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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN CZECH REPUBLIC
FROM 18 TO 22 JUNE 2007
CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE ON FARMS

*Please note that factual errors in the draft report have been corrected.
Clarifications provided by the Czech Competent Authorities are given as footnotes in bold,
italic, type, to the relevant part of the report.*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the outcome of a mission carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in Czech Republic, from 18 to 22 June 2007.

The objective of the mission was to verify the implementation of EU requirements concerning the welfare of pigs, calves and laying hens and how measures taken by the competent authority have been integrated with the requirements for control laid down in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and Council. This included the follow-up to one recommendation concerning the registration of holdings with laying hens which had been made in a previous FVO report.

The report concludes that there is a good framework for controls, with systematic training of officials and also well established training for persons working in the livestock sectors. The system of building approval is also a useful mechanism to ensure that basic standards are met in new buildings. However, when planning inspections, the CAs have not taken adequate account of the need to include checks of the different farming methods used in each sector. Furthermore, the checks carried out by the CA have been limited in their effectiveness as insufficient guidance has been provided for inspectors and although a system of supervision exists, the quality of checks and data reported had not been adequately verified. When deficiencies were identified procedures to ensure corrective actions have been mostly adequate. The one issue which was the subject of a recommendation in a previous FVO report, the registration of holdings with laying hens, has been partially addressed, as the process of amending legislation was just being completed and thus the registration of holdings had not yet been fully implemented.

The report makes a number of recommendations addressed to the Czech competent authorities, aimed at rectifying the identified shortcomings and further enhancing the control measures in place.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Czech Republic from 18 to 22 June 2007, as part of the planned mission programme of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).

An opening meeting was held with the competent authorities of Czech Republic on 18 June 2007. 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 was accompanied throughout the mission by a representative from the Central Competent Authority – The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (hereafter: CCA).

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The objective of the mission was to verify the implementation of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to pig, calf and laying hen farms, in particular the measures put in place to give effect to Council Directives 91/629/EEC^{1,2}, 91/630/EEC³, 98/58/EC⁴, 99/74/EC⁵, Commission Directive 2002/4/EC⁶ and Commission Decision 2000/50/EC⁷ and how these measures have been integrated into the approach required by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸. This included the follow-up of one recommendation concerning the registration of holdings with laying hens which had been made in a previous FVO report.

¹ Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

² Council Directive 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves, OJ L340, 11.12.1991, p.28 (hereafter: Directive 91/629/EEC).

³ Council Directive 91/630/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, p.33 (hereafter: Directive 91/630/EEC).

⁴ Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, OJ L 221, 8.8.98, p. 23, (hereafter: Directive 98/58/EC).

⁵ Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, OJ L 203, 3.8.99, p. 53, (hereafter: Directive 99/74/EC).

⁶ Commission Directive 2002/4/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC, OJ L 30, 31.1.2002, p. 44 (hereafter: Directive 2002/4/EC).

⁷ Commission Decision 2000/50/EC of 17 December 1999 concerning minimum requirements for the inspection of holdings on which animals are kept for farming purposes, OJ L 19, 25.01.2000, p. 51 (hereafter: Decision 2000/50/EC). This Decision will be repealed and replaced by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC as of 1.1.2008.

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, OJ L 165, 30.4.2004 corrected and republished in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p.1 (hereafter: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004).

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 CCAs
	Regional level	2	A regional office in Central Bohemian region and one in Hradec Kralove region were visited.
Farms		4	A dairy farm with calves and a pig farm in each region were selected by the inspection team from lists provided. Contradictory information was provided by the CCA regarding whether it would be possible or not to visit a laying hen farm selected, due to its salmonella status. It was finally not possible to visit any laying hen farms due to an outbreak of Avian Influenza.

3. BACKGROUND

A previous mission concerning animal welfare took place in the Czech Republic from 10 to 14 January 2005. This report, DG(SANCO)/7519/2005 (hereafter: report 7519/2005), dealt with animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter as well as dealing with aspects relevant to farms and concluded that there was a uniform and adequate implementation with a good flow of information among all levels of the CA and the enforcing authorities. In relation to the topics which are also included in the scope of this mission, report 7519/2005 concluded that controls of cage systems for laying hens were satisfactory; however, the registration of laying hen farms was not fully compliant with EU requirements.

4. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation, in particular Artt. 9 of Directives 99/74/EC, 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC, Art. 7 of Directive 98/58/EC and Art. 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

5. MAIN FINDINGS

5.1. Legislation

Although a comprehensive check of the national legislation was not carried out, during the course of the evaluation of controls, the mission team noted that although Directive 2002/4/EC has been partly transposed into national legislation, the EU requirement for the maximum capacity of birds in the establishment has not been included.⁹

⁹ *In their response to the draft report, the Czech Authorities stated that following the recommendations in the previous FVO report, legislation was amended of Decree No. 136/2004 Coll., in particular in defining the maximum capacity of birds. After the completion of this legislative process and when the amendment of the decree has come into force on 31st July 2007, corrections were made.*

5.2. Competent Authority

The organisation of the Competent Authority (hereafter: CA) is described in Country profile of Czech Republic on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health (ref: DG(SANCO) 8027/2006), available at the DG Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO) website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles/CP_czech_republic.pdf

National legislation provides for certain requirements which have to be fulfilled prior to OV's being allowed to perform animal welfare checks. This includes a training course on animal welfare, including an examination, which is carried out by the Central Commission for Animal Welfare. Furthermore, courses for OV's are organised by academic organisations with the focus on up-to-date issues of animal welfare, including EU and national legislation. Training courses on up-to-date issues are carried out at meetings on a regional and national level. The mission team noted that all OV's met had been trained in accordance with the national legislation.

The performance of inspections is supervised by both the regional and central CA. The supervision of the regional offices is carried out by the Head of the Department for Animal Care and Welfare of the CCA. Reports from these supervisory checks had concentrated on topics such as animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter and did not indicate any non-compliance regarding the checks of farms. According to their procedures, the Regional Chief Inspector for Animal Welfare should annually supervise the work of the OV's on animal welfare at least once per quarter. The CCA stated that due to the lack of resources and other priorities this had been recently amended to two checks per year. The CA in both regions stated that these supervisory checks are regularly performed and reports of those checks were provided.

The mission team noted:

- No major deficiencies were recorded during supervisory checks with respect to the work of the OV's in both regions.
- A Chief Inspector for Animal Welfare accepted that while during the farm visit the OV made some incorrect measurements of the pens and did not address certain requirements, the same OV had previously performed 95 checks of farms without finding any deficiencies and, although these had been subject to supervisory procedures, no action had been taken to investigate this situation or to verify the effectiveness of these checks, as required by Article 8.3(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

As the CCA had previously considered their system of supervisory checks to meet the requirements for audits, which are required by Article 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, no plans had been made to carry out audits which were independent of the hierarchy responsible for implementing the system of farm checks.¹⁰

¹⁰ *In their response to the draft report, the Czech Authorities noted that SVA is currently working on plans according to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to carry out comprehensive audits independent of the hierarchy responsible for implementing the system of farm checks.*

5.3. Registration of laying hen holdings

Article 7 of Directive 99/74/EC and Directive 2002/4/EC requires all farms with more than 350 laying hens, (excluding establishments rearing breeding laying hens) to be registered. The CA for the registration of laying hen farms is The Ministry of Agriculture - Agricultural Commodities Section, which delegated its tasks to The Czech – Moravia Breeders' Association (*Českomoravská společnost chovatelů, a.s.*).

It was noted that:

- The registration of the holding is based on a written declaration from the farmer, without any verification of the data by the CA. The farmer is responsible for updating the CA once a month about any changes concerning the registered data on his holding. In the declaration, amongst others, the total number of animals on the farms is indicated. The CA stated during the opening meeting that this is an approximate number which is not subsequently updated.
- The State Veterinary Administration (*Státní Veterinární Správa*) (hereafter: SVS) is not involved in the registration process. Neither SVS nor the official veterinarians (hereafter: OV) have on-line access to the central register of laying hen holdings and there is no formal co-operation between the CA responsible for registration and the SVS. As a result changes to the maximum number of birds on farms were not notified to the CA responsible for registration and although the SVS detected that farms had been registered which were not covered by the requirements of Directive 2002/4/EEC, this had also not been notified. In one region it was noted that they use their own register of laying hen holdings, established for disease eradication purposes, when performing checks on laying hen farms.

In response to recommendation in report 7519/2005 the CCA indicated that unified and integrated register should be fully operational by the end of 2005. Several inconsistencies were detected by the mission team when checking the central register of holdings with laying hens, such as:

- Not all eligible establishments had been included in the register when compared with the actual situation in the regions visited.
- Some of the establishments which were included in the central register were no longer in operation.
- Establishments rearing breeding laying hens were also included in the register of laying hens. One of the farms which had been randomly selected for a visit by the mission team was actually a farm for the production of hatching eggs. This information was provided by the regional CA and was previously not known to the CCAs.
- For the farms checked in the region of Hradec Kralove, the register did not contain the correct numbers for the maximum capacities of establishments in number of birds present at one time, as required by point 1 of the Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC.

5.4. Measures supplementary to checks

The Regional CA is obliged under national legislation to give its approval, which takes account of animal welfare requirements, prior to the refurbishment or construction of buildings for housing animals, which are used in final building approval process. As stated by the CA there is no need to use these approval documents subsequently during

farm checks. Cases where building approval was not given, because the animal welfare requirements had not been fulfilled, were seen by the mission team.

Several publications have been published by different educational institutions, institutes and professional bodies which include farm animal welfare topics, ranging from legislative provisions to good farming practices.

Training courses, including those for pig farmers, as required by Article 5a of Directive 91/630/EEC, had been organised in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. A programme of 12 training courses on veterinary legislation, including animal welfare had been organised in 2006 and 2007 with co-financing from the EU.

5.5. Programme of inspections

The CCA guidance indicates that annual programmes for checks are to be prepared by the regional CA and that at least 10% of holdings should be checked every year. Meetings with the representatives from the regions are held at the central level to specify the focus of checks for the forthcoming year in relation to the sector and to aspects outside the scope of this mission such as animal welfare during transport and at the time of slaughter. District OVs prepare plans for their districts which are later summarised on the regional level and sent for approval to the CCA.

The CCA stated that no risk based approach to the checks, as required by Article 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 is currently being applied when selecting the farms; however during the mission it was noted that some factors, such as the size of the farm, had been taken into account when preparing the list of farms to be visited.

The mission team noted that:

- Regional programmes for inspections were available in both offices visited and only bigger farms were included. Programmes for checks to be carried out in districts were available in one region.
- In both regions the OVs stated that most of the non-compliances (approx. 99% in the Central Bohemian region and more than 50% in the Hradec Kralove region) had been found during the checks which are carried out as a result of complaints from the public.

5.6. Inspections on farms

There is one check list for all animal welfare inspections which is to be used for checks of animal welfare on farms, during transport, at slaughter and for animals used for experimental purposes. These general reporting documents accompanied by the guidance facilitate input of findings into the computer database; however these give limited clarification on the requirements to be checked. A copy of the check list is left with or sent to the farmer after each inspection, which would meet the requirements of Article 9.3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, which requires that the CA to provide a copy of the inspection report to the operator at least in case of non-compliance.

Calves

Article 7 of Directive 91/629/EEC requires the CA to carry out inspections which shall each year cover a statistically representative sample of the different rearing systems used, but such checks can be carried out at the same time as checks for other purposes. The

checks for holdings of calves are not planned by the CA and are done within the framework of checks on cattle holdings for other purposes. In the Central Bohemian region 175 holdings with calves were checked in 2006 and non-compliances were detected on six farms. In the Hradec Kralove region 32 holdings with calves were checked in 2006 and one non-compliance was detected.

The mission team noted that:

- On the farm visited in the Central Bohemian region the OV detected shortcomings such as maintenance problems (damaged roof of the individual boxes for calves, sharp protrusions in individual boxes). Although a point indicating "records" was included in the checklist, data on mortalities and medical treatments were not checked. Point 5 of the Annex to Directive 98/58/EC requires that the owner or the keeper of the animals maintains a record of any medicinal treatment given and the number of mortalities found at each inspection. The CA also did not detect that calves were not moved into group housing pens after they reached eight weeks of age, contrary to the requirement of Article 3.3 (a) of Directive 91/629/EEC, which require that no calf shall be confined in an individual pen after the age of eight weeks. Some calves had been kept in individual crates for up to 14 weeks of age and had been moved to group housing only a day before the mission. Even though the farmer later provided a reasonable explanation for this and records of medical treatments were provided, the need to keep these calves in individual boxes after they had reached the age of eight weeks had not been certified by a veterinarian as required by Article 3.3 (a) of Directive 91/629/EEC, and this had not been detected by the OV.
- On the farm in the Hradec Kralove region, certain antibiotics seen were used by the farmer to treat calves for diarrhoea. These were not recorded in the book of medical records kept on the farm and had not been checked by the OV. No evidence had been found that these treatments were prescribed by a veterinarian.

Laying hens

Article 8 of Directive 99/74/EC requires that inspections are carried out to monitor compliance with EU provisions for laying hens. Prior to the accession of the Czech republic to the EU, the CCA had issued guidance on the measuring of cages for laying hens.

In the Central Bohemian region the CA planned to check 18 laying hen holdings in 2006; one had been checked. In the Hradec Kralove region checks of nine laying hen holdings were planned in 2006 and three had been checked. No non-compliances had been detected.¹¹

¹¹ *In their response to the draft report, the Czech Authorities noted that in 2006 100% of laying hen holdings had been checked; however at the time of the introduction of a new Welfare module for the Information System of the SVA (IS SVA) the category "laying hen" was not available for data insertion. The checks had been entered as different category ("Gallus gallus – general"). This modification of the software was carried out later in 2006.*

The CA had not realised that the requirements of Article 4 of Directive 99/74/EC were applicable to all alternative systems for laying hens since 1 January 2007 and no specific checks had been planned for these holdings in order to verify if they complied with the requirements. The CA informed the mission team after the final meeting that six alternative farms had been checked in 2006 and three in 2007 in the entire Czech Republic.

Pigs

Article 7 of Directive 91/630/EEC requires the CA to carry out inspections which shall each year cover a statistically representative sample of the different rearing systems used. The mission team noted that:

- In the Central Bohemian region checks of 400 holdings were planned in 2006 and 168 holdings (42% of planned checks) had been carried out.
- In the Hradec Kralove region checks of 29 holdings were planned in 2006 and 95 (327% of planned checks) had been checked. These checks also included checks arising from complaints. Non-compliances related to animal welfare in the Central Bohemian region had been detected in three small non-commercial pig farms where the checks had been made after complaints, while in the Hradec Kralove region non-compliances had been found on six farms.

Article 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires the CA to carry out checks using documented procedures, which contain information and instructions for staff carrying out inspections. No specific guidance had been provided by the CCA regarding certain provisions of the legislation, such as for manipulable material for pigs, how to assess the quality of the feed for pregnant sows and gilts and which requirements for space allowances apply to certain pig farms which are under a transitional period until 1.1.2013, as allowed for in Article 3.9 of Directive 91/630/EEC. The mission team noted that:

- On both farms visited pregnant sows and gilts were already kept in groups, well in advance of the EU deadline, as group housing in buildings existing prior to accession is required from 1 January 2013; however, the OVs was not fully aware of transitional periods for certain requirements and performed some measurements of pens and floors which were not yet applicable to those farms.
- Regarding the provision for manipulation material, which is required by Chapter I. 4 of the Annex to Directive 91/630/EEC, the checking of the provision of such material was inconsistent and chains were accepted as a suitable material, even though these do not enable proper investigation and manipulation activities.
- On the farm visited in the Central Bohemian region, the OV made enquiries regarding the feed for pregnant sows and gilts, but was not able to assess the appropriateness of the fibre content (Article 3.7 of Directive 91/630/EC), as there was no guidance from the CCA on what is appropriate.¹²

¹² *In their response to the draft report, the Czech Authorities stated that commercially produced feed mixture was used for feeding of pregnant sows and gilts on that farm. The composition of this mixture is listed in a recipe and it is guaranteed and verified by the relevant national authority - Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture.*

- On the farm visited in the Central Bohemian region the OV detected most of the shortcomings; however, regarding the care for sick animals, such as for lame animals, animals with big hernias and inappropriate bedding in the sick pen, these were only assessed after they were pointed out by the mission team. Point 4 of the Annex to Directive 98/58/EC requires that any animal which appears to be ill or injured must be cared for appropriately.

Follow up and sanctions

Article 8.3(b) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires the CA to have procedures in place to ensure that corrective actions are taken when needed and Article 54 of the Regulation requires that when non-compliances are identified, the CA shall take actions to ensure that the operator remedies the situation and provides the operator concerned with written notification of its decision concerning actions to be taken. The mission team noted:

- When deficiencies were detected different kinds of corrective measures had been imposed. In cases where the deficiencies could have been corrected immediately no other sanctions had been imposed. In both regions there were cases involving severe breaches of the requirements where administrative procedures had been launched or penalties had been imposed. Cases were seen where the OVs had been informed by the municipalities on the outcome of actions.
- Sometimes the OV gave a deadline for correcting the shortcomings detected and requested a written confirmation from the farmer that all the necessary corrections have been made and in some cases the follow up visits had been performed on the spot, but this had not been done systematically.
- In the case of a pig farm visited in the Hradec Kralove region, even though the follow up visit had been performed, the enforcement action taken was only partially successful: certain major deficiencies had been corrected, but others remained. The first visit in January 2006 was made after a report from an OV in a pig slaughterhouse, indicating that there were animal welfare problems on the farm. Deficiencies were subsequently detected, in particular regarding the floor of the pens. During the follow up visit a week later the floor had been repaired and the OV noted that other deficiencies would be corrected in the next three years. During the visit for the purposes of this mission, there were severe shortcomings with the maintenance of one building, which was not included in the initial CA inspection and only shown to the mission team upon request, such as big holes in the metal walls separating pens and very sharp protrusions. In these pens boars and sows had several bruises on their bodies which, according to their shape and position on the body, could have been related to injuring themselves on the sharp protrusions. It was only after these were pointed out by the mission team that the OV requested that the animals should be moved to other pens as soon as possible.

5.7. Reporting

In accordance with the CCA guidance the data collected during inspections had been entered in a computerised information system, which can be accessed by all levels of the CA. The basic information on animal welfare checks are published on the internet site of the CCA monthly.

Decision 2000/50/EC requires the results of inspections to be classified in nine different categories. The CA database used to record inspection results provides 14 different categories and the representative of the CCA stated that they have had problems to generate the report for the Commission required by Decision 2000/50/EC. To avoid such problems in the future, an amendment to the CCA guidance was issued in 2006, providing details on how to input the data in the national database. The CCA have not yet addressed the changes which will come into force from 1.1.2008 with the entry into force of Commission Decision 2006/778/EC¹³.

The mission team noted that:

- There were differences between the numbers and results of inspections in the summarised report from the CCA and the data found in the reports of the outcome of checks in the regions in 2006.¹⁴
- In the reports sent to the Commission in 2006, the number of laying hen farms checked in 2004 and 2005 was incorrect as other categories of poultry, such as breeding hens and broilers, were included. The CCA stated that they were aware of this and that this has been corrected for the recording of inspections in 2006.
- Some findings had been reported as animal welfare deficiencies, but were instead related to issues such as the lack of animal identification. This had not been picked up by any of the levels of the CA.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- (1) Although the CCA indicated in response to a recommendation in report 7519/2005 that a register of laying hen holdings should be fully operational by the end of 2005 this is still not the case, as Directive 2002/4/EC has not been correctly transposed into national legislation and in addition, there has been insufficient co-operation between the CAs involved. As a result not all eligible establishments were included in the register and it had not been updated when there were changes to the relevant data, as required by Article 1.4 of Directive 2002/4/EC.
- (2) National requirements for training of veterinarians and additional courses on animal welfare allow OVs to acquire knowledge for their area of competence as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004; however, neither these nor the documented procedures provided by the CCA were sufficient to ensure that all EU requirements for animal welfare were satisfactorily assessed. The CCA checklist is a useful *aide memoire*, but neither this nor the guidance provided a comprehensive list of the EU requirements and in any case such a list would only

¹³ Commission Decision 2006/778/EC of 14 November 2006 concerning minimum requirements for collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes, OJ L 314, 15.11.2006, p. 39.

¹⁴ *In their response to the draft report, the Czech Authorities noted that these differences arose because the inspectors can continue to insert and correct data for inspection periods prior to the date on which the CCA have extracted information from the database.*

partly fulfil the requirements of Article 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Although more detailed guidance had been provided for measuring cages for laying hens, there were no similar instructions for carrying out inspections of alternative systems for laying hens or of pig farms.

- (3) Although procedures to verify the effectiveness of official controls in the field of animal welfare were in place, as required by Article 8.3(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, these had not been effective in identifying insufficiencies in the quality of checks and follow-up actions, as there was a wide disparity between deficiencies found during this mission and the results from inspections previously subject to the CA's system of supervision.
- (4) Procedures are in place to enable enforcement actions to be taken, as required by Article 8.3(b) and these had been mostly followed when deficiencies were recorded. However, on occasion the actions taken, as required by Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, had not always been sufficient to ensure that some major deficiencies regarding the maintenance of buildings were corrected.
- (5) Audits, as required by Article 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, have not yet been planned for animal welfare controls on farms as the CA had considered their system of supervision as equivalent to an independent audit, which it is not.
- (6) The system for building approval for new and refurbished buildings is a useful measure to ensure that EU provisions are applied, as required by Article 3 of Directive 99/74/EC and Article 4 of Directive 91/630/EEC, and that these requirements are taken into account when building and reconstruction work is carried out.
- (7) Arrangements have been made to provide adequate training courses for pig stockpersons as required by Article 5(a) of Directive 91/630/EEC and for keepers of other farm animals, which is in addition to EU requirements. In addition several publications on animal welfare requirements had been published, which provide farmers with information on how to provide appropriate care for their animals and enable those who employ pig stockpersons to provide their employees with guidance as required by Article 5(a) of Directive 91/630/EEC.
- (8) The selection of farms, where only bigger, commercial farms are included in the programmes of checks does not ensure that a statistically representative sample of the different farming systems is inspected, as required by Artt. 7 of Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC. In addition, there were some indications that smaller farms pose a higher risk of welfare problems; however, a risk based approach to inspections has not been fully developed as required by Article 3.1(a) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
- (9) The requirements of Article 8 of Directive 99/74/EC have not been met as, even though all holdings with alternative systems for laying hens have had to comply with the requirements of Article 4 of Directive 99/74/EC since 1.1.2007, insufficient checks of such establishments have been made. In addition the CAs had not met their own targets for planned checks of laying hen holdings.
- (10) Although there is an elaborate system to compile and categorise the results of inspections, this did not meet the requirements of Decision 2000/50/EC, as the

reports did not accurately reflect the inspections that had been carried out and the data had not been adequately verified by the higher levels of the CA.

6.1. Overall conclusion

There is a good framework for controls, with systematic training of officials and well established training for persons working in the livestock sectors. The system of building approval is also a useful mechanism to ensure that basic standards are met in new buildings. However, when planning inspections, the CAs have not taken adequate account of the need to include checks of the different farming methods used in each sector. Furthermore, the checks carried out by the CA have been limited in their effectiveness as insufficient guidance has been provided for inspectors and although a system of supervision exists, the quality of checks and data reported had not been adequately verified. When deficiencies were identified procedures to ensure corrective actions have been mostly adequate. The one issue which was the subject of a recommendation in a previous FVO report, the registration of holdings with laying hens, has been partially addressed, as the process of amending legislation was just being completed and thus the registration of holdings had not yet been fully implemented.

7. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 22 June 2007 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 Czech Republic

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:

- (1) Directive 2002/4/EC on the registration of holdings with laying hens is correctly and completely transposed and implemented.
- (2) Training of Official Veterinarians includes sufficient background on the requirements of Directives 91/629/EEC, 91/630/EEC and Directive 99/74/EC so that they can carry out inspections competently and consistently, as required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
- (3) Documented procedures contain information and instructions, as required by Article 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, so that the requirements of Directives 91/629/EEC, 91/630/EEC and Directive 99/74/EC can be adequately assessed.
- (4) Adequate and effective procedures are in place to verify the effectiveness of inspections and follow-up actions, as required by Article 8.3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

- (5) Actions are taken when non-compliances are identified so that the operator remedies the situation, as required by Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
- (6) Audits, as required by Article 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, are carried out.
- (7) The farms inspected provide a statistically representative sample of the different farming systems used for pigs and calves, as required by Article 7 of Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC and are adequate for monitoring the laying hen sector as required by Article 8 of Directive 99/74/EC.
- (8) The risks that influence animal welfare on farm are identified and are taken into account when controls are carried out, as required by Article 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
- (9) Reports required by Decision 2000/50/EC accurately reflect the inspections carried out.

9. 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_czech_republic_7232_2007.pdf