



FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

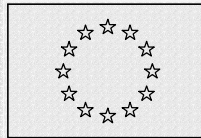
2002





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

**FOOD AND VETERINARY
OFFICE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2002**

Further information on the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General is available on the Internet at :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

Additional information on the Food and Veterinary Office is available on the Internet at :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/index_en.html

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth Annual Report of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).

This report covers the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 and outlines the main activities undertaken by the FVO during that period.

1.1. Mission

The FVO is a Directorate of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General of the European Commission.

The FVO contributes to ensuring that Community legislation is implemented and enforced effectively in the areas of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. These four areas, although requiring different competencies and technical approaches, are considered as part of a broad Community food safety policy, including feed production and all levels of the food chain “from farm to table”.

Within the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, the FVO acts as a control body, verifying mainly through inspections the effectiveness of national control systems in enforcing Community legislation on feed and food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

In this way, the FVO plays an active role in the general framework of food safety. This framework, outlined in the Commission’s White Paper on Food Safety and recently consolidated with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, foresees that:

- In food and feed businesses, business operators have the primary responsibility for feed and food safety;
- The competent authorities in each country are responsible for monitoring and enforcing this responsibility;
- The Commission, in its role of guardianship, seeks to ensure the enforcement of the relevant Community legislation by national authorities.

The mission of the FVO is to:

- Promote effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors;
- Check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health legislation within the European Union and in third countries exporting to the EU;
- Contribute to the development of EU policy in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors;
- Inform stakeholders of the outcome of evaluations.

1.2. Activities

Inspections

Inspections are the principal means by which the FVO performs its role. FVO inspectors carry out these inspections in Member States, Candidate Countries and other third countries.

The findings and conclusions of the inspections are presented in inspection reports that are, in general, made public on the Directorate-General's website. They are the main output produced by the FVO. These reports include recommendations to the competent authorities in the countries inspected. The reports form an important source of information for the Commission's services in the development and improvement of legislation and other policy measures.

In response to the recommendations of an inspection report, the Competent Authority is requested to present an action plan to the FVO on how it intends to address any concerns that have been observed. The FVO, together with other Commission services, evaluates this action plan. It may also verify its implementation, through further inspections.

Where an inspection identifies an immediate threat to animal, plant or consumer health, the Commission may take emergency (safeguard) measures. These may include legal action to prevent trade in, or imports of, animals, plants or their products. In other cases, where serious, but less urgent, problems are found, or where a national authority fails to take satisfactory corrective action, the Commission may use the inspection report as one element in deciding to start infringement proceedings against a Member State or, in the case of a third country, to refuse, withdraw or modify authorisations for exports to the EU. Similarly, with regard to Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) in the Member States, approvals may be amended or totally withdrawn, if no satisfactory response is received from the Competent Authority.

Planning and prioritisation

The planning of the year's inspections is a fundamental part of the work of the FVO.

The inspection objectives and the countries to be visited are presented in an Annual Programme of Inspections prepared before the beginning of the year. Towards the end of the first half of the year, this programme is updated for the second half of the year.

The inspection programme is established in collaboration with other services within the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General. When the programme is finalised, normally by the end of November, it is published on the Directorate-General's Internet site. It is also distributed to each Member State, to the Council and the European Parliament. An updated version of the programme is normally published in June.

Most of the planned inspections in Member States are carried out either as part of a "one-off" series of inspections, or else as "on going" inspections. A "one-off" series will normally have a particular focus on a single topic, to give an overall view across the Member States. An "on-going" inspection will form part of the constant controls that are conducted on a continuing basis.

Besides the planned series of inspections during the year, emerging risks may need to be addressed by inspections that had not originally been anticipated. These new inspections are reflected in modifications to the inspections programme. In 2002, 25 new inspections were added and nine urgent inspections were undertaken. On the other hand, 17 inspections were cancelled and 34 postponed.

Follow-up

The follow-up of inspection recommendations is also a fundamental task of the FVO.

Recommendations that have not been addressed satisfactorily are pursued in a number of ways, which may include further direct contacts with the responsible authorities, follow-up inspections, high level meetings with the competent authorities or legal action.

In Member States, after five years of inspections, and after the completion of series of inspections covering the main areas of the food chain, the FVO has acquired considerable knowledge of problems in each country. In addition to its other activities, the FVO is increasing its focus on following up, with the competent authorities, outstanding previous recommendations, concerning specific problems detected in the past, for which the responses from the competent authorities are still considered to be unsatisfactory.

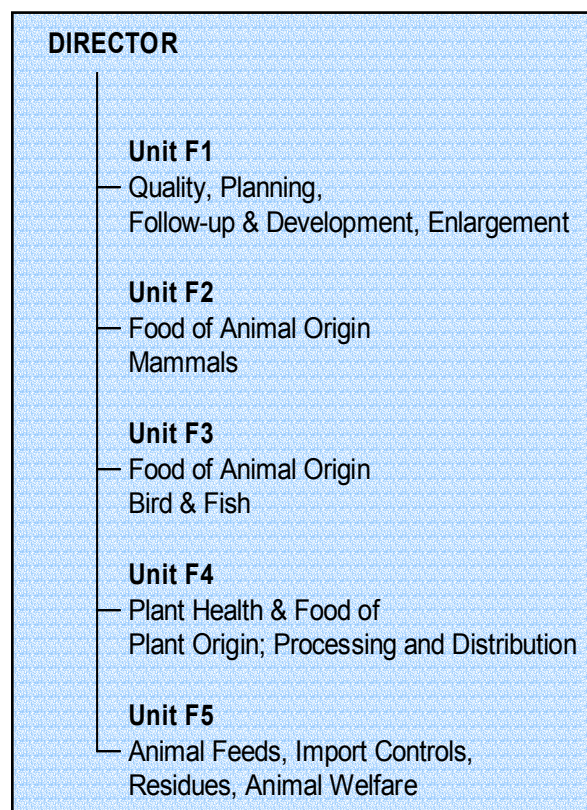
For Candidate Countries, within the framework of the enlargement process, follow up is particularly important. The competent authorities provide continuous updates on progress with the recommendations.

1.3. Organisation and resources

The FVO is organised into four operational units, which focus upon different production sectors, but which work together on cross-sectoral issues. One further unit, dealing with general matters, such as quality issues, legal assistance, planning and follow-up, and enlargement supports the operational units.

At the end of 2002, the FVO comprised 97 inspectors and other officials and 56 support staff.

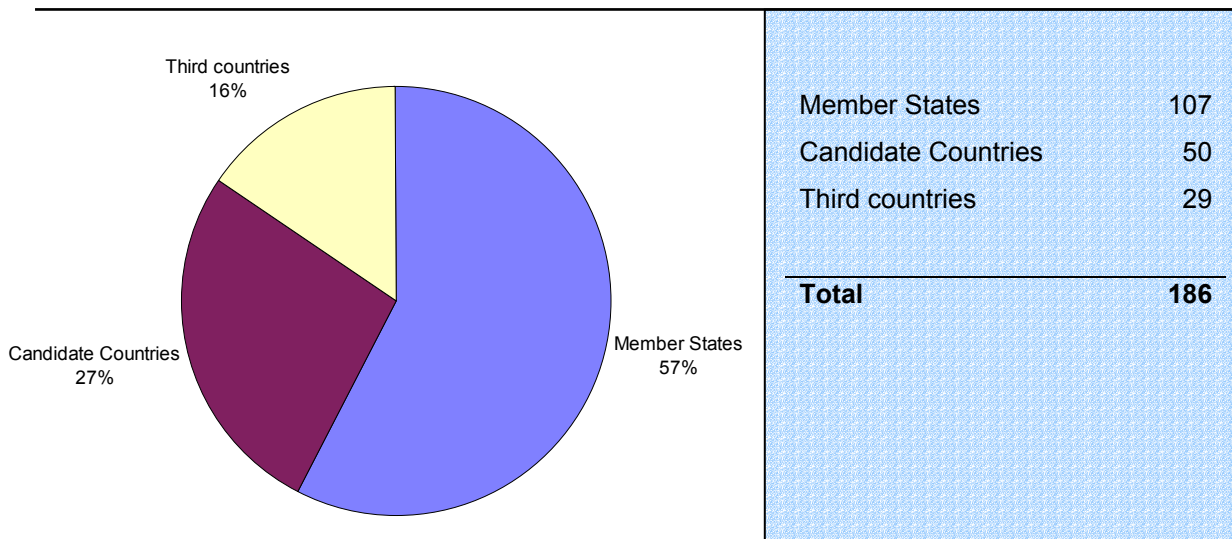
Since April 2002, the FVO has been established in a new, purpose-built, building in Grange, in County Meath, 40 km from Dublin.



2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF INSPECTIONS

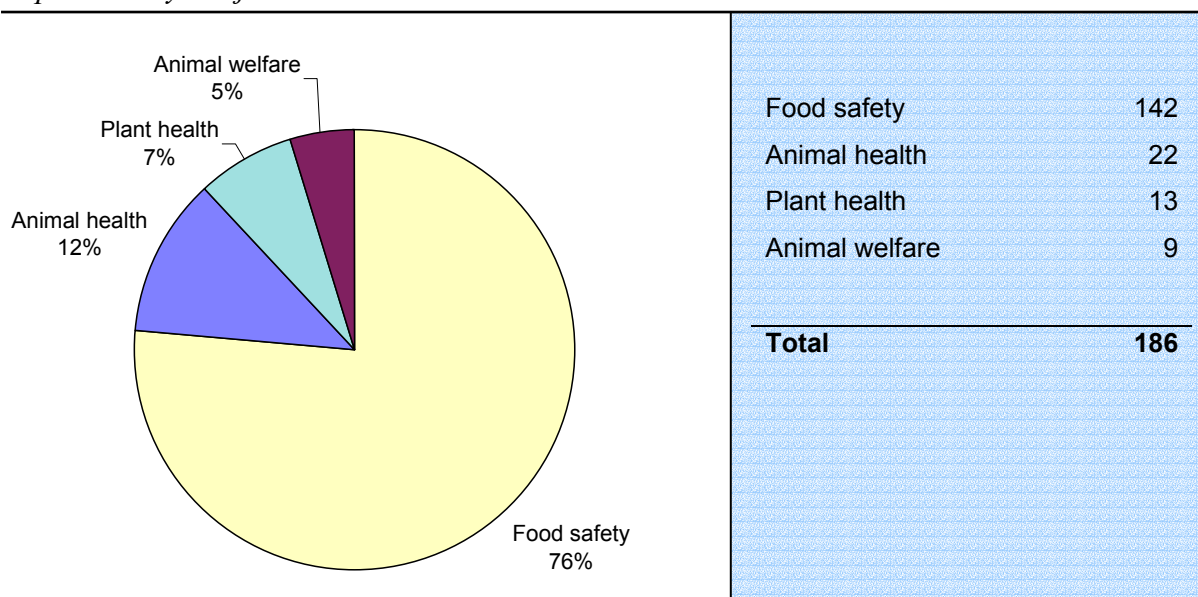
In 2002, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) carried out 186 inspections, of which 57% were in Member States, 27% in Candidate Countries and 16% in third countries.

Inspections by Region



The level of inspections in the Candidate Countries increased from 19% of all inspections in 2001 to 27% in 2002. This is a result of the preparation process for the enlargement of the European Union, through which ten of the Candidate Countries will become Member States in 2004.

