



# The European Communities (EC) Approach to Regionalisation

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# The basis of the EU plant health policy

Main objective: Prevention of the introduction into or spread within the EU of organisms harmful to plants or plant products by:

- harmonised legislation on imports and Community movements
- harmonised control measures for specific diseases

Based on provisions laid down in WTO/SPS - IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) <sup>2</sup>

# The main topics of the EU legislation of the EU plant health regime

- List of harmful organisms of quarantine concern
- Phytosanitary measures to be met prior to import and internal movement of commodities
- Mandatory inspection at EU point of entry
- Overall control of regime by Commission services (Food and Veterinary Office - FVO)

# Regionalisation in the EU: the basic approach for plant health (1)

- Applied in EU and for some third countries for EU regulated organisms
- Within EU through notion of Protected Zones exposed to particular plant health risks and to which a specific protection is accorded, considering differences:
  - in distribution of harmful organisms
  - in ecological conditions

## Regionalisation in the EU: the basic approach for plant health (2)

- Specific harmonised additional phytosanitary measures for movement into and within protected zones of commodities
- Trace-back possibility through appropriate documentation
- Measures to recognise, delimit and maintain status of protected zone

# The basis of the EU animal health policy

- Supported by comprehensive **harmonised legislation**, which is binding for all Member States of the European Union (EU)
- Main objective: reaching and maintaining a high status of animal health throughout the EU

# The basis of the EU animal health policy

*Reaching and maintaining a high status of animal health throughout the EU, which is essential for:*

- animal welfare
- food safety
- establishment and functioning of the EU single market
- possibility to export to third countries

# The main topics of the EU legislation on animal health

- Diseases notifiable to OIE
- Major zoonoses
- Other diseases subject to eradication programmes

# The EU single market (1)

- Not possible if a “zero risk approach” is followed
- Single market in place since 1 January 1993
- Veterinary controls at place of origin and destination

## The EU single market (2)

- Veterinary certification
- Traceability:
  - animal identification
  - farm registration
  - TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System)  
(formerly ANIMO messages)

## The EU single market (3)

- Comprehensive rules to control major diseases (contingency plans)
- Compulsory investigation of suspected cases:
  - Notifiability of diseases
  - Transparency / ADNS  
(Animal Disease Notification System)

# Regionalisation in the EU: the basic approach for animal health (1)

- National measures based on disease control (EC) directives
- Disease control measures are applied in the concerned area > minimise trade disruption
- Stamping-out of animals in the infected farms and dangerous contact / neighbouring farms

# Regionalisation in the EU: the basic approach for animal health (2)

- Establishment of 3-10 Km restricted zones (quarantine)
- Compartmentalisation
- Epidemiological investigations - Surveillance
  - Clinical and laboratory testing
- Emergency vaccination possible

# Regionalisation in the EU: further measures

- When necessary: European Commission
- Bigger regions are restricted (based on administrative / geographical borders)
- Low risk commodities may be traded under certain additional conditions
- Additional surveillance inside and outside the infected region (e.g. serological tests)<sup>14</sup>

# Regionalisation in the EU: EC measures

- Overall, 133 (EC) Commission Decisions on Animal Health & Welfare in 2004

*(not only regionalisation; 133 out of 233 SCOFCAH measures per year - 2001/2004 average)*

- Fast track/emergency procedure
- Commission own decisions

# Provisions for imports

- Harmonised legislation on imports
- Import rules on regionalisation reflect EU internal rules and OIE standards
- Veterinary controls at EU external borders
- FVO Inspections

# Regionalisation at import: What is expected from third countries (1)

- Transparency
- Quality of veterinary services
- Fulfilling of OIE standards
- Criteria to define infected/free-regions

# Regionalisation at import: What is expected from third countries (2)

- Measures applied to maintain free-status of regions
- Surveillance within and outside the infected regions: rapid disease detection and appropriate control measures

# Regionalisation at import: Lists of third countries

- Live animals: Bulgaria, Canada
- Red meat and not fully treated meat products: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Botswana, Columbia, Serbia/Montenegro, Namibia, Russia, Swaziland, Turkey, South Africa
- Poultry meat: Brazil, China\*

## Conclusions (1)

- Regionalisation and high level of protection are compatible and can be implemented in the single market
- Regionalisation must be embedded into an overall strategy for disease control

## Conclusions (2)

Essential other elements are compulsory **investigation of suspected cases**, full traceability in animal transport and trade, **transparency**, a network of reference laboratories, **veterinary certification**, contingency plans and **regular inspections to ensure uniform implementation**

## Conclusions (3)

- The principles of regionalisation have been agreed at OIE level
- The EU as the largest exporter / importer of animals and animal products in the world successfully implements these principles





The European Communities are convinced that regionalisation is the best approach to maintain adequate disease control with minimum restrictions to trade

## The European Union:

25 Member States

4(+) Candidate Countries

