capacity of the holding, this was not the case, as the capacity of birds recorded in the regional registers is based on a declaration of the owner and had not been assessed by the OVs. The registration was done on the basis of previous checks. On all farms visited the number of birds was higher than the maximum number of birds allowed if the requirements of Article 5.1.1 of Directive 1999/74/EC had been applied.
- Even though the CCA explained that the central register is regularly updated, as required by Article 1.4 of Directive 2002/4/EC, there were several inconsistencies, such as lack of registration numbers. The CCA explained that the regional CAs are obliged to send the updated information to the central register when the changes occur, but this was not the case for some regions. The CCA provided an updated copy of the register during the mission.

5.4 LABELLING OF EGGS

The report of the pre-accession mission recommended that arrangements are put in place so that the provisions for marketing eggs are implemented from the date of accession. A Ministerial Decree issued in April 2007 established a central and five regional commissions who are responsible for checks of labelling of eggs as required by Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 and Regulation (EC) No 557/2007.

It was noted that orders requiring egg producers to label the eggs with a distinguishing number, as defined in point 2 of the Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC, had been issued very recently by the regional OVs and despite the deadline given of the end of December 2007, the representatives of the CCA stated that very few farms were labelling the eggs as required. Two out of the three farms visited were labelling eggs, and both had started doing so shortly before the mission.

5.5 INSPECTIONS OF LAYING HEN ESTABLISHMENTS

Article 8 of Directive 1999/74/EC requires the CA to carry out checks to monitor compliance with the requirements of this Directive and Article 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires a risk based approach to checks. The CCA explained that the plans for animal welfare checks are prepared at the regional level and are later endorsed by the CCA. All laying hen farms have to be checked twice annually and in both regions visited this was the case in 2007.

5.5.1 Inspections of cage systems for laying hens

Reports of the pre-accession missions recommended that action must be taken so that

only compliant cage systems, as required by Article 5.1 of Directive 1999/74/EC are in use after accession.

Even though the CCA made a commitment following the pre-accession mission in 2005 that by the middle of 2006 they would carry out a detailed investigation in relation to the compliance of unenriched cages.

A letter had been sent in January 2007 to regional CAs instructing them to carry out checks of all establishments which use unenriched cage system and to give orders with relevant deadlines for deficiencies to be corrected and that as a result such farms had been inspected in 2007. By the time of this mission in 2008 according to the CCA not all laying hens' farms had been inspected and thus they were not aware how many non-compliant cages were still in use.

Finally from the data provided by the CCA at the closing meeting it was noted that approximately 30% of all cages used in Bulgaria are non-compliant as regards the minimum height.

The CCA took a decision in February 2007 that cages which are non compliant due to the minimum height, can still be used and that the area of the cage which is less than 35 cm high should not be taken into account when calculating the cage area. Article 5.1.4 of Directive 1999/74/EC requires that cages must not be less than 35 cm high at any point. The CCA explained that this decision was taken as a compromise after the meetings with the poultry breeders association.

The mission team noted that the cage area available according to the CCA decision was 1570 cm², which would be enough for 2 birds (2.86 bird); however, the CCA accepted 3 birds to be kept in these cages.

Enforcement measures taken by the CAs were not sufficient and most of the farms in the Regions visited were still overstocked.

- In Sofia district region three out of four farms checked by the OVs in 2007 had been overstocked, even though they were re-populated in 2007, after the letter had been sent in January 2007 to the regional CAs, instructing them to enforce the requirements of Directive 1999/74/EC. In Plovdiv region five out of six farms which used cage systems were overstocked during the checks in 2007. In both regions orders giving deadline for correction before the next re-population had been issued.
- On the farm visited in Sofia district Region the performance of checks was not satisfactory. From the OVs check lists from the previous inspection it was clear that the he thought that the cages which were used on the farm were enriched cages, but in fact they were old, worn out unenriched cages, which did not comply regarding height requirements. Several deficiencies were not detected during this and previous visits, such as 40% overstocking, as the maximum capacity of the holding had not been calculated before and compared with the number of birds introduced into the building at the time it was populated. The OV had many problems in calculating the maximum capacity during the visit.
- Both the municipal OV and the regional OV responsible for animal welfare did not know how to calculate certain requirements, such as the slope of the cage. As a result cages with a slope of 19% (Article 5.1.5 of Directive 1999/74/EC requires

a maximum of 14%), remained undetected. This could also be attributed to the fact that the Bulgarian national legislation only provides the requirements for the slope of the cage floor in degrees (8 degrees or 14 degrees when other than rectangular wire mesh is used), while Article 5.1.5 of Directive 1999/74/EC requires that the slope is 8 degrees or 14%.