Inspections by Subject

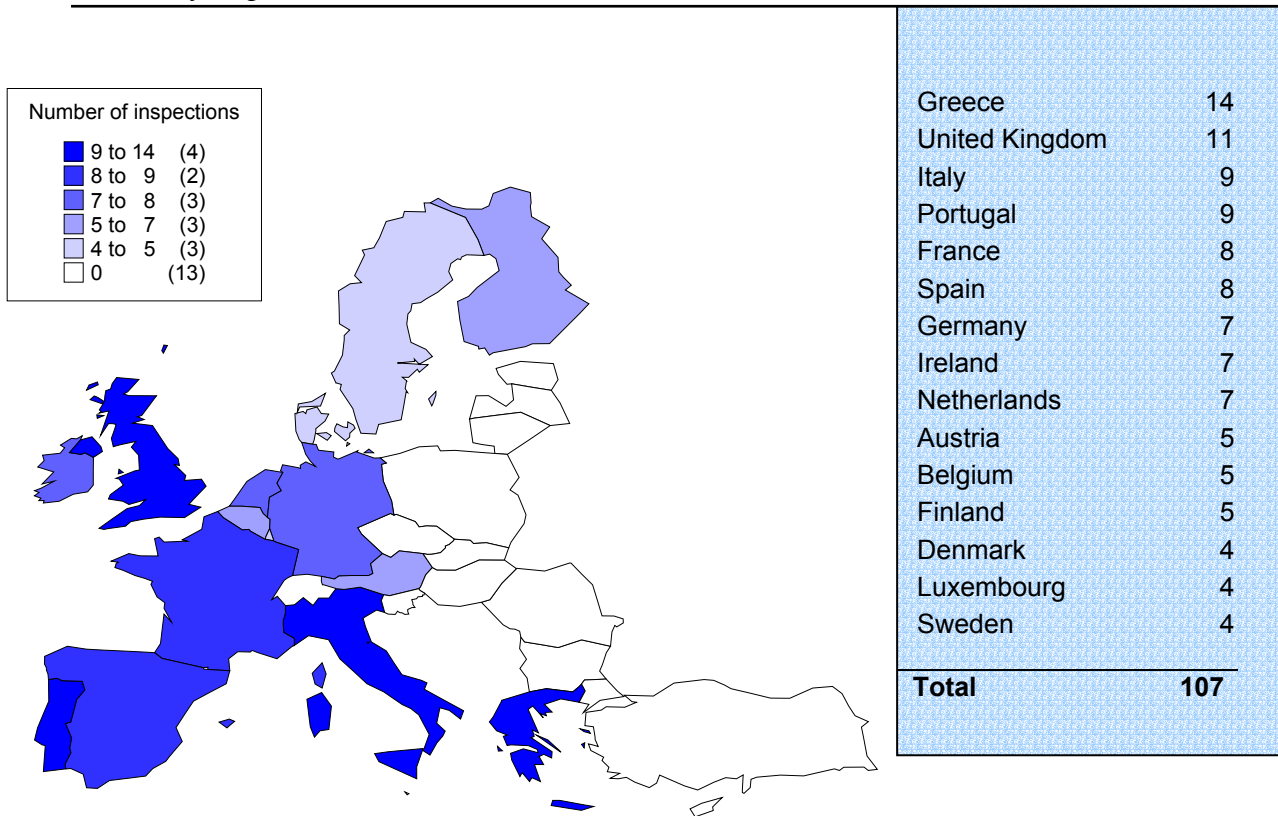


Here, and in the following tables, inspections are classified according to their main objective. However, many inspections actually cover more than one subject. For instance, food safety inspections are not carried out with disregard to matters such as animal health or plant health. Similarly, animal health inspections are not undertaken in isolation from food safety matters. Indeed, animal health, plant health and animal welfare issues are so closely related to food safety that they are increasingly being integrated into food safety inspections.

2.1. Inspections in Member States

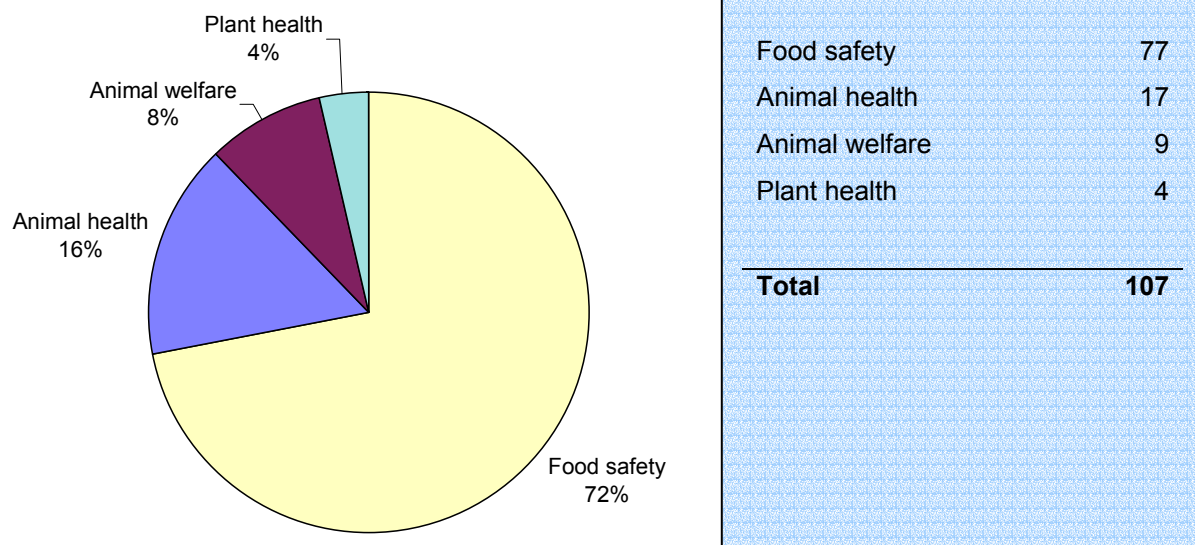
The most visited countries among Member States were Greece, United Kingdom, Italy Portugal, France and Spain.

Number of Inspections in Member States



The inspection programme for the Member States was established and prioritised mainly, but not exclusively, on the basis of a risk analysis. The number of inspections carried out in a Member State is therefore not necessarily a direct reflection of the relative risk associated with that country. Rather, the level of inspections is the result of a number of factors, including the priority given to products and sectors, the execution of series of inspections that may be carried out in almost all Member States and, in some cases, the need to address urgent and specific problems. In the case of Greece, for example, it was necessary to follow up, through new inspections, specific problems that were identified in previous inspections, particularly some problems in the meat sector.

Inspections in Member States by Subject



Compared with 2001, the relative proportion of inspections where food safety formed the main objective increased. However, it should be borne in mind that many inspections have more than one objective, covering both food safety and standards related to animal health, animal welfare and plant health. Animal health inspections continued to be the second most important subject area. However, the proportion classified under this subject area has decreased when compared with the major effort required in 2001 in relation to Foot and Mouth Disease.

Important series of inspections were carried out concerning:

- TSEs (16 inspections)
- the traceability of beef and beef products in the food chain (15);
- food hygiene of eggs and egg products (10);
- bovine brucellosis eradication (6);
- the pesticides and contaminants area (such as contamination of oils with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or nitrofen in feedingstuffs) (11).

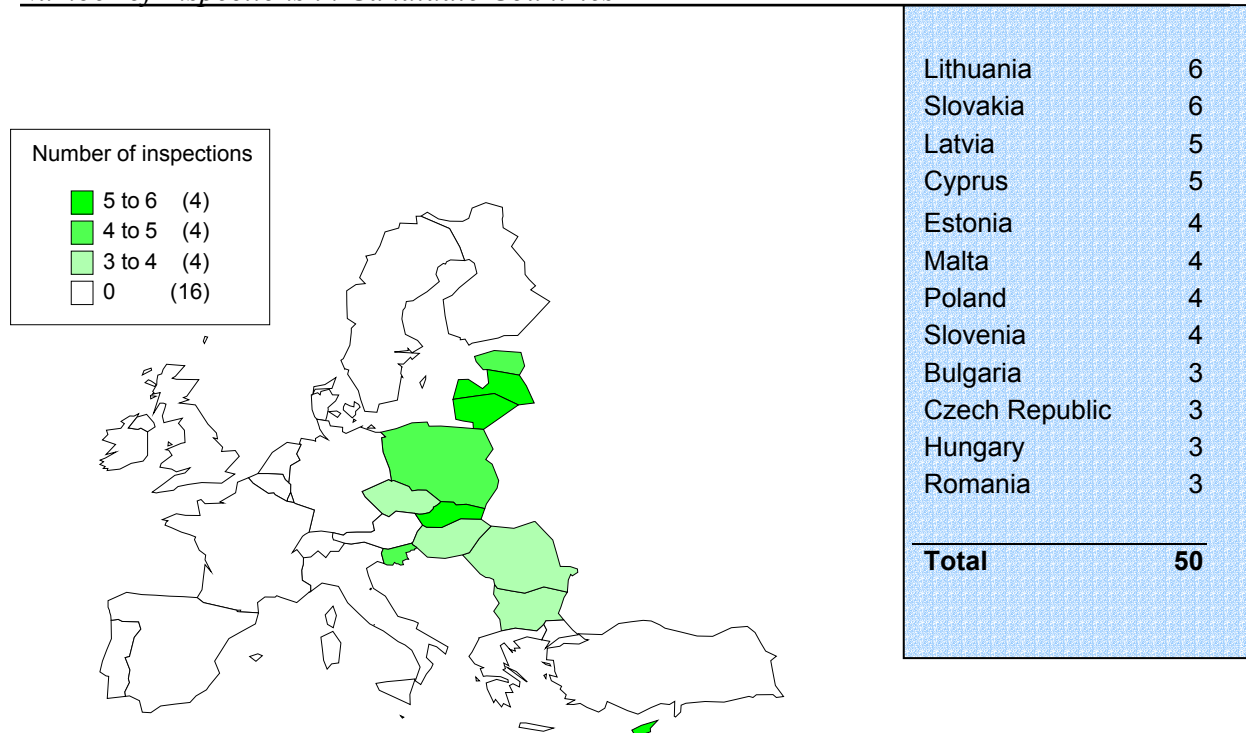
The FVO prepared a wide range of overview reports in 2002 covering:

- TSEs;
- waste food controls;
- traceability;
- ovine/caprine brucellosis and bovine brucellosis eradication programmes;
- animal disease contingency plans;
- various production sectors (such as pig meat, game and rabbit meat, poultry meat);
- border inspection posts;
- plant health (potato sector);
- animal welfare on farms.

Several of these reports were published during 2002, with others scheduled for publication during 2003.

2.2. Inspections in Candidate Countries

Number of Inspections in Candidate Countries



In 2002, 50 inspections were performed in 12 of the Candidate Countries

The FVO completed the series of general assessments started in 2001 in the Candidate Countries in the areas of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. These assessments were followed by more specific inspections to monitor the progress of the Candidate Countries in meeting commitments made in enlargement negotiations and in implementing those areas of the *acquis* that have been transposed into their national legislation.

These have led to the development of action plans, in conjunction with the national authorities, so that outstanding actions are addressed within an agreed timeframe. They have also been used in on-going high level contacts with the Candidate Countries to identify potential problem areas and to find appropriate solutions.

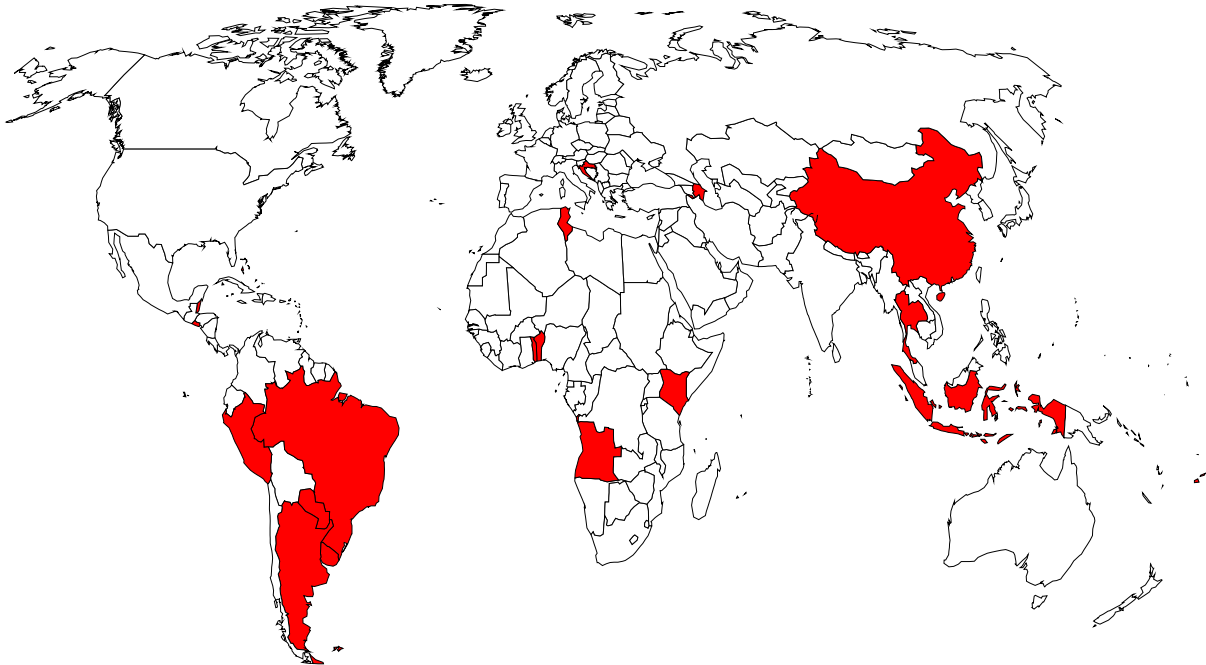
The following table shows the progress of this process during 2002. The inspections carried out in the Candidate Countries are shown under the general assessment heading and under the headings of specific objectives.

Country	General assessment	Live animals and food of animal origin	Import controls	TSE	Plant health and PPP	General food hygiene and food of plant origin
Bulgaria	2002	2002		2002		
Cyprus	2001	2002	2002	2001	2002	2002
Czech Republic	2001	2002	2001	2001	2002	2002
Estonia	2001	2002	2002	2001	2002	2002
Hungary	2001	2002	2001	2001	2002	2001/02
Latvia	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Lithuania	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Malta	2002	2002	2002	2002		
Poland	2001	2002	2002	2001	2002	2002
Romania	2002	2002		2002		
Slovak Republic	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Slovenia	2001	2002	2002	2001	2002	2002
Turkey	There were no FVO inspections in Turkey during 2002					

In addition to the FVO inspections, a further series of missions, known as peer reviews, took place in each of the candidate countries in 2002. These missions were mainly designed to identify additional areas where technical assistance was needed. The peer review missions were organised by TAIEX, which is a technical assistance office that operates under the supervision of Commission's Enlargement Directorate-General. The FVO maintained close co-ordination with the peer review team to ensure that the FVO inspections and the peer review missions were mutually complementary.

2.3. Inspections in third countries

29 inspections took place in third countries in 2002.

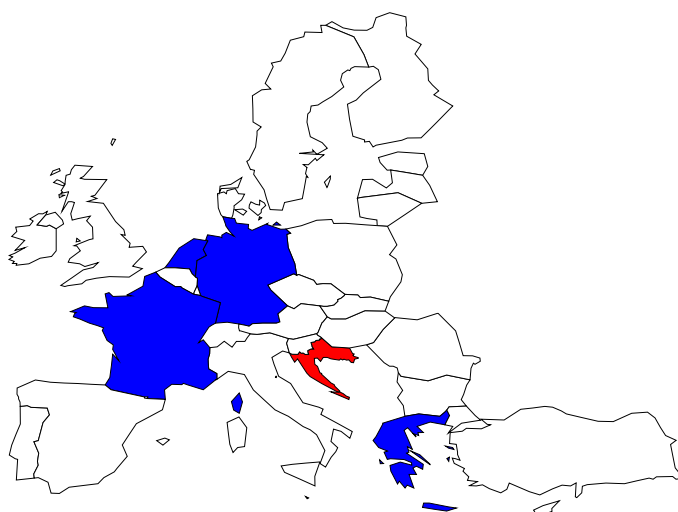


As was the case in the Member States and the Candidate Countries, the majority of inspections had food safety as their principal objective, although other matters, in particular animal health, were also dealt with. Two thirds of the inspections focussed on fishery products and live bivalve molluscs, as well as on the evaluation of the animal health situation, for example FMD. The inspections were mainly related to third countries' requests for the granting or, in some cases, the continuation of approval for exports to the EU. Another important area was the follow-up to Rapid Alert notifications, for example concerning the presence of 3-MCPD in soy sauce exported to the EU.

3. FINDINGS OF INSPECTIONS

3.1. Food safety (Food of animal origin) Milk and milk products

Inspections carried out:



Member States

France
Germany
Greece (1) (2)
The Netherlands

Third countries

Croatia

A short series of inspections was undertaken in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands to review the procedures for the processing and handling of technical casein and casein intended for human consumption. Bovine milk production standards were reviewed during a mission to evaluate the bovine brucellosis eradication programme in Greece. An inspection was undertaken in Croatia in order to evaluate the operation of official controls over milk products sent to the EU.

In **Member States**, inspections in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands identified a number of concerns that were followed up with the relevant Commission services and the Member State authorities concerned.

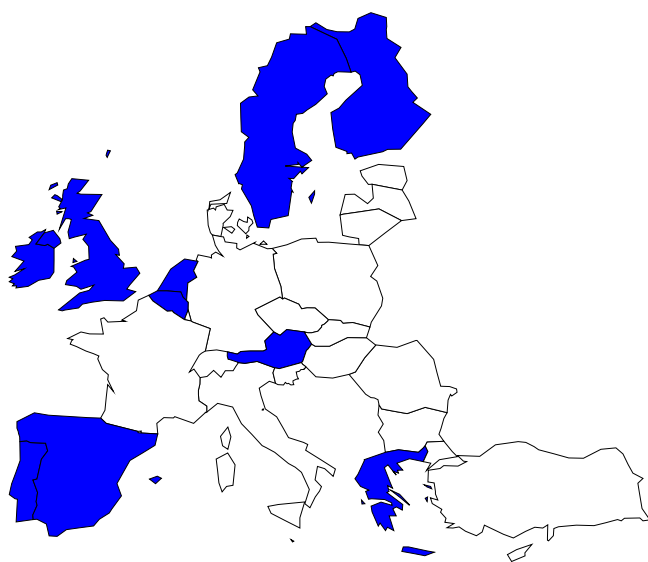
In Greece, the situation regarding the production of bovine milk was reviewed during a mission to evaluate

the operation of the bovine brucellosis eradication programme (see section 3.6).

The inspection in **Croatia** led to a temporary suspension of trade in these products, which was lifted after the Croatian authorities had carried out the required improvements.

3.2. Food safety (Food of animal origin) Eggs and egg products

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Austria
Belgium
Finland
Greece
Ireland
The Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

The series of inspections in all Member States, which began in 2001 and was completed in 2002, assessed how the competent authorities were delivering control and enforcement of the relevant Community legislation in egg packing centres and egg product establishments.

The inspections confirmed the situation already encountered in the first four Member States visited in 2001.

The overall hygiene situation in the establishments is satisfactory and the products generally comply with

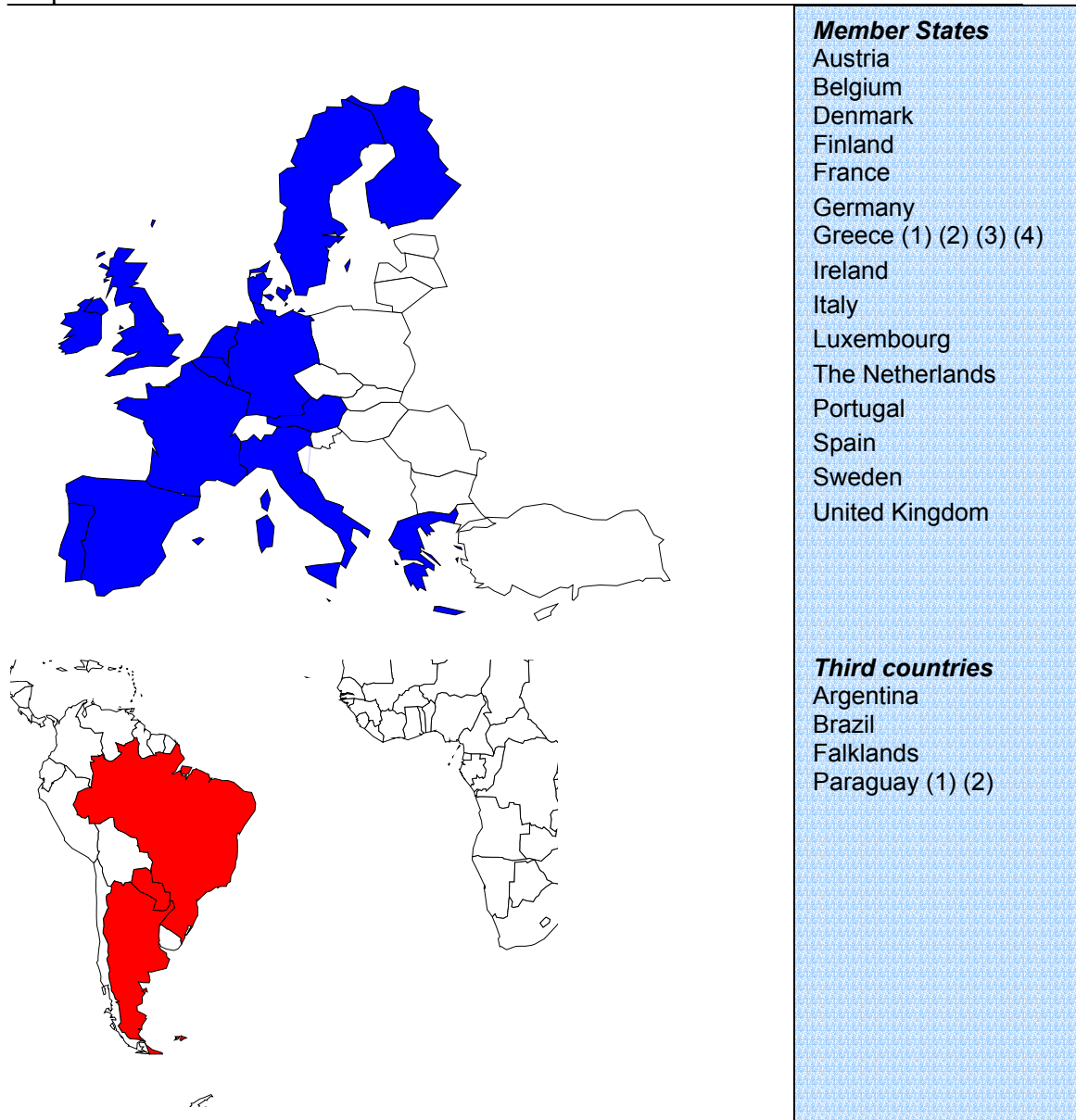
the Community microbiological criteria.

The control and enforcement of the Community legislation on table eggs is satisfactory but the egg products legislation, in most of the Member States, is not properly implemented/controlled. The following deficiencies/non-compliance were noted:

- insufficient co-ordination between competent authorities when different authorities deal with different sub-sectors;
- insufficient harmonisation of control procedures as well as recording of deficiencies;
- difficulties in attaining corrective actions for deficiencies found during inspection/supervision, in particular in egg product establishments;
- lack of, or insufficient, chemical analysis indicating the quality of fresh eggs, either performed by companies or competent authorities;
- weaknesses in the supervision of eggs and egg products unfit for human consumption, and therefore at risk, in some cases, of being incorporated in prepared food.

3.3. Food safety (Food of animal origin) Red meat

Inspections carried out:



In several **Member States**, a number of potentially significant deficiencies in relation to the operation of the bovine databases, the labelling of beef and beef products and the ability of official services to trace beef and beef products back to their farms of origin were identified.

All Member States were visited during 2002 to evaluate controls over the traceability and labelling of beef and beef products. The opportunity was taken to review the operation of the bovine databases. Five inspections were undertaken in third countries (Falkland Islands, Paraguay (twice), Brazil and Argentina) to review animal health controls and production standards for red meat and meat products.

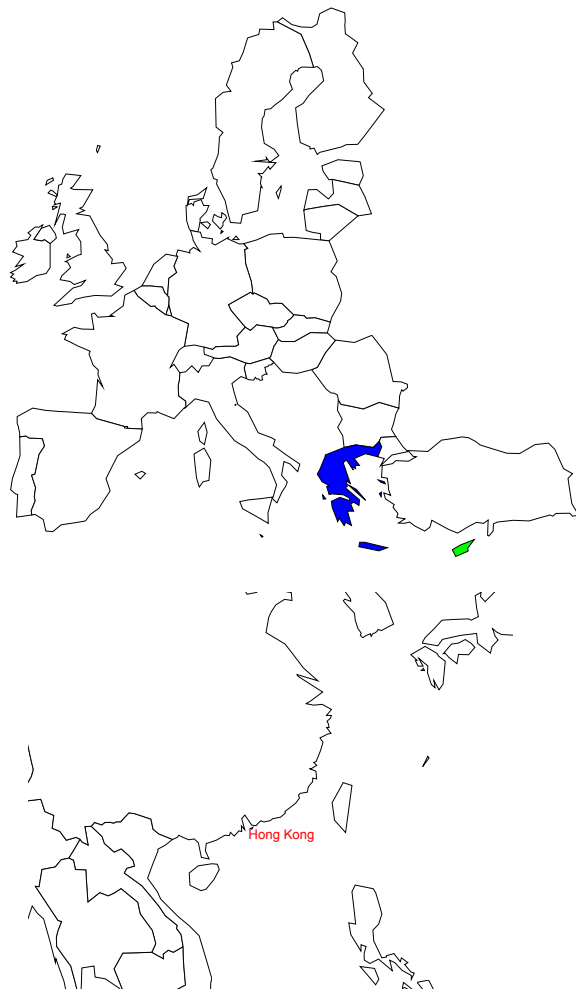
Action is currently in hand to achieve the necessary improvements in these areas. These actions include a number of follow-up inspections in the most affected Member States, planned for 2003.

In **Greece**, serious problems were identified with the layout, hygiene and operation of the central meat market in Athens. These were the subjects of a follow-up visit, and close contacts with the Greek authorities, but it was not possible to achieve a satisfactory resolution of this issue before the end of the year. Follow-up of this matter will continue in 2003. Inspections were also undertaken to investigate a complaint about poor standards in a red meat slaughterhouse, for which the licence was subsequently withdrawn, and on controls over the production of farmed and wild game meat.

In **third countries**, approval was granted for the first time to the Falkland Islands for the export of fresh meat. Further information on the outcome of the inspections in the South American countries is given in the Animal Health Section of the report.

3.4. Food safety (Food of animal origin) Poultry meat

Inspections carried out:



Member States
Greece

Candidate Countries
Cyprus
Malta

Third countries
Hong Kong

In the framework of the follow up of the food production situation in Greece, an inspection was completed in the poultry meat production sector. This was in order to assess the level of implementation of the action plan that was forwarded by the Greek competent authorities in response to the recommendations of the previous FVO inspection report.

A number of inspections in Candidate Countries were carried out.

An inspection took place in Hong Kong regarding processed poultry meat, as well as fishery products exported to the EU.

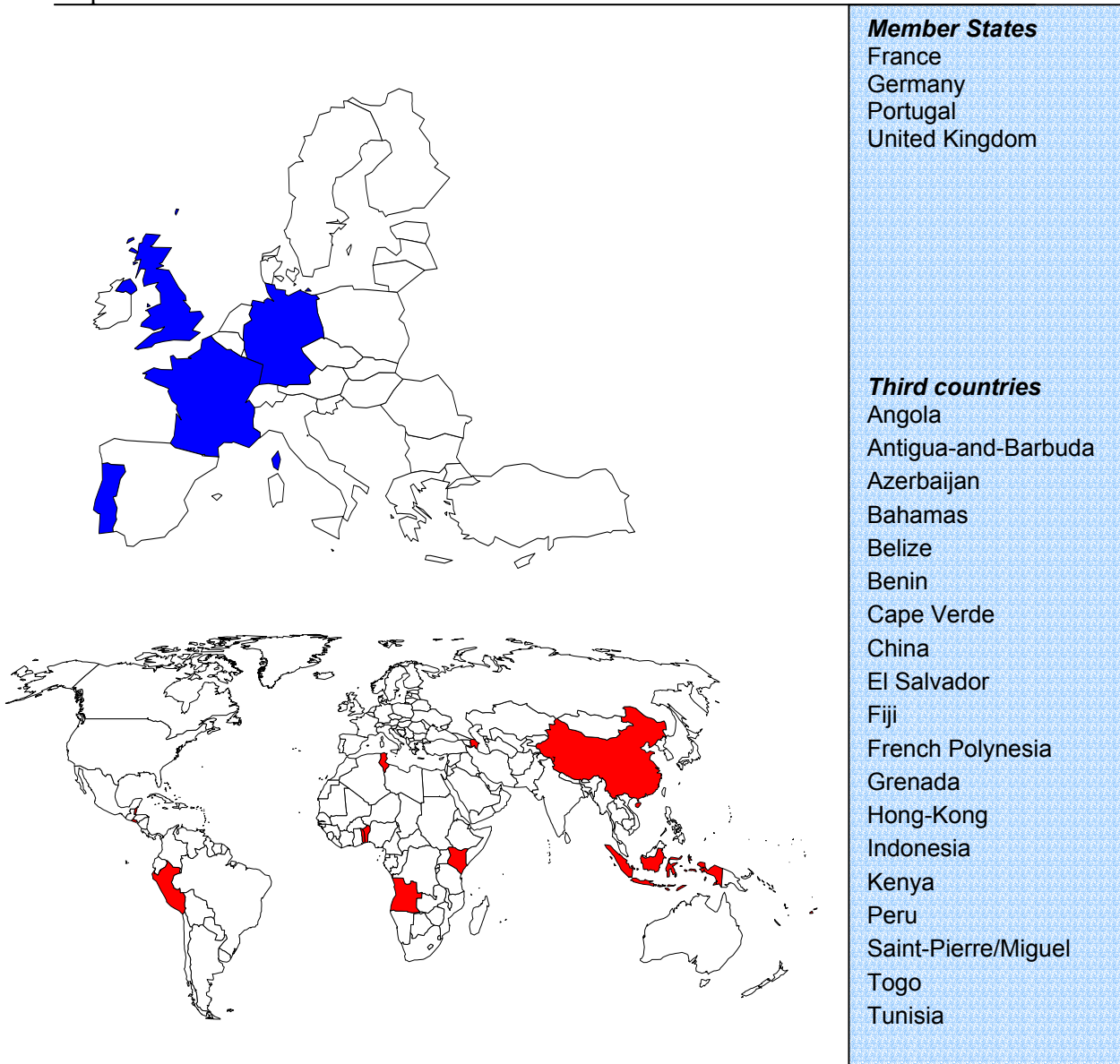
In the **Candidate Countries** visited, the poultry sector is relatively small. Findings on the spot were generally satisfactory except for certain cases, where some major non-compliances with, and misunderstanding of, the relevant Community legislation were found.

In **Hong Kong**, despite some lack of the understanding of Community requirements, the approved establishments were found to be satisfactory. It was strongly recommended that control of the raw

materials coming from approved establishments of neighbouring countries should be strengthened to monitor for anti microbial substance residues.

3.5. Food safety (Food of animal origin) Fishery products and live bivalve molluscs

Inspections carried out:



Taking into consideration that fishery products and live bivalve molluscs represent a relatively high food safety risk, and in order to get a comparative overview of the situation in Member States, the inspection series started in 2001 was completed in 2002. It assessed how competent authorities are delivering control and enforcement of the relevant Community legislation in the fishery product and live bivalve molluscs production sectors.

In **Member States**, the inspections confirmed the situation already encountered in the first 12 Member States visited in 2001.

The major deficiencies regarding fishery products were:

- insufficient numbers of qualified and trained staff;
- insufficient uniformity in controls, due to lack of written procedures as well as training on these procedures;

- inadequate recording of inspection findings and of internal supervision;
- insufficient powers or insufficient use of the powers for enforcing the requirements;
- difficulties regarding official assessment/control of the HACCP based own-checks programmes.

The major deficiencies regarding live bivalve molluscs were:

- classification of production areas not adequately defined in some cases;
- inappropriate design and sampling of the microbiological and phytoplankton monitoring programmes;
- inappropriate control of marine biotoxins and incorrect biotoxin analysis methods.

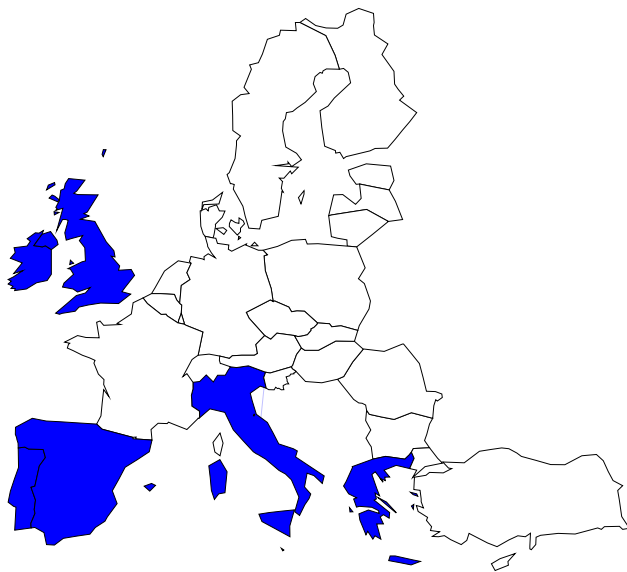
Inspections were carried out in **Candidate Countries**, in the context of their preparation for accession to the EU. Some countries had already been visited in respect of approved exports from third countries. The inspections were specifically focused on the implementation of upgrading plans for fishery product establishments, as they prepared themselves to meet the standards expected of member state establishments. Overall, the inspections showed a satisfactory situation as regards the implementation of the upgrading plans in these establishments.

Inspections in **third countries**, of which some were follow-up inspections, showed situations varying from acceptable to worrying. In some developing countries, it appears difficult to achieve Community criteria for potable water in contact with food and to meet good hygiene practices. In **Angola**, the situation had not improved since the previous inspection, and the Angolan Competent Authority stopped issuing fishery product export certificates.

Countries where the situation was considered acceptable were proposed for addition to the list of third countries for which export to the EU is authorised, and for which conditions for such export are harmonised, subject to the provision of written guarantees related to corrective actions and/or improvement.

3.6. Food Safety - Zoonoses - Bovine brucellosis eradication programmes

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Greece (1) (2)
Ireland
Italy (1) (2)
Portugal
Spain
United Kingdom

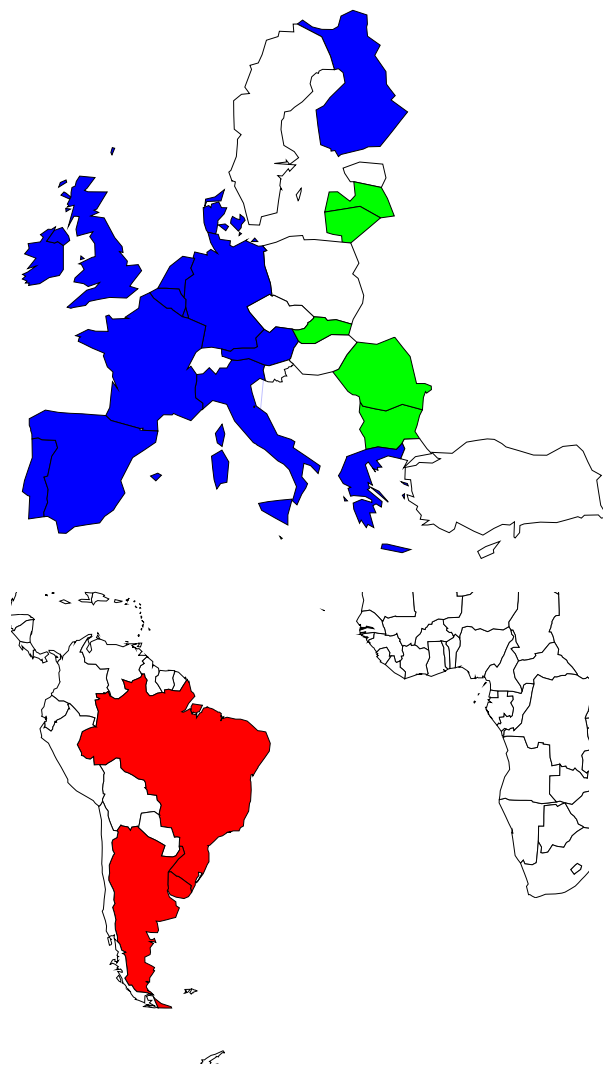
Inspections were performed in six of the Member States (Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, UK (Northern Ireland)) where EU approved and funded eradication programmes were in place.

Although overall progress with disease eradication could be considered broadly acceptable, there were significant differences within, and between, Member States as to the rate of progress

being achieved. Deficiencies in the classification of holdings in relation to disease freedom, in controlling the movements of potentially infected animals and in a lack of support for the programmes from the farming community were all considered to contribute to these variations. The outstanding issues were followed up with the Member States concerned, and have been reviewed in the Task Force established by the Commission to monitor the operation of the programmes. Where appropriate, the programmes for 2003 were modified to take account of the outcome of these missions.

3.7. Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) and Animal nutrition

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy (1) (2)
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom (1) (2)

Candidate Countries

Bulgaria
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Romania
Slovak Republic

Third countries

Argentina
Brazil
Uruguay

The following were the priorities for 2002:

- Completion of the round of inspections in 12 of the Candidate Countries, to evaluate the protective measures in place regarding BSE and related issues (bovine identification and registration, BSE epidemio-surveillance, eradication plans, specified risk material (SRM) and feeding of processed animal proteins (feed ban));
- To carry out inspections in all Member States to follow-up on the 2001 round of TSE inspections and to evaluate the measures against TSE in small ruminants (identification and registration, TSE monitoring);
- To evaluate protective measures against BSE in place in certain third countries with substantial exports of meat and animal products to the EU;
- In addition, the preparation of inspections in Member States regarding official controls in the animal feed sector was given particular attention.

In total, 25 TSE related inspections and 1 inspection on animal nutrition were carried out, including: six BSE inspections in Candidate Countries, completing the round of inspections in all Candidate Countries, 16 inspections in Member States, to follow-up previous TSE inspections, three BSE inspections in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay and one inspection in a Member State on animal feed.

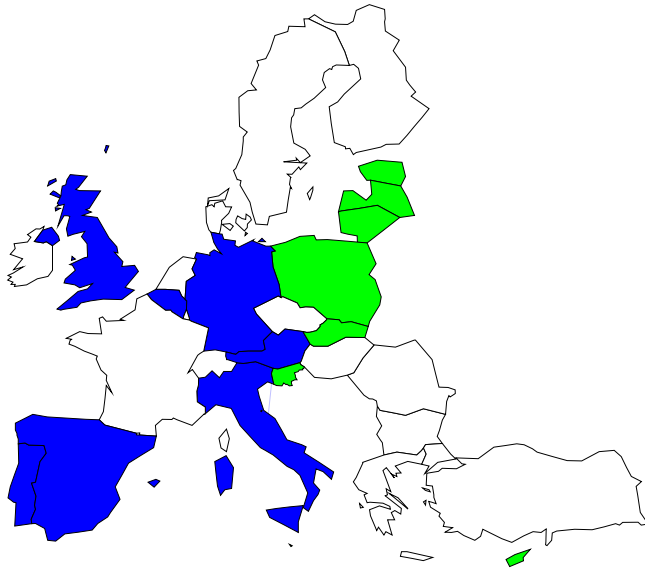
The situation in **Member States** continues to improve. Nonetheless, various shortcomings were identified, in particular regarding certain aspects of the controls on feed. The effectiveness of the controls, in order to demonstrate the correct application of the EU measures, was not yet fully satisfactory in all Member States.

All **Candidate Countries** have made considerable efforts to adopt protective measures against BSE in line with EU policy and some have made substantial progress. However, the level of implementation and its efficiency was very variable in the areas covered by the inspections.

The **third countries** visited all applied protective measures against BSE. A common finding was that the identification and registration systems in place did not allow full traceability of all imported bovines or the origin of exported meat or certain animal products. The third countries subsequently provided guarantees in relation to EU import requirements for meat and certain animal products.

3.8. Food safety - Import controls and Border Inspection Posts (BIPS)

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Austria
Belgium
Germany
Italy
Portugal
Spain
United Kingdom
Combined inspection
in 8 MS

Candidate Countries

Cyprus
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Slovak Republic
Slovenia

Priorities are largely defined in EU legislation, which requires inspection of approved BIPs on a regular basis, inspection of all proposed new BIPs as well as inspection where additions to the categories of products handled by a BIP are requested.

In addition, priority was given to inspections in Candidate Countries to assess their readiness in relation to the EU requirements concerning both the procedures applied in BIPs and the on-site facilities, in order to ensure their compliance by the time of accession.

Finally, priority was given to an evaluation of the application of protective measures at BIPs with regard to products of animal origin from third countries.

Inspections were carried out in seven Member States during which 28 approved BIPs and four new facilities proposed for approval as a BIP were inspected.

Assessment inspections in eight Candidate Countries were carried out, during which 36 planned BIPs were visited.

A combined inspection was carried out in eight existing BIPs in eight Member States to evaluate the implementation of EU protective measures. These measures concern products of animal origin intended for human consumption, which are subject to additional chemical tests in order to ensure that they do not present a danger to human health.

In the **Member States**, the BIPs were inspected under 12 technical areas, in particular, veterinary organisation, facilities and equipment, identification and selection of the relevant consignments, and working procedures for import controls. In the BIPs visited, the highest level of compliance was found in the area of veterinary organisation. Major non-compliance with requirements was found mainly in the area of facilities. Cases of minor non-compliance were found mainly in the areas of equipment, identification and selection, and working procedures.

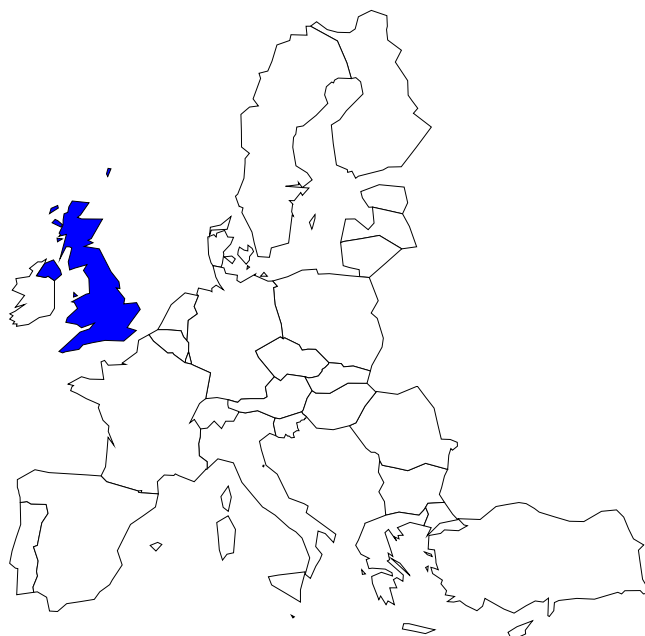
In general, EU protective measures for imports of products of animal origin were implemented in the Member States visited. However, certain deficiencies as well as differences in the application of the EU measures were noted in different Member States. Furthermore, certain deficiencies, which had already been identified during previous inspections, continued to exist in some of the BIPs.

Inspections of BIPs in the **Candidate Countries** revealed that until complete transposition and implementation of the *acquis*, the systems in place could not ensure a level of import control comparable to that in the EU. The limited state of progress in the transposition of relevant EU legislation at the time of the inspections therefore had considerable implications for the implementation of adequate import control procedures. In addition, the completion of facilities meeting EU requirements would require a major effort if such facilities were to be ready for approval at accession. Candidate Countries have submitted plans and timetables for such completion. The state of readiness of BIPs will be closely monitored throughout 2003 and further inspections are planned.

In addition to the above inspections, FVO inspectors were also involved in Commission working groups on legislation on import controls, and provided assistance in the evaluation of plans forwarded by the Member States and Candidate Countries.

3.9. Food safety - Veterinary residues and laboratories

Inspections carried out:



Member States
United Kingdom

The priority for 2002 was to follow-up the general review of Member State residue controls after the enforcement of Directive 96/23/EC (concerning measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products). Inspections in third countries where residue problems had been identified were also planned.

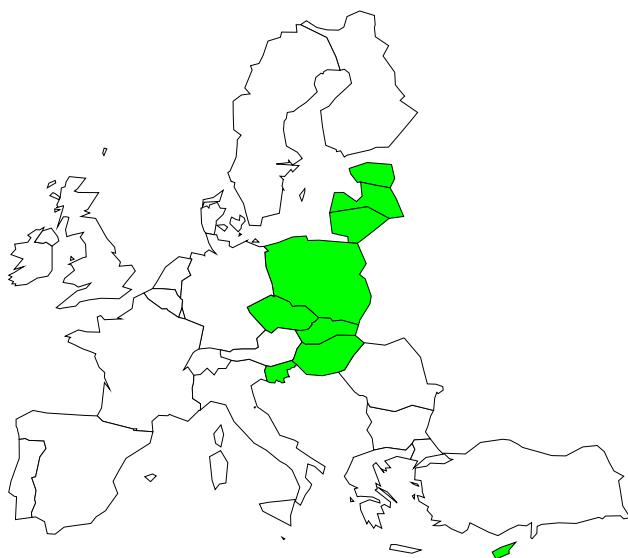
Due to shortages of suitably qualified and trained staff in the relevant inspection group and the considerable work dedicated to follow-up of previous inspections, only one inspection was undertaken, in the United Kingdom. All other planned inspections had to be postponed.

The inspection in the UK revealed that essential requirements of Council Directives 96/23/EC and 90/167/EEC and related legal provisions were not fulfilled, in particular due to the lack of proper transposition. There were also deficiencies in the implementation of essential parts of the EU legislation.

3.10. Food safety (Food of plant origin) General food hygiene controls in Candidate Countries

(including official control systems for food hygiene, contaminants, and pesticide residues)

Inspections carried out:



Candidate Countries

Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Slovak Republic
Slovenia

Nine inspections were undertaken in Candidate Countries. The objective was to evaluate progress with the implementation of official control systems for food hygiene, contaminants and pesticide residues.

The series commenced in March 2002, with an evaluation of official controls in Slovenia and was completed in early January 2003 with an inspection in Malta.

In the **Candidate Countries** visited, there was a significant amount of legislation within the scope of this series that had yet to be transposed by individual countries.

Enforcement and implementation of HACCP principles, both at retail and catering level, was low.

The provision of guidance both to official services and food operators by way of Guides to Good Hygiene Practice was limited.

There was frequently overlap in activities in those Candidate Countries where more than one Competent Authority was involved in similar official control activities. A number of Candidate Countries had identified improvements in the competent authorities' structure to overcome this problem.

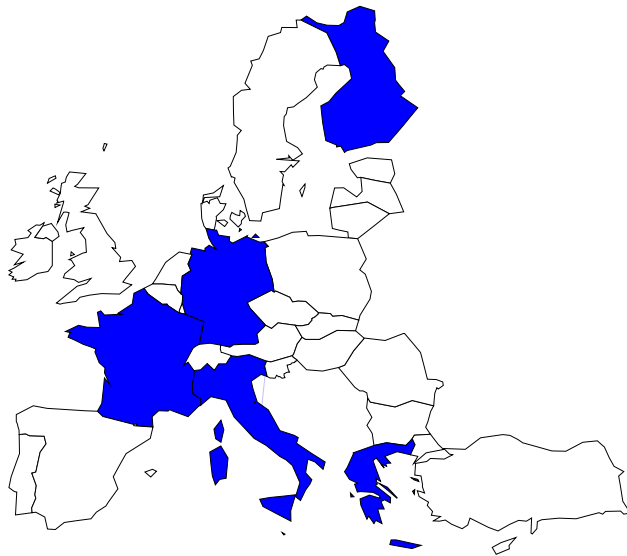
The development of adequate monitoring plans for hygiene, contaminants and pesticide residues was at an initial stage in several Candidate Countries.

Inspections identified a need for further training of those with responsibility for implementing official controls, in particular in the areas of HACCP principles and assessment, and sampling for laboratory analysis.

Most Candidate Countries were in the process of accrediting official laboratories. There were a number of resource issues, which in some cases limited the scope of analysis, in particular with regard to pesticide residue analysis.

3.11. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Pesticides

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Italy

Three inspections (in Finland, France and Greece) concluded the series of inspections that was started in 1998. These inspections focussed on the monitoring programmes for pesticide residues in foodstuffs of plant origin, including the control system on marketing and uses of plant protection products. Two more specific inspections were carried out in Italy and Germany. The inspection in Italy followed numerous rapid alert notifications concerning chlormequat residues in carrots from Italy. On this occasion, a follow-up of a previous inspection on pesticides, conducted in February 2000, was also carried out. The inspection in Germany was undertaken in response to the rapid alert notifications concerning nitrofen in food and feedstuffs from Germany.

The national and Community co-ordinated monitoring programmes were generally well implemented in **Finland** and in **France**. The main deficiencies were found in **Greece**, with regard to the lack of enforcement action.

Risk assessments following breaches of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) were carried out systematically only in Finland.

With the exception of Finland, accreditation of all residue laboratories participating in official controls was not achieved in the countries visited.

With regard to control systems for the marketing and uses of plant protection products, implementation in the Member States varied greatly in scope and efficiency. The main requirements of Directive 91/414/EEC were covered only in France.

Deficiencies were found mainly with regard to the scope of inspections on marketing and use and with regard to subsequent enforcement action taken.

As in other Member States, the timely and comprehensive reporting of inspection results to the Commission was found to be a problem in all three countries visited during 2002.

In **Italy**, the problem of chlormequat in carrots followed the unauthorised use of this substance. Although this problem seemed to be solved by the time of the inspection, the measures taken by the competent authorities in this matter were late and incomplete. The competent authorities had only partly addressed 3 out of 5 recommendations made in the previous report in 2000.

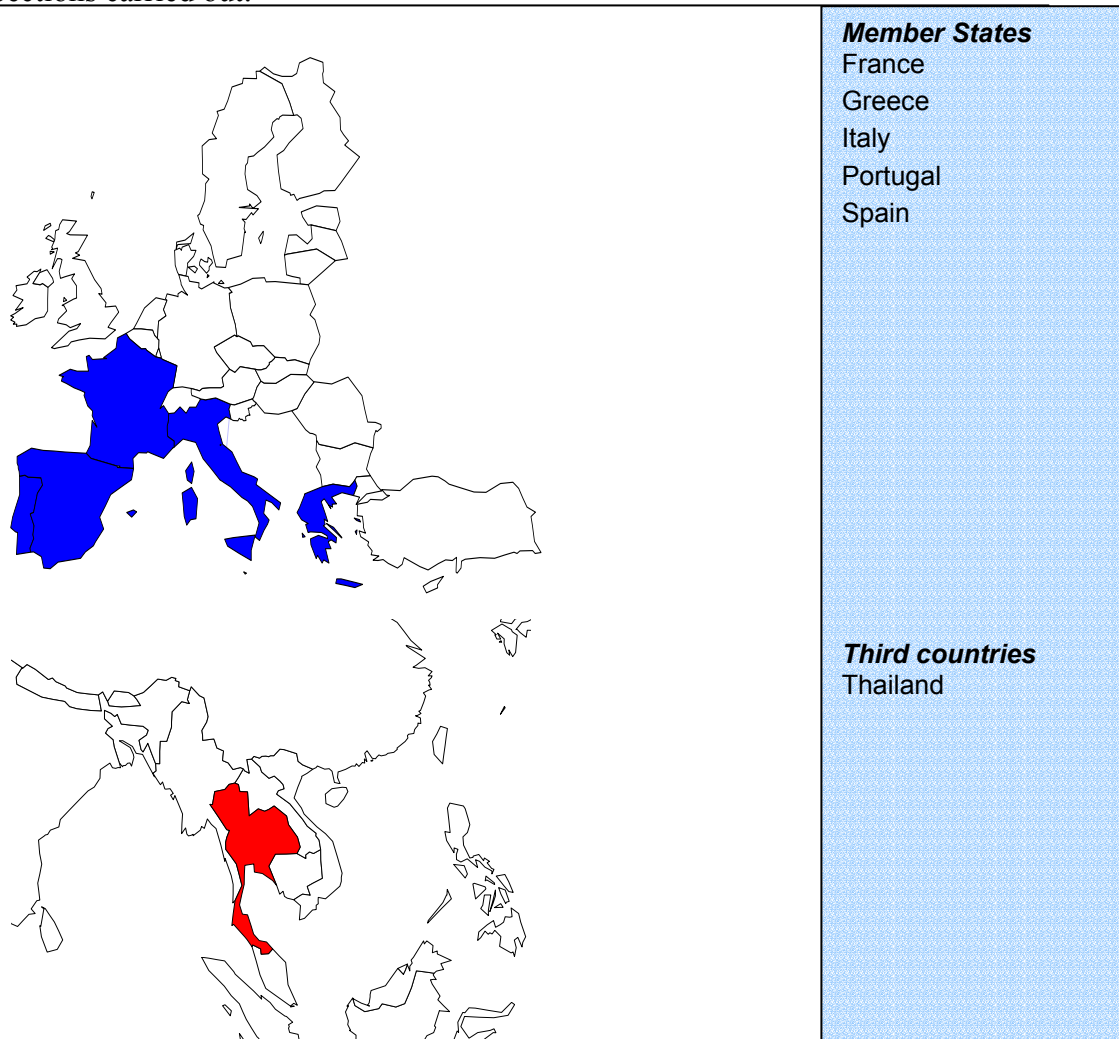
In **Germany**, the competent authorities made a serious effort to solve the nitrofen problem (contamination of cereals with an obsolete pesticide).

Several weaknesses in the control systems were identified and corrective actions were taken. However, the absence of routine controls of cereals at an early stage, and of the facilities where these cereals are stored, were not addressed by corrective action.

There was no clear overview of the controls of obsolete plant protection products following the reunification of Germany.

3.12. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Contaminants

Inspections carried out:



The FVO responded to the issue of the production of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) in olive pomace oil and undertook inspections in all the producing countries. An inspection in Thailand was undertaken to examine the contaminant 3-MCPD in soy sauce.

In **Member States**, there are no harmonised EU maximum limits for PAH in foodstuffs, but the inspected Member States had adopted national limits, mainly for 8 PAH as set by Spain.

It is not yet possible to produce crude pomace oil with acceptable levels of PAH. Control is therefore imposed at the stage of refining by use of active carbon filtration. This process was in use in all Member States, to good effect.

There were deficiencies in analytical capability such that analysis in one Member State was only undertaken for one PAH (Benzo(a)pyrene).

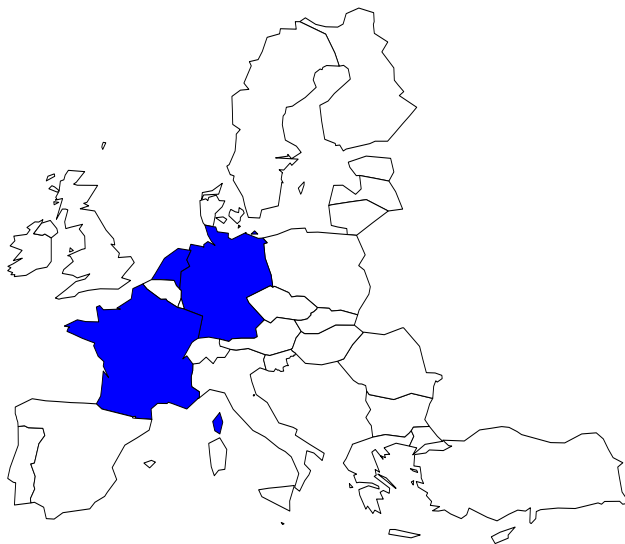
There were differences in the use of HACCP as a means of controlling PAH.

In **Thailand**, various problems were found, with the result that the Thai manufacturers and Competent Authority were not able to ensure that manufactured “seasoning sauce” (as opposed to naturally fermented soy sauce) met EU limits for 3-MCPD. They therefore undertook to stop export of this product and to notify the Commission of corrective measures prior to resuming exports.

3.13. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Import controls

(Mycotoxins, 3-MCPD, Pesticide Residues and Irradiated Foodstuffs)

Inspections carried out:



Member States

France

Germany

The Netherlands

In 2000 and 2001, during inspections in third countries on aflatoxin controls, various issues were brought to the attention of the Commission, regarding import procedures in Member States. Particular attention was drawn to the application of Commission Decisions, related to aflatoxin contamination, that impose certain conditions on the import of some nut and dried fruit products. As a result of this the FVO began a new series of inspections in the main importing Member States.

There is great variation in the import procedures for products of plant origin, and differences in the responsible authority structures.

In some Member States, official control is mainly at market level. Control at import is restricted predominantly to those products where control is required by Commission Decisions.

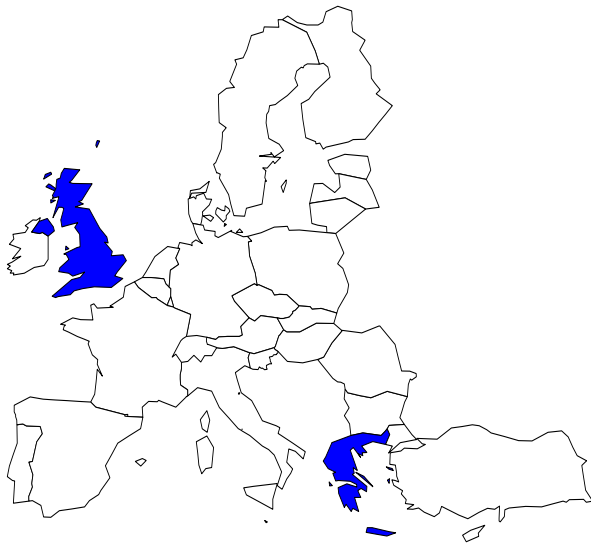
Control over irradiated foodstuffs at import is minimal.

There were major differences in the efficiency of reporting rejections or non-compliances to the Commission services via the RASFF.

Laboratory capacity created some problems. Analysis capability for irradiated foodstuffs was limited, and lack of capacity for aflatoxin analysis resulted in the use of private laboratories in the case of one Member State.

3.14. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Food hygiene (HACCP)

Inspections carried out:



Member States
Greece
United Kingdom

Two inspections took place as part of a series in Member States to evaluate the official foodstuffs control systems regarding the hygiene of foodstuffs, and in particular the implementation of safety procedures based on HACCP principles and the rules on the hygiene of foodstuffs at the retail sector. These inspections concluded this series of inspections, which began in October 1999 and finished in May 2002. As a result of this, the FVO began a new series of inspections in the main importing Member States.

Official control was satisfactorily implemented in the **United Kingdom**.

There were substantial shortcomings in the organisation and implementation of official control at central, regional and local level in **Greece**.

There was considerable overlap in responsibilities at central, regional and local level in Greece.

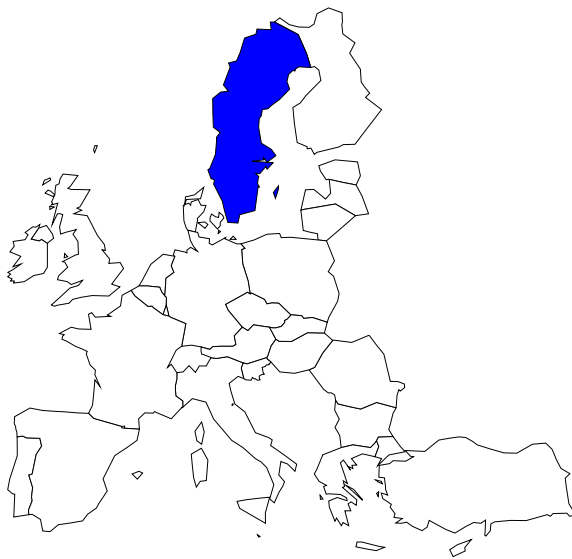
Official control in Greece was still primarily based on older existing national legislation.

There was limited guidance for official control services or food operators in terms of Guides to Good Hygiene Practice.

Only one official control laboratory, within the scope of the inspection, was accredited in Greece.

3.15. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Genetically modified organisms

Inspections carried out:



Member States
Sweden

The FVO carried out one inspection to evaluate official controls regarding the European labelling requirement of GMO-derived foodstuffs.

In **Sweden**, official controls to enforce the European legislation on GMO food started in 2002.

Official controls were well organised and based on documentary control and on sampling for the big food producers in Sweden.

Importers and small food factories were not controlled directly. However, sampling at retail level partly covers the market but, so far, enforcement activities had not been undertaken.

The official laboratory had the analytical capability to carry out quantitative and qualitative analyses.

A document was in preparation to support control activities to cover all the market.

3.16. Food safety (Food of plant origin) Other activities

Pesticide residues monitoring report 2000

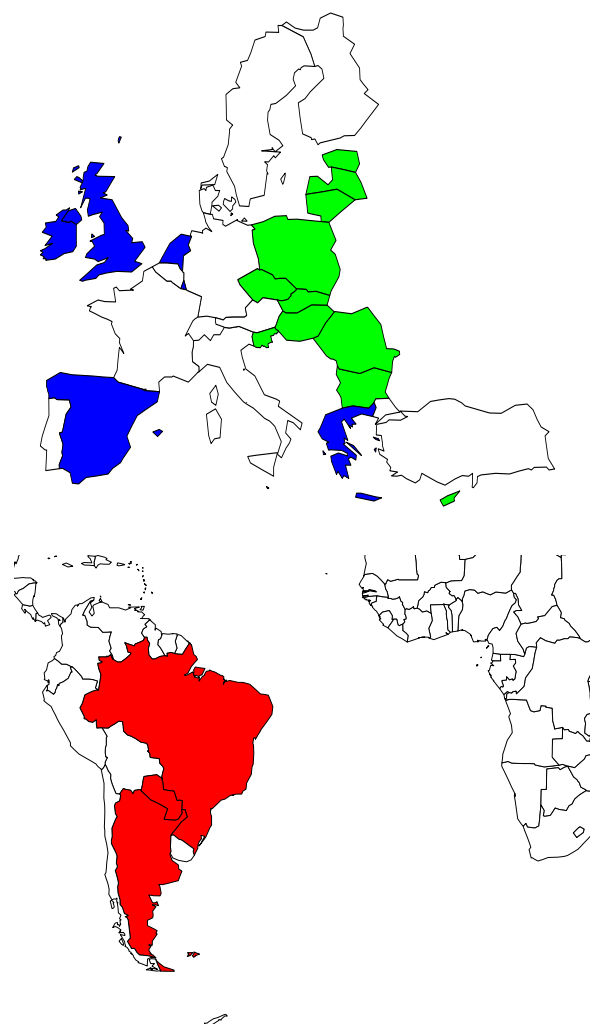
In 2002, an overall report on pesticide residue monitoring in plant products in the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein was collated by the FVO and published on the Internet. As in previous years, this report covered the Member States' national programmes and the EU co-ordinated programme for the year 2000. It completed the first 5-year cycle of the EU co-ordinated programmes, which started in 1996.

Supervision of the Food Quality Pilot Programme.

This programme is aimed at assessing the overall quality of a number of food products from organic and conventional farming in eight Member States. In 2002 the approval of interim reports continued and final reports for two contractors were approved. The project is still ongoing.

3.17. Animal health

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Greece
Ireland
Luxembourg (1) (2)
The Netherlands
Spain
United Kingdom

Candidate Countries

Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Romania
Slovak Republic
Slovenia

Third countries

Argentina
Brazil
Falklands
Paraguay (1) (2)

A series of inspections in all Member States on contingency plans (foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever) was completed during 2002.

Inspections were undertaken in Spain and Luxembourg to evaluate the controls in place following outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever.

An inspection in Italy was undertaken to review the development and operation of eradication programmes for Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever and Swine Vesicular Disease.

Inspections were undertaken in twelve Candidate Countries. These reviewed progress in working towards EU standards in the red meat, meat product, game meat and milk production sectors, as well as the controls over farm registration, animal identification and animal movements.

An inspection was also undertaken in Slovakia, to review its Classical Swine Fever status.

Continuing concerns over the FMD situation in South America, coupled with doubts over the effectiveness of official controls, required inspections about the disease situation in Argentina, Brazil and twice in Paraguay.

All **Member States** had contingency plans in place for foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever but in some cases greater attention was needed to their regular review and

updating. In particular, actions taken to publicise the plans, and to provide training to all concerned parties in the actions required in response to disease outbreaks, needed to be improved. In view of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever in 2001-2002, and significant changes to the relevant EU legislation, a new series of inspections in this area is planned for 2003.

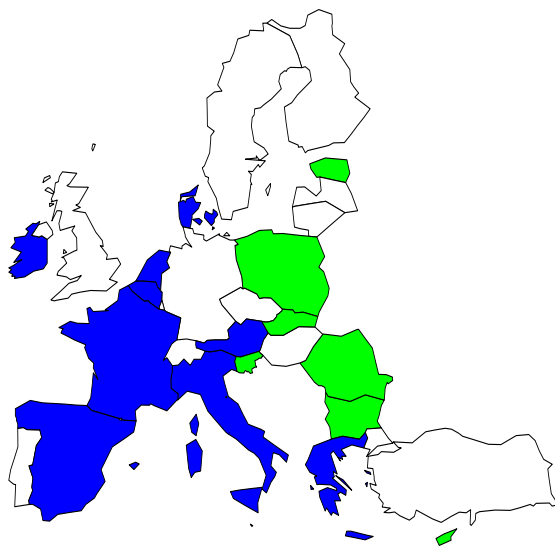
In **Candidate Countries** generally, the process of upgrading establishments to EU standards suffered from a number of weaknesses, including the absence of clear, realistic, deadlines for improvements and a failure to understand and fully apply EU requirements. In some cases, significant changes were required to both national and individual establishment upgrading plans in order to bring them up to an acceptable standard. Considerable work was still needed in many Candidate Countries on the registration of holdings and the establishment of effective animal identification and database systems.

In **Slovakia**, the findings of the inspection, coupled with assurances received from the Slovak authorities, led to the authorisation of pig meat exports to the EU.

In **third countries**, as a result of these inspections, a ban on imports of at-risk products was applied to Paraguay, although this was later lifted following the second inspection and receipt of satisfactory guarantees from the official services. Significant problems were identified in the other South American countries visited, requiring an active follow-up by the Commission services to ensure that acceptable standards were maintained.

3.18. Animal welfare

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
France
Greece
Ireland
Italy
The Netherlands
Spain

Candidate Countries

Bulgaria
Cyprus
Estonia
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

Priorities concerned the EU rules in relation to animal welfare during transport and at slaughter. Welfare requirements in relation to slaughter of animals were also covered during inspections dealing with food safety, which included visits to slaughterhouses.

Eight inspections were carried out in the Member States and seven in Candidate Countries. In the Candidate Countries, animal welfare issues were included as part of the series of inspections on live animal controls.

Seven inspections in the Member States (The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, France, Denmark, Ireland and Austria) focused on animal welfare during transport and slaughter. One inspection (Greece) focused on the welfare of animals on farms and completed this series begun in 2001. A general report on this series has been published.

The inspections in the Candidate Countries took place as part of the monitoring of the actions taken by the competent authorities to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of EU rules on animal welfare.

In both **Denmark** and **Austria**, the involvement of the Police in controls of animal welfare during transport provided effective enforcement of these requirements.

The system of authorisation of transporters in **France** is commendable as it includes obligatory training of the transporters. However, not all transporters have been authorised and unsuitable vehicles were used for journeys of more than 8 hours.

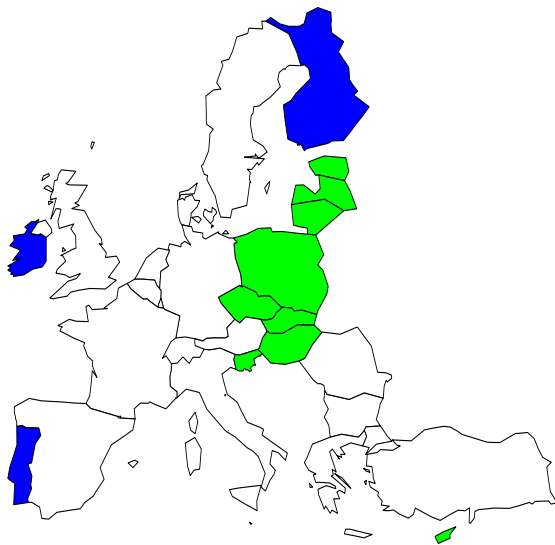
Ireland also has not yet authorised all transporters, having concentrated on those involved in international transport. Ireland has also not strictly enforced the journey times foreseen for international transport.

Implementation in **The Netherlands** showed improvements. However, the stronger enforcement has subsequently received a setback following a legal challenge before the Dutch court. **Belgium** and **Italy** continued to show progress in enforcing animal welfare rules for transport and slaughter. There was little progress in **Spain**.

Regarding the **Candidate Countries**, although many EU requirements were in place, legislation had not yet been fully transposed. Development of checks was in the early stages, but in most Candidate Countries, animal welfare was clearly seen as an integral part of the work of the competent authorities.

3.19. Plant health

Inspections carried out:



Member States

Finland
Ireland
Portugal

Candidate Countries

Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Slovak Republic
Slovenia

Most of the plant health group's resources in 2002 were allocated to inspections in the Candidate Countries to monitor the preparations for implementing the Community *acquis* for harmful organisms and the marketing and use of plant protection products including obsolete pesticides. Nine Candidate Countries were visited (comprising all those in the first wave of accession except Malta, which was visited in January 2003).

A series of potato audits in Member States, focussing on the implementation of a range of EU legislation in the potato sector, was completed in 2002 with the last two Member States (Portugal and Finland). The findings of the whole series were summarised in an overview report and presented at the Standing Committee on Plant Health in November 2002.

A new series of inspections was developed on import control systems in Member States. Because of resource constraints, only one inspection - in Ireland - was carried out. Some non-compliances were noted and recommendations made for their rectification.

An inspection in Portugal was carried out to monitor the controls there for the pine wood nematode compared with the requirements of the EU emergency measures. An inspection in the United Kingdom was carried out to evaluate the situation there with regard to a new pest, *Phytophthora ramorum*, for which the United Kingdom had put emergency measures into place.

The **Member States** differ substantially with regard to, for example, the farming structure, the organisation of the plant health services, the economic importance of potatoes and the distribution of potato pests and diseases. Thus, their interpretation and implementation of the relevant EU legislation varies. A number of non-compliances were encountered and, in each report, recommendations were made for rectification. An overview report was produced that summarises the status of the Member State responses to these recommendations. In most cases they were satisfactory. However, in some cases responses were not satisfactory and in others, no response was received.

In **Portugal**, regarding the pine wood nematode, serious non-compliances had been noted in the

past and this was the fifth inspection in Portugal on this subject. The team found that apart from a few minor problems, Portugal was now fully implementing the required measures.

The findings of the inspection in **UK** with regard to *Phytophthora ramorum* were presented promptly at the Standing Committee on Plant Health and used in the process of preparation of new EU legislation.

In **Candidate Countries**, the inspections were carried out well before the planned accession date and thus none of the countries had finalised the preparations, but good progress was noted in most inspections. In order to assist the preparation process, recommendations were made, where relevant, for adjustment or intensification of the preparation work.

3.20. Plant health - Other activities

The development of EUROPHYT (European Network of Plant Health Information) continued, albeit at a reduced rate because of staff constraints.

Technical expertise was provided to other services of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, for an inspection that was organised in Canada concerning their controls for pine wood nematode in coniferous export lumber.

From the obligatory annual surveys for potato ring rot and potato brown rot, data was requested from Member States, processed and presented at the Standing Committee on Plant Health.

Interceptions of Egyptian potato exports were monitored and evaluated. In co-operation with the responsible services, dossiers for recognising pest free areas in Egypt for the current potato export season were compiled and presented at the Standing Committee on Plant Health.

ANNEX 1 LIST OF INSPECTIONS

SUBJECT	COUNTRY	REPORT
MEMBER STATES		
Border inspection posts – Import controls – animals/animal	Austria	8562/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Austria	8578/2002
TSEs	Austria	8632/2002
Traceability	Austria	8658/2002
Animal welfare – Transport	Austria	8677/2002
Traceability	Belgium	8540/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	Belgium	8555/2002
TSE	Belgium	8569/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Belgium	8585/2002
Border inspection posts – Import controls - animals/animal	Belgium	8737/2002
TSE	Denmark	8572/2002
Traceability	Denmark	8671/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	Denmark	8676/2002
Disease outbreak - Newcastle disease	Denmark	8722/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Finland	8579/2002
Evaluation of CA in MS - potatoes	Finland	8596/2002
TSEs	Finland	8637/2002
Food production - red meat/products/preparations	Finland	8650/2002
Pesticides - Residues	Finland	8702/2002
Traceability	France	8534/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	France	8554/2002
Fishery products	France	8593/2002
Pesticides - Marketing and uses	France	8599/2002
Food production - milk/products	France	8608/2002
TSEs	France	8630/2002
Import controls - food of non-animal origin	France	8687/2002
Contaminants	France	8688/2002
Traceability	Germany	8546/2002
Fishery products and bivalve molluscs	Germany	8588/2002
Contaminants	Germany	8592/2002
TSEs	Germany	8634/2002
Border inspection posts - Import controls – animals/animal	Germany	8680/2002
Pesticides in feedstuff	Germany	8686/2002
Food production - milk/products	Germany	8730/2002
Food production - farmed game meat/products/preparations	Greece	8505/2002
Food production-red meat/products/preparations	Greece	8513/2002
Animal welfare - On-farm	Greece	8522/2002
Disease contingency plans	Greece	8551/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Greece	8584/2002
Contaminants	Greece	8603/2002
Food Hygiene	Greece	8624/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella abortus	Greece	8629/2002
TSEs	Greece	8635/2002
Food production - red meat/products/preparations	Greece	8644/2002
Traceability	Greece	8660/2002

SUBJECT	COUNTRY	REPORT
Pesticides - Marketing and uses	Greece	8711/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes - Brucella melitensis	Greece	8724/2002
Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations	Greece	8729/2002
Disease contingency plans	Ireland	8511/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	Ireland	8550/2002
TSEs	Ireland	8574/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Ireland	8577/2002
Import controls - plants/plant products	Ireland	8595/2002
Traceability	Ireland	8668/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	Ireland	8678/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	Italy	8523/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	Italy	8533/2002
Traceability	Italy	8547/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	Italy	8556/2002
TSEs	Italy	8576/2002
Contaminants	Italy	8602/2002
Pesticides - Marketing and uses	Italy	8639/2002
Border inspection posts – Import controls - animals/animal	Italy	8666/2002
Feedstuffs	Italy	8691/2002
TSEs	Luxembourg	8568/2002
Disease contingency plans	Luxembourg	8655/2002
Traceability	Luxembourg	8674/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes - CSF	Luxembourg	8695/2002
Evaluation of CA in MS - potatoes	Portugal	8501/2002
Fishery products and bivalve molluscs	Portugal	8512/2002
Traceability	Portugal	8526/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	Portugal	8544/2002
Border inspection posts - Import controls – animals/animal	Portugal	8559/2002
Plant pest outbreak -Forest plants/products	Portugal	8597/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Portugal	8606/2002
TSEs	Portugal	8636/2002
Contaminants	Portugal	8652/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	Spain	8524/2002
Traceability	Spain	8538/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	Spain	8553/2002
Border inspection posts - Import controls – animals/animal	Spain	8557/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Spain	8583/2002
Contaminants	Spain	8600/2002
TSEs	Spain	8631/2002
Disease outbreak - CSF	Spain	8643/2002
Traceability	Sweden	8528/2002
TSEs	Sweden	8567/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	Sweden	8582/2002
GMO food - labeling	Sweden	8605/2002
Animal welfare - Transport	The Netherlands	8503/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	The Netherlands	8506/2002
Contaminants	The Netherlands	8515/2002
Disease contingency plans	The Netherlands	8535/2002

SUBJECT	COUNTRY	REPORT
Traceability	The Netherlands	8536/2002
TSEs	The Netherlands	8633/2002
Food production - milk/products	The Netherlands	8659/2002
Food production - table eggs/products	United Kingdom	8508/2002
Food Hygiene	United Kingdom	8514/2002
Disease contingency plans	United Kingdom	8545/2002
TSE	United Kingdom	8570/2002
TSE	United Kingdom	8575/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes	United Kingdom	8613/2002
Fishery products and bivalve molluscs	United Kingdom	8614/2002
Border inspection posts – Import controls - animals/animal	United Kingdom	8620/2002
Reference Laboratories - Animal health	United Kingdom	8626/2002
Traceability	United Kingdom	8654/2002
Plant pest outbreak -Forest plants/products	United Kingdom	8685/2002
CANDIDATE COUNTRIES		
Enlargement – general accession assessment inspections	Bulgaria	8504/2002
TSEs	Bulgaria	8520/2002
Enlargement – food processing, transport and intermediate	Bulgaria	8665/2002
Enlargement – Plant Health	Cyprus	8594/2002
Enlargement – food processing, transport and intermediate	Cyprus	8612/2002
Enlargement – Import Controls including BIPs	Cyprus	8662/2002
Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations	Cyprus	8690/2002
Pesticides – Residues	Cyprus	8712/2002
Enlargement – food processing, transport and intermediate	Czech Republic	8532/2002
Pesticides – Residues	Czech Republic	8640/2002
Enlargement – Plant Health	Czech Republic	8714/2002
Enlargement – food processing, transport and intermediate	Estonia	8548/2002
Enlargement – Import controls including BIPs	Estonia	8560/2002
Enlargement – Plant Health	Estonia	8638/2002
Pesticides – Residues	Estonia	8646/2002
Enlargement – food processing, transport and intermediate	Hungary	8527/2002
Enlargement – General Food Hygiene Controls	Hungary	8709/2002
Enlargement – Plant Health	Hungary	8710/2002
TSE	Latvia	8518/2002
Enlargement – Import controls including BIPs	Latvia	8561/2002
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate	Latvia	8641/2002
Enlargement - Plant Health	Latvia	8689/2002
Enlargement - General Food Hygiene Controls	Latvia	8692/2002
Enlargement - general accession assessment inspections	Lithuania	8509/2002
TSEs	Lithuania	8519/2002
Identification/certification - live animals	Lithuania	8552/2002
Enlargement - Import Controls including BIPs	Lithuania	8558/2002
Enlargement - Plant Health	Lithuania	8611/2002
Enlargement - General Food Hygiene Controls	Lithuania	8705/2002
Enlargement - general accession assessment inspections	Malta	8507/2002
TSEs	Malta	8521/2002
Enlargement - Import Controls including BIPs	Malta	8667/2002
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate	Malta	8696/2002

SUBJECT	COUNTRY	REPORT
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate Contaminants	Poland	8541/2002
Enlargement - Import Controls including BIPs	Poland	8610/2002
Enlargement - Plant Health	Poland	8679/2002
Enlargement - general accession assessment inspections	Poland	8693/2002
TSE	Romania	8510/2002
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate TSEs	Romania	8516/2002
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate Diseases eradication/control programmes	Romania	8675/2002
Pesticides - Residues	Slovak Republic	8517/2002
Enlargement - Import Controls including BIPs	Slovak Republic	8642/2002
Enlargement - Plant Health	Slovak Republic	8647/2002
Contaminants	Slovak Republic	8649/2002
Enlargement - Plant Health	Slovak Republic	8683/2002
Enlargement - food processing, transport and intermediate	Slovak Republic	8694/2002
Enlargement - Import Controls including BIPs	Slovenia	8604/2002
	Slovenia	8648/2002
	Slovenia	8653/2002
	Slovenia	8681/2002
THIRD COUNTRIES		
Fishery products	Angola	8708/2002
Fishery products	Antigua-and-Barbuda	8732/2002
TSEs	Argentina	8565/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes - FMD	Argentina	8715/2002
Fishery products	Azerbaijan	8733/2002
Fishery products	Bahamas	8617/2002
Fishery products	Belize	8616/2002
Fishery products	Benin	8719/2002
Food production – fresh pig meat	Brazil	8529/2002
TSEs	Brazil	8563/2002
Fishery products	Cape Verde	8589/2002
Fishery products	China	8701/2002
Food production - milk/products	Croatia	8531/2002
Fishery products	El Salvador	8717/2002
Food production-red meat/products/preparations	Falklands	8525/2002
Fishery products	Fiji	8591/2002
Fishery products	French Polynesia	8590/2002
Fishery products	Grenada	8706/2002
Fishery products	Hong-Kong	8701/2002
Bivalve molluscs	Indonesia	8723/2002
Fishery products	Kenya	8586/2002
Identification/certification - live animals	Paraguay	8530/2002
Disease eradication/control programmes - FMD	Paraguay	8651/2002
Fishery products and bivalve molluscs	Peru	8645/2002
Fishery products	Saint-Pierre/Miguel	8716/2002
Contaminants (3-MCPD)	Thailand	8502/2002
Fishery products	Togo	8698/2002
Food production - bivalve molluscs	Tunisia	8622/2002
TSEs	Uruguay	8566/2002

ANNEX 2 GLOSSARY

3-MCPD	3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol) is the most common of a group of chemical contaminants known as chloropropanols. It occurs at low levels in many foods and food ingredients as a result of processing. It is often found at high levels in soy sauces and the savoury food ingredient acid-hydrolysed vegetable protein (acid-HVP).
Aflatoxin	Aflatoxin is the name for a group of toxins (poisonous chemical compounds) that are produced by two fungi called <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> . These toxins occur naturally and have been found in a wide range of commodities used for animal and human consumption. Depending on the levels, the toxins can severely affect the liver and they are a known human carcinogen (i.e. causes cancer).
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is part of United States Department of Agriculture.
Border inspection post (BIP)	Any inspection post, designated and approved for the carrying out of veterinary checks on products arriving from third countries at the EU border
brucellosis	Zoonotic disease commonly transmitted through abrasions of the skin from handling infected mammals or by ingesting contaminated milk and dairy products. Symptoms are non-specific and "flu-like".
candidate countries	In March 1998 the EU formally launched the process that will make enlargement possible. It embraces the following thirteen applicant countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey.
competent authority	The competent authority is a domestic government body made responsible under that country's national law for the control or regulation of a particular area of legislation.
CRL (Community Reference Laboratory)	The CRL is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• information and guidance on relevant analytical methods• working with National Reference Laboratories on the application of methods (by comparative testing in particular)• co-ordinating research into new methods• organising training courses and workshops• collaborating with third country laboratories• providing scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission• helping reference laboratories implement quality assurance systems (such as accreditation)
DBES	The legal basis for the Date Based Export Scheme is Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals.

EUROPHYT	EUROPHYT is an electronic rapid alert system between the Member States and the Commission (Health and Consumer Protection DG) ¹ . It aims at transmitting information concerning plant quarantine (notifications of interceptions of plants, plant health legislation, documents of the Standing Committee on Plant Health).
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease is a disease characterised by blister-like lesions of the mouth (inner tissue of mouth and lips, snout, and tongue) and feet (especially around the coronary band). The blisters rupture and leave an ulcerated depressed area that is susceptible to bacterial infection. Cloven hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and wild ruminants) are susceptible to the disease.
food irradiation	is a controlled intervention process, exposing food to ionizing energy that destroys food borne pathogens
genetically modified organisms (GMO)	Genetic modification is the technique of changing the genetic make-up of an individual organism by inserting, removing or altering individual genes to achieve a desired result. Currently, only food ingredients from varieties of genetically modified soya, maize and oilseed rape have been approved for food use in Europe.
HACCP	HACCP stands for Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points. It is a system for monitoring food processes to reduce the risk of food contamination. HACCP focuses on how food flows through the food processes – be it food production, distribution or retail – and identifies potential hazards at each step. By identifying "critical control points" (CCPs) where bacteria may grow or food may be contaminated, HACCP provides a framework for implementing control procedures for each hazard.
Harmful organisms	Harmful organisms are pests, including insects, mites, nematodes, bacteria, fungi, viruses, phytoplasmas and parasitic plants, harmful to plants or plant products, and which are not present or have a limited distribution in the EU.
infringement proceedings	Treaty infringement proceedings are a procedure for establishing whether a Member State has failed to fulfil an obligation imposed on it by Community law. It is conducted exclusively before the European Court of Justice. Given the seriousness of the accusation, the referral of the Court of Justice must be preceded by a preliminary procedure in which the Member State is given the opportunity to submit its observations. If the dispute is not settled at that stage, either the Commission or another Member State may institute an action in the Court. In practice the initiative is usually taken by the Commission.
marine biotoxins	Marine biotoxins and harmful algae represent a significant and expanding threat to human health and fisheries resources, causing human intoxications or even death from contaminated shellfish or fish.
MRL	Maximum Residue Level: fixed residue level that may not legally be exceeded.
Organic Farming	Farming methods which use only organic fertilizers and avoid use of inorganic agricultural chemicals and herbicides

¹ Council Directive 2000/29/EC lays down in Article 21(6) first indent that « the Commission shall establish a network for the notification of new occurrences of harmful organisms ».

RASFF	The Rapid Alert System for Food informs the competent authorities in the Member States of the presence of a serious risk to the health of the consumer presented by a food product.
red meat	Meat derived from such animals as bovines, pigs, horses, sheep and goats (mammals).
SRM	<p>The tissues designated as <u>s</u>pecified <u>r</u>isk <u>m</u>aterial in connection with TSE are laid down in Regulation (EC) N° 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended, and comprise mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the skull including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months, • the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages, • the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, • the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages.
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, of which Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is one. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle.
Verocytotoxigenic E. coli	Verotoxin (VT) producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (VTEC), and particularly strains of serotype O157:H7, have emerged as food poisoning pathogens which can cause a severe and potentially fatal illness. It is a major cause of gastroenteritis that may be complicated by hemorrhagic colitis or cause acute renal failure in children
zoonoses	Zoonoses are infectious animal diseases which usually affect other animals, but which can also afflict humans. They can be carried over through food (food borne zoonoses) or through direct contact with animals.

