



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Food and Veterinary Office

FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE
(FVO)
ANNUAL REPORT
1999

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the third Annual Report of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General. It covers the period 1 January – 31 December 1999.

The Office's principal missions are to monitor and control how Member States and third countries implement EU legislation on food safety, animal health, plant health and animal welfare, and to contribute towards the maintenance of confidence in the safety of food offered to the European consumer.

It fulfils these missions by carrying out a programme of inspections to monitor the performance of competent authorities, including on-the-spot inspections of individual establishments in both Member States and third countries.

During the period of this report, 190 inspection missions were undertaken. These covered a wide range of the FVO's responsibilities, as indicated in Annex I (this attributes missions to Units on the basis of responsibilities held at the time of the mission). Annex II provides a graphic illustration of the range of missions undertaken.

During 1999, the FVO, in addition to the performance of its mission programme, was heavily involved in further recruitment of inspection and support staff, a reorganisation of its structure, and the continued development of new operational and inspection procedures. In September, the FVO occupied new premises in Dublin, which meant that staff which were temporarily based in Brussels could be transferred to Ireland.

2. REORGANISATION

2.1. New Unit responsibilities

Following the re-organisation in 1998, a further review was undertaken to identify the best structure to allow the Office to manage the influx of new personnel. The new structure was adopted in September 1999 within the framework of the overall re-organisation of Commission departments, and will be fully implemented in early 2000. The new structure can be described as follows:

There are five Units within the FVO (Units D1-D5):

Unit D1 Quality, Planning and Development

Unit D2 Foods of Animal Origin - Mammals

Unit D3 Foods of Animal Origin - Birds and Fish

Unit D4 Plant Health & Food of non-animal origin

Unit D5 Animal feeds, Import controls & Residues

A basic organigramme is attached at Annex V.

Units D2-D5 are the technical inspection Units. Within the Units, the structure of operational groups led by senior inspectors (group leaders) within the Units has been maintained.

The groups that cover technical sectors which cut across a number of areas covered by the FVO (i.e. import controls, animal welfare, animal feeds, TSEs ⁽¹⁾, residues/laboratories), have been

⁽¹⁾ TSEs: Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, including Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie, a similar disease in sheep.

brought together in one Unit (D5). Aside from carrying out missions themselves, these can be called upon by any of the Units to form part of an inspection team. Zoonoses (diseases transmissible to humans) are dealt with in the relevant Units.

An outline of the organisation is at Annex V. A detailed organigramme, together with the names, functions and contact details for the senior staff, is available on the DG SANCO web-site (2).

The Office continued to cover the same food safety, animal and public health, plant health, and animal welfare areas as before this re-organisation.

2.2. Quality issues

Unit D1 replaces the Quality and Planning Section. It has an initiating and advisory role concerning the future development of the FVO, planning issues and legal matters, and assists in the maintenance of the internal quality standards. Section 4.4 of this report provides further information on the activities of the Unit.

2.3. Resident inspectors

The resident inspectors placed in Washington (covering N. America and Mexico), Montevideo (covering S. America), and Bangkok (covering the Far East and Australasia) will continue to represent and carry out duties on behalf of the Office, both on a routine basis and in assisting inspection teams in carrying out specific controls in the area concerned. They will also play an important role in providing specific expertise on their geographical areas.

2.4. Administrative Antenna

The whole of the Office is supported by an Administrative Antenna. Amongst others, this section remains responsible for (infra)structural (including informatics), personnel, and budgetary matters, and the introduction and training of staff. Section 5 of this report provides further information on the activities in this area.

3. MISSION PROGRAMME 1999

3.1 General remarks

3.1.1 Planning

The FVO operates on the basis of six monthly mission programmes (January – June and July – December). These are developed to take account both of obligations placed upon the Commission in Community legislation, and of priorities identified during the planning process for the programme.

For the purposes of preparing a first draft of the mission programme, and together with considerations of trade, economic and policy issues, a mission prioritisation system that takes account of the level of hazards posed by particular products, as well as the potential risks associated with individual countries, is being developed.

The draft programmes are discussed within the Commission to ensure that all elements that touch upon the FVO's responsibilities, have been considered. Following approval, the programmes are presented to the Member States in the appropriate Standing Committees, and subsequently sent to the European Parliament, for information. The programmes are kept under review as they may need to be adapted to meet unforeseen demands.

(2) <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg24>

The priorities identified for the programme for the first half of 2000, together with the approved programme, are given in Annex IV.

3.1.2 National experts

Experts from Member States and the EFTA countries were regularly invited to participate in missions, both to make use of particular skills that may not be readily available within the FVO, and to encourage a broader understanding amongst Member States and EFTA countries of the working methods of the FVO. During the last 12 months, 108 national experts took part in FVO missions.

3.1.3 Monitoring of progress with the mission programme

The effective monitoring of the mission programme is important if the FVO is to be confident of meeting its goals, as well as to allow effective planning of future programmes. The FVO database became fully operational in 1999. It records all activities related to missions from the planning stage, as well as all relevant details. Subsequently, information is added as the missions are performed, and the reports prepared and processed.

3.1.4 Presentation of mission findings and reports

At the end of each mission, competent authorities are briefed by the mission team on its initial findings. Draft reports of the missions are provided to the other Commission services, and to the competent authority of the country visited as soon as possible after the end of the mission. This allows the report findings to be considered at an early stage. Following the receipt and consideration of comments made by the competent authorities, the final report is drafted containing, where appropriate, amendments to the draft report.

The completion and distribution of reports within the deadlines laid down in Community legislation remains an important goal of the FVO. To this end, the FVO continues to look for possibilities to increase the use of electronic systems for the transfer of reports. In addition, efforts to develop a harmonised approach to the presentation of mission findings should contribute to achieving this goal.

Progress made with the submission of reports is constantly monitored through the database, and reviewed weekly within the FVO.

After finalisation, reports are placed on the DG SANCO internet site (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg24/health/index_en.html), so that they are freely available to all interested parties.

By the end of 1999, a total of c. 300 FVO mission reports had been placed on the internet site. This practice underlines the Commission's continued commitment to transparency in its control and inspection findings.

3.1.5 Follow-up of mission report recommendations

The database records report recommendations both to the competent authorities in the countries visited as well as to the relevant Commission services, informs the FVO when deadlines for recommended actions expire, and records whether recommendations have been addressed.

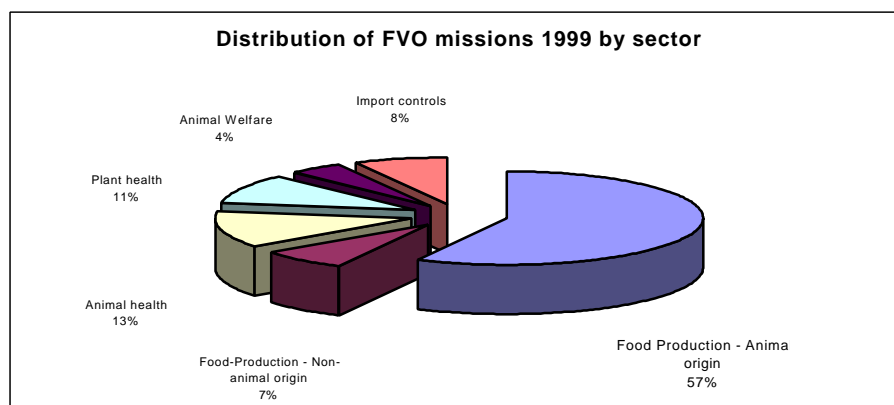
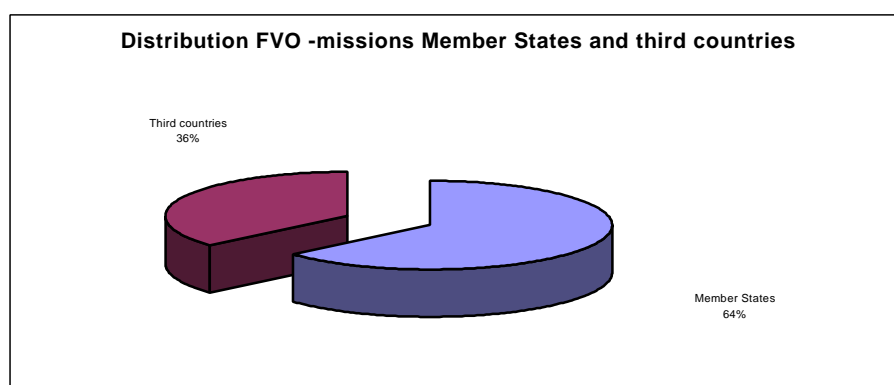
3.2 New approach to inspections

1999 saw the continuation of a shift in the nature of the missions carried out by the FVO. More and more, the missions concentrate on the effectiveness and application of measures and systems

put in place by the competent authorities themselves to ensure that health standards are respected. On-the-spot inspections in individual establishments are still carried out, but rather than judging the findings in isolation, they are increasingly used to verify whether control systems function adequately.

3.3 Missions carried out

The FVO completed 190 missions in 1999. This slight overall decrease in the number of missions compared to 1998 is due to the influx of the large volume of new, but less experienced staff, as is demonstrated by a substantial increase (c. 30%) of the number of inspectors involved in these missions. That this is a temporary phenomenon is also underlined by the fact that for the first six months of 2000 only, 161 missions are foreseen. The charts below indicate the distributions of the missions carried out:



The original mission programmes for 1999 could not be not fully discharged, due to changing priorities, and to the need to respond to a series of health emergencies.

3.4 General review reports

Increasingly, series of missions were carried out in all the Member States in sectors which are subject to inspection by the FVO, with a view to presenting a general review report of the situation in the Community, in addition to the individual reports on each country visited. This approach has been adopted in respect of amongst others bivalve mollusc production, red meat and poultrymeat production, BSE-surveillance, residue controls, ovine/caprine brucellosis eradication programmes, and potato crops. Section 4 of this report provides more detailed information in this respect.

3.5 Main areas of interest in 1999

In Member States, the monitoring of the BSE-situation and of the measures taken continued to be a major area of activity. This applies in particular in relation to the developments in the United Kingdom where an easing of restrictions was possible, and Portugal, where this was not yet the case. Series of missions in all (relevant) Member States where either concluded (production of red meat and bivalve molluscs, e.g. oysters, mussels etc., sheep brucellosis) or started (production of milk and milk products, poultrymeat), the results of which proved to be mixed.

In third countries, a continued effort was made to monitor production standards for fishery products in countries which are either temporarily authorised to export to the EU, or which have requested such authorisation. This series of missions, and their follow-up can be expected to continue to have a high priority during the next year. Other areas of interest included missions in third countries which are candidates to join the EU in the coming years. Particular problems were found in relation to the controls over the production of red meat in certain main exporting countries such as Australia, and with controls over residues in red meat in the USA. In both cases discussions are continuing to find a satisfactory solution.

A number of emergency missions were carried out, both in relation to food-borne disease and plant diseases. Of the first, the contamination of animal feed with dioxin which occurred in Belgium led required the FVO to carry out a series of missions in a number of Member States.

4. INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY REPORTS OF UNITS, QUALITY AND PLANNING SECTION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ANTENNA

As the re-organisation described under Section 2 will come into effect in early 2000, this section concerning the activities of individual Units/sections follows the organisation existing throughout 1999.

4.1. UNIT 1 – FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (MAMMALS)

4.1.1. Production of food of animal (mammalian) origin

A. Mission priorities

In carrying out inspections, emphasis was placed on the evaluation of the performance of competent authorities in maintaining acceptable levels of consumer health protection.

The completion of the series of fresh meat (bovine) missions to Member States was given priority in the early part of the year.

For third countries, priority was given to the follow-up of previous mission findings, and to evaluating the organisation, performance and effectiveness of the competent authorities in EU applicant States.

Missions to evaluate controls over milk production continued to receive high priority.

Emergency missions were undertaken as a result of outbreaks of food borne disease.

B. Mission Programme

Three missions were undertaken to complete a programmed series concerning fresh (bovine) meat production in the Member States, which had been initiated in 1998.

A series of missions concerning the production of red meat, meat products and meat preparations was started in EU applicant countries.

A follow-up mission concerning the certification of wild and farmed game was carried out in a Member State as a result of the findings of a mission in a third country.

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. 21 missions, of which 5 were to Member States, were undertaken in the fresh meat, meat products, meat preparations and game meat sectors. One of the Member State missions was a follow up to infringement proceedings. Four third country missions resulted from adverse findings during previous missions (USA twice, Australia and Slovenia).

Nine Member States and three third countries were visited to evaluate milk production controls.

In addition, two missions (Germany and Spain) followed an outbreak of human trichinosis (a parasitic infection) in Germany. An emergency mission in France followed an outbreak of listeriosis (a bacterial disease).

C. General findings

Following the series of red meat missions in the Member States, a number of significant problems were identified. These included severe deficiencies in establishment approval procedures, standards of hygiene, and welfare at slaughter. Inadequate implementation of EU legislation on animal identification and traceability of the meat, and insufficient controls over the disposal of animal waste (excluding Specified Risk Material), were noted.

In relation to game meat, severe deficiencies in the control of production, particularly in certification, were identified both in third countries and Member States.

The disparate nature of both control and production systems in third countries makes it very difficult to draw general conclusions. However, the increased focus on the evaluation of the competent authorities identified problems with their organisation, powers and performance, all leading to deficiencies in the operation of controls in establishments. Deficiencies in the traceability of animals and meat were frequently identified.

Inspections in the USA identified difficulties with the separation of EC and non-EC production, an issue which remains outstanding.

A mission to Australia, following up one carried out in 1998, found that significant progress had been achieved in relation to a number of major issues, but also revealed persistent problems in other areas.

A mission to Slovenia revealed very serious deficiencies in relation to veterinary and fraud controls. However, a follow-up mission found that sufficient progress with the implementation of FVO-recommendations had been made to avoid the imposition of a ban on imports of fresh meat, meat products and game meat.

Pending the completion of the programme of missions concerning milk production in Member States, it is not yet possible to draw general conclusions. All of the third countries visited for milk production controls could be confirmed on the provisional list of countries authorised to export to the Community.

4.1.2 Live animals and their products

A. Mission priorities

Particular attention was paid to the operation of Member States' eradication programmes for zoonotic diseases, to the animal health situation in applicant countries in Central and Eastern Europe and to contingency plans for dealing with outbreaks of infectious animal diseases within the EU. In addition, emergency missions in relation to disease outbreaks always received the highest priority.

B. Mission Programme

Eleven missions to examine eradication programmes for zoonotic diseases (bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, ovine and caprine brucellosis, rabies) were carried out. These programmes receive partial Community financial support. A general report has been produced on the situation regarding ovine/caprine brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) in the southern Member States where these programmes are operated.

Six missions were carried out to applicant countries, with a view to assessing both the animal health situation, and the ability of the veterinary services to monitor and control this situation. As part of an on-going series of missions, three Member States were visited in order to assess the status of contingency plans to deal with foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever.

Seven emergency missions were undertaken in connection with outbreaks of exotic virus diseases in four Member States (bluetongue in Greece, classical swine fever in Germany, African swine fever in Portugal and swine vesicular disease in the Netherlands).

C. General findings

Although some deficiencies were found in their operation in most Member States, the disease eradication programmes were generally considered to be contributing to an improvement in both the animal and public health situation.

The animal health situation in some applicant countries was found to fall short of acceptable standards, both in relation to the performance of veterinary controls, and to the quality and reliability of health certification.

Member State contingency plans were generally found to be acceptable, although further work in respect of the training of personnel, and ensuring that laboratories were fully ready to deal with outbreaks, was needed.

Member States responded rapidly and effectively to disease outbreaks, with the action required in EU legislation generally being taken.

In all cases, recommendations on the action required to correct any problems found were made, both to the authorities of the countries visited, and to the Commission's own services. These are the subject of follow-up action by the FVO, with a view to ensuring that suitable action has been taken.

4.1.3 Animal Welfare

A. Mission priorities

Welfare of animals during long-distance journeys continued to be given priority, concentrating on animals imported by road from Central and Eastern European countries and on animals transported by ferry boats. Furthermore, two series of missions to all Member States were started: one to inspect newly approved staging points, and the other concerning minimum housing requirements for pigs and calves on farms.

B. Mission Programme

Details of the missions undertaken are available in Annex I. Eight missions to check animal welfare controls were carried out in 1999. These included five missions to Member States and one mission to a third country for animal transport and two missions to Member States for animal welfare on farms.

In addition, the issue of welfare requirements in relation to slaughter of animals was covered during missions dealing with (poultry)meat production, as were welfare requirements for laying hens in battery cages.

C. General findings

Directive 91/628/EEC on the protection of animals during transport is not adequately enforced in several Member States. There are still major shortcomings in Italy and Greece – countries of destination for many consignments of animals that often suffer during long-distance transport. This was evidenced by incidents of very high mortality amongst sheep at one transfer point in Bari (Italy) in August 1999. Deficiencies were also found with regard to countries of departure – such as Spain, France, Ireland and European third countries - where route planning was not carried out as required by EU legislation.

The shipping of road vehicles loaded with livestock by ferry boats was found to be another area of concern, if the sea-transport takes more than two to five hours.

The results of inspections of approved staging points for resting, watering and feeding animals indicate so far, that their use for multiple purposes may pose potential animal health risks due to the mingling of animals of different health status.

Initial findings with regard to minimum housing requirements for pigs, calves and battery hens include a lack of systematic inspections by the competent national authorities. One of the reported problems referred to overstocking of animals.

Ongoing inspections concerning welfare at slaughter revealed generalised problems concerning instances of ineffective stunning, and stunning equipment that did not conform to the legislative requirements. Major problems were found in several slaughterhouses in Greece, where animals were not properly stunned.

D. Other Activities

The Unit contributed actively to the development of legislative proposals in the animal welfare, public health and animal health sectors. In addition, it worked with colleagues in the legislative services in providing responses to the large number of parliamentary questions raised on animal welfare issues throughout the year.

4.2. UNIT 2 – FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (BIRDS) AND PLANT HEALTH

4.2.1. Production of food of animal (avian) origin

A. Mission priorities

The FVO started a series of missions to all the Member States with regard to the production of poultrymeat. The objective of these missions is to verify whether the central competent authorities have properly transposed the EC legislation concerning in particular: public health requirements, zoonosis control programmes, and welfare requirements in relation to transport and slaughter into national rules, and whether these national rules are properly implemented. In addition, a number of these missions dealt with welfare rules for laying hens in battery cages

As far as third countries are concerned, the poultry group's activities concentrated on public health and animal health requirements regarding the production of fresh poultrymeat and poultrymeat products in certain major exporters to the EU.

B. Mission Programme

Eight missions were carried out in Member States. One mission could not be fully completed due to the dioxin crisis, which required involvement of inspectors in the group.

Apart from the individual mission reports for these inspections, a global report will be drafted at the end of the series of missions, for which completion is scheduled in July 2000. The draft overall report can be expected by the end of that year.

Two missions were carried out in third countries, i.e. Brazil and Thailand.

C. General findings

The first group of missions in the Member States already revealed that improvements in the implementation of Community legislation are necessary, but also that some amendments to and clarification of that legislation may be needed.

Significant deficiencies were noticed during the missions in respect of the following issues, some of them in several Member States:

- The presence of the official veterinarian in the establishments,
- The procedures in place for the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections,
- The establishments' own controls and their supervision by the competent authorities, in particular in relation to the use of potable water,
- The application and implementation of the zoonosis control programme,
- The organisation of the checks in relation to the welfare of laying hens in battery cages.

Appropriate recommendations on these issues were made. Against certain Member States, in which significant deficiencies with regard to the implementation of EU legislation were noticed, the FVO recommended that infringement proceedings should be considered.

Although the inspections in Brazil and Thailand demonstrated generally satisfactory conditions for the production of poultrymeat, deficiencies were noted in Brazil with regard to the number of official veterinarians in the establishments, the practical organisation of the ante-mortem inspection and the notification of Newcastle disease, while in Thailand a major problem with certification was recorded. Recommendations for improvements were made, including for individual establishments, in particular for processed product plants in Brazil.

The follow-up of the recommendations issued after the inspections is in hand. Assurances concerning necessary improvements have been received from most of the countries concerned and, where appropriate, follow-up missions will be organised to check the practical implementation of these assurances.

D. Other activities

- Aside from missions concerning poultrymeat production, members of the group were involved in emergency missions in Belgium and France following the dioxin crisis.
- Three group training sessions were organised, one of them with practical exercises in field situations. Furthermore, one inspector of the group followed a special training course organised by the USA authorities.

4.2.2. Plant health

A. Mission priorities

Priority in the plant health sector was given to inspections on the measures applied in protected zones for certain harmful organisms, and to inspections on the outbreak of harmful organisms in Member States. Missions to third countries focussed on the plant health status vis-à-vis certain harmful organisms in these countries and on the general performance of their plant

protection services, in order to make recommendations for possible derogations for imports into the EU. A series of missions in all Member States, with a view to auditing plant health systems in the potato sector, was also initiated. A complete audit method, including a specific questionnaire, was developed to this end. Finally, a series of missions in Member States concerning the Vademecum for the inspection of imports of plants and plant products from third countries was concluded.

B. Mission programme

The plant health group carried out 15 inspections in Member States and 5 inspections in third countries. In the Member States, seven missions dealt with protected zones, five concerned outbreaks of harmful organisms, one initiated the series of audits in the Member States concerning the potato sector and two missions completed the round of missions concerning the Vademecum.

Four missions in third countries focussed on the possibilities for allowing derogations for imports into the EU (Cuba, Chile, Rumania, Slovenia), and one on the inspection system for ware potatoes for export to the EU (Egypt).

C. General Findings

In relation to the measures applied in some protected zones for various harmful organisms (Rhizomania in the United Kingdom, fireblight in Spain, Ireland, Austria, and Italy, the bufferzone concept for fireblight in Germany, and Citrus tristeza in Greece), the FVO recommended modifications of the present status for some of these zones.

Concerning the outbreaks of harmful organisms within Member States, the outbreak of Pinewood nematode in Portugal was of particular importance, with implications for future mission programmes. A set of emergency measures aimed at a clear identification of the infested area, and at the prevention of any further spread of the pest was recommended.

With the conclusion of the missions concerning the Vademecum, a general report was drawn up, in which the FVO *inter alia* recommended that Member States distribute and apply the amended version of this document.

Following the missions in third countries concerning derogations for imports of plants and plant products, the FVO could recommend to temporarily allow imports of strawberry plants and ware potatoes from Chile and Cuba, respectively. Following a request by Slovenia to be recognised as free from potato ring rot, the FVO evaluated the plant health situation and the performance of its plant protection service. The outcome was such that the FVO could recommend to accept the Slovenian request. The mission to Egypt found that pest-free-areas had been defined and that the inspection system for the surveillance of potato brown rot had been set up.

D. Other Activities

- The development of the electronic information and alert system EUROPHYT entered in its decisive phase. Nine Member States joined the pilot phase, which started in the Autumn.
- Group members were intensively involved in following several Commission working groups, namely on Egyptian potatoes, Pinewood nematode, protected zones and on the solidarity dossier. Two working groups organised by the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) were also attended.

4.2.3. TSEs, animal waste and feedingstuffs

A. Mission priorities

The priorities consisted of a continuation of missions in all Member States concerning in particular BSE - surveillance, and other BSE-related issues (eradication plan, feed ban, trade on waste, labelling of animal feedingstuffs), and specific missions in the UK and Portugal, both related to the safeguard measures (export ban) in place. In addition, priority was given to a follow-up mission in Switzerland in relation to BSE.

B. Mission programme

15 missions were carried out with regard to the application of the EU rules on TSE-related issues. Animal identification rules were regularly included in the scope of the inspections, in particular for the mission carried out on epidemio-surveillance. This was necessary to assess the performance of the competent authorities on their capability to trace back cattle in the event of a BSE-case. Missions already planned for the first half of 2000 will result in the completion of the evaluation exercise as regards the implementation of EU rules on epidemio-surveillance.

Portugal was inspected three times to verify the BSE emergency measures in place, and the United Kingdom was inspected twice for the evaluation of the Date Based Export Scheme (DBES).

In addition, Switzerland was inspected to evaluate the system in place for the epidemio-surveillance, the feed ban, the implementation of the specified bovine offal policy and the processing and disposal of animal waste.

Finally, two urgent missions on TSE related issues were carried out. One in Northern Ireland, concerning the functionality of the computerized system in place to verify the eligibility for cattle intended for slaughter, the other in France, in response to public concern as regard the use of "sludge" in the animal feedstuffs producing industry.

C. General findings

Concerning the missions on epidemio-surveillance, 6 Member States need yet to be inspected before the FVO will be able to provide an overall picture on the epidemio- surveillance systems in place in the Member States.

Concerning the missions in Portugal, the FVO observed a progressive improvement of the overall situation, even though important steps need to be made. As a result, the FVO recommended that there should be no relaxation of the export ban until these remaining problems have been addressed. As regards the missions to United Kingdom on DBES, it was possible to assess both the global architecture (April) and the fully functional system (October). Most of the FVO-recommendations aimed at increasing the performance of "Cattle Identification Inspections" which are performed to validate data which are used in the Scheme.

In relation to the urgent mission in N. Ireland, the UK/NI authorities agreed to take certain immediate actions, and presented an action plan. During a follow-up mission, the deadlines in the action plant were found not all to have been met, although serious efforts were made. The single plant approved for export had its approval revoked.

The urgent mission in France revealed a particular interpretation by the authorities of the meaning of the word "sludge" (as laid down in Commission Decision 91/516/EC), which allows the use of the materials from the waste water purification systems in the animal feedingstuffs industry. It also confirmed that the use of certain material from the waste water purification systems in the rendering industry, which produces compounds used in animal feedstuffs, has been a common practice for a long time.

D. Other Activities

The group contributed to two urgent missions (Belgium, The Netherlands) concerning the dioxin crisis, in order to assess the consequences of the possible use of contaminated feed for animal health.

4.2.4. Import controls, Border inspection posts

A. Mission priorities

Imports of animals and food of animal origin account for about 20% of total imports of food and drink into the EU each year. EU legislation requires that these products must be subject to inspection at specified border inspection posts (BIPs) located at around 290 road, rail, airport or port entry points into the EU.

Under existing legislation, the FVO is required to inspect all large border inspection posts each year, the remainder should be inspected every three years (or annually if there are particular problems). In addition, the Office is required to approve all proposals for new posts or any change in the classification of existing posts.

The priorities focussed on the larger throughput BIPs, those that had not been visited for a certain period of time, and those where problems had been identified during previous missions. In line with the overall development in the FVO, the emphasis has shifted in the course of 1999 to monitoring the actual performance of checks at the posts, and to evaluating the overall management of import controls by the competent authorities.

B. Mission programme

The group carried out 15 inspections in 11 Member States, during which it inspected 53 individual BIPs.

The Office's inspectors also accompanied inspectors from EFTA on two missions in Norway and Iceland to ensure that the operation of import controls in the EU and EFTA