- The farm visited in Plovdiv region had compliant cages regarding the minimum height and during the first visit by the OV in January 2007 was found to be in compliance regarding the stocking density. At the second visit in November 2007 the OV detected that the farm was 25% overstocked when repopulated in July 2007. The OV issued an order that next time the owner should not put so many birds in place.

5.5.2 Inspections of alternative systems for laying hens

A letter was sent in January 2007 to the OVs responsible for animal welfare at regional level in which the CCA required the regional OVs to carry out checks in all poultry farms for perches as required by Article 4.1.1(d) of Directive 1999/74/EC. The CCA indicated that checks had already been performed and orders given with a deadline of 1 May 2007 for corrective actions.

It was noted that:

- Despite the deadline given by the CCA the perches were still not installed in most of the farms and the OVs issued orders to install them before the next re-population. On the farm visited the perches were partly installed after the order had been issued, but in the part of the holding which was recently re-populated no perches had been installed and as a consequence again a new order gave a deadline for correction after next re-population.
- On the same farm a complete lack of littered area, contrary to Article 4.1.1(e) of Directive 1999/74/EC, had previously been detected by the OV but no actions had been taken by the OV and the farm was regarded as compliant regarding littered area.
- In addition the stocking density had never been assessed by the OVs before, as the various criteria listed in Article 4.1.1 of Directive 1999/74/EC had never been measured and the OVs were satisfied with the data provided by the owner. When the data provided by the owner had been calculated by the mission team it was found that the farm was overstocked by approximately 20 %. New perches installed in one hall on the farm were less than 45 cm above the floor but the OV did not deduct the area below them from usable area, contrary to the requirements of Article 2.2(d) of Directive 1999/74/EC.

5.5.3 Reporting of farm inspections

A letter was sent by the CCA in December 2007, which included a reminder for regional CAs that from 2008 the reports from the regions will have to be sent in accordance with the new requirements of Decision 778/2006/EC. No specific guidelines on how to collect

the relevant data had been issued.

5.6 CHECKS OF LONG DISTANCE TRANSPORT

Even though recommended in the report of the pre-accession mission in 2006 that inspections take place on an adequate sample of animals transported at places of destination and during transport, as required by the relevant EU legislation, there was no programme for checks of transporters in 2007 on the national level. The regional CAs prepared and the CCA endorsed a programme for transport checks in 2008 but they did not take into account the requirement for checks on an adequate sample of animals transported, as required by Article 27.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

It was noted that:

- Fifteen out of 28 regions reported that they performed animal welfare checks regarding transport in 2007; in ten regions the deficiencies found had been related to transporters' authorisation for short distances and transport documentation and in two regions no deficiencies had been found. In all cases where deficiencies had been detected the CCA indicated that orders for corrective actions or administrative penalties had been issued.
- No checks on animal welfare during transport were reported from Sofia district Region; however, during the visit the CA explained that they checked 20 long distance consignments before departure for the purpose of certification and that these checks also included animal welfare checks; however, no evidence to support this was provided to the mission team.
- In Plovdiv Region no long distance transport took place in 2007.

5.6.1 *Authorisation of transporters and approval of means of transport*

The CCA put in place the procedures for authorisation of transporters, as required by Articles 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and approval of means of transport, as required by Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The central database of authorised transporters is kept at the central level and the register is publicly available at the CCAs' internet site, as required by Article 13.4 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. The database also include the data on approved means of transports as required by Article 18.3 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The CCA issued in the beginning of 2007 instruction on procedures for issuing the certificates of competence for personnel of transporters and assembly centres and approved the programmes submitted by two academic institutions for training courses required by Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. These training courses already took place and from the programmes submitted by the training institution was seen that they covered the requirements of Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. Certificates of competence were issued by the CCA following an examination.

5.6.2 *Checks of journey logs*

In Sofia district Region the sample of transport documentation of the consignments

dispatched in 2007 had been checked by the mission team and it was noted:

- Article 14.1(a)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 requires that the CA at the place of departure shall carry out appropriate checks to verify that the journey log submitted by the organiser is realistic and indicates compliance with EU legislation. The OV explained that the feasibility of the journey times had not been checked because he did not know how to check this requirement and he had not received any instructions from the CCA. Even though Article 14.1(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 allows stamping of the journey log only when the outcome of the check is satisfactory, the journey logs had been stamped by the OV, who explained that he trusted the transporter that the journey log was realistic.
- Even though the OV was aware that copies of journey logs have to be returned to the CA of the place of departure within 1 month, as required by point 8 of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, this was not the case and no actions had been taken by the OV.

5.7 FOLLOW UP, SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES

Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires that when non-compliance are identified, the CA shall take actions to ensure that the operator remedies the situation and shall provide the operator concerned with written notification of its decision concerning actions to be taken.

Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 requires that the Member States lay down the rules on penalties and shall take all measures necessary that they are implemented.

The mission team noted:

- In both Regions visited the orders for corrective actions were issued to correct the deficiencies detected with a deadline for corrective actions; however, during the follow up visits the same deficiencies were detected and no measures had been taken and a new deadline for corrections of deficiencies had been given. This did not ensure that the operator had remedied the situation, contrary to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
- The sanctions issued by the OVs for serious infringements, such as overstocking of laying hen farms, were mostly warnings with deadlines for correction at next re-population.
- The CCA explained that the sanctions which will be applicable for infringements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 will be adopted with the amendments to the Veterinary Practice Act; however, the time frame for its adoption was not known.

6 CONCLUSIONS

1. Despite commitments by the CCA to ensure that supervision of the different levels of the CA takes place in relation to animal welfare checks (Articles 4.2(a) and 4.4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) no actions had been taken to verify the effectiveness

of official controls (Article 8.3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) and as a result checks were unsatisfactory. Although one region visited has started assessing whether the documentation of checks follows the procedures given, this was not sufficient to identify that checks were ineffective, as procedures for inspections were themselves inadequate and there was no aspect of on the spot verification in the system of supervision.

2. The training courses that had been organised allowed the OV's to acquire knowledge for their area of competence, as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004; however, these did not deal in sufficient detail with the practicalities of carrying out inspections of laying hen farms or long distance transport.
3. Even though the CCA have updated check lists for laying hen establishments and for inspection of animal welfare during transport, these were not accompanied with additional instructions and guidance on how to assess specific issues of the legislation. As a result they were not sufficient to enable the OV's to perform adequate animal welfare controls, contrary to Article 8.1 of the Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
4. The requirements of Article 2.2(d) of Directive 1999/74/EC regarding the slope of the usable area in laying hen establishments has been incorrectly transposed.
5. A register of laying hen holdings, as required by Directive 2002/4/EC, has been established; however, as the registration was based on the information from previous national registration files and had not been reassessed against the new requirements, not all the information required by point 1 of the Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC had been recorded in the register. The register kept on the central level was not regularly updated, as required by Article 1.4 of Directive 2002/4/EC.
6. Recent and limited actions taken by the CCA regarding the provisions for marking of eggs led to the situation where most egg producers do not label their eggs, as required by Article 4.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006.
7. Production systems for laying hens, both cage and alternative, still do not comply with the requirements of Directive 1999/74/EC as the actions taken by both central and regional levels of the CA have been inadequate. Cages which do not provide sufficient height are still widely in use and the approach taken by the CCA to deduct the cage area where the height of the cage is less than 35 cm is not in line with Article 5.1.4 of Directive 1999/74/EC. In both production systems ineffective and insufficient corrective actions taken in case of non-compliance indicate that there has been an insufficient determination on the part of the CAs to adequately address problems, such as inappropriate cages and overstocking.
8. Administrative procedures for authorisation of transporters and approval of means of transport, as required by Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 have been put in place and certificates of competence are issued for the personnel of transporters and assembly centres by the CCA. The publicly available database enable transporters to be rapidly identified, as required by Article 18.3 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
9. Checks of journey logs before departure were not sufficient, as required by Article

14.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, and the verification of completed journey logs was not performed as they were not returned after transport was completed, contrary to point 8 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. The lack of knowledge of all levels of the CAs on how to assess if planned journey times are realistic, indicate that the training and guidance in this respect were insufficient.

10. Actions taken by the CAs when deficiencies had been detected had not been effective, proportionate and dissuasive as required by Article 55.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, particularly regarding overstocking of laying hen farms. The approach of repeating the same orders for repeated infringements indicates an inability to ensure that remedial actions are taken.
11. Penalties for infringements of animal welfare during transport, as required by Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 have not been adopted yet.

6.1 OVERALL CONCLUSION

Progress from the previous mission has been very limited and although certain measures have been taken, these have been largely ineffective in ensuring that the system of control for animal welfare is satisfactory. Steps have been taken to establish functioning controls, such as the registration of laying hen farms; however, serious non-compliances in this sector, including the major problem of non-compliant unenriched cages for laying hens, which were already identified on the previous mission, continue to be seen and have not been adequately addressed by the authorities.

In relation to animal welfare during transport some of the measures taken, such as authorisation of transporters and means of transport, provide a basic framework for controls, but inspections have not been implemented so that requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 are adequately enforced.

The requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 have not been adequately integrated into the controls of animal welfare in either the transport or the laying hen sectors.

7 CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 18 January 2008 with representatives of the CCA. At this meeting, the main findings of the mission were presented by the FVO team and the representatives of the CCA provisionally accepted these findings.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

To the competent authorities of Bulgaria

Within 25 working days of receipt of the report, the Competent Authorities are requested to present a plan of actions, including a timetable for their completion, to

address the following recommendations.

The Competent Authorities should take measures to ensure that:

No.	Recommendation
1	The effectiveness of official controls is verified, as required by Article 8.3(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in relation to inspections of animal welfare on laying hen farms and of the transport of horses destined for slaughter.
2	The training of official veterinarians is organised to allow the official veterinarians to acquire knowledge for their area of competence, as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, particularly regarding practical aspects of official controls.
3	Documented procedures, as required by Article 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, are improved so that they provide sufficient guidance on how to assess the requirements of Directive 1999/74/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
4	The transposition of requirements of Article 2.2(d) of Directive 1999/74/EC regarding the slope of the usable area in laying hen establishments into national legislation is correct.
5	Data registered for the purposes of Directive 2002/4/EC regarding holdings with laying hens, particularly regarding maximum capacity of the establishment, is correct and is updated as necessary, as required by Article 1.4 of Directive 2002/4/EC.
6	Eggs are marked with a distinguishing number as required by Article 4.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006.
7	All production systems for laying hens comply with the requirements of Directive 1999/74/EC.
8	The use of journey logs meets the requirements of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
9	When deficiencies are detected, effective, proportionate and dissuasive actions are taken as required by Article 55.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
10	Penalties, as required by Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 are adopted and implemented.

Competent Authority response to the recommendations

Once the report has been published, the competent authority response to the recommendations can be found at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_bulgaria_7687_2008.pdf

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_bulgaria_7687_2008.pdf

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF LEGISLATION REFERENCED IN THE REPORT

Reference	OJ Ref.	Detail
Directive 1999/74/EC	OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 53–57	Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens
Regulation (EC) No 1/2005	OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1–44	Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97
Directive 98/58/EC	OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 23–27	Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes
Regulation (EC) No 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	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
Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006	OJ L 186, 7.7.2006, p. 1–5	Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 of 19 June 2006 on marketing standards for eggs
Regulation (EC) No 557/2007	OJ L 132, 24.5.2007, p. 5–20	Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 of 23 May 2007 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 on marketing standards for eggs
Decision 2006/778/EC	OJ L 314, 15.11.2006, p. 39–47	2006/778/EC: Commission Decision of 14 November 2006 concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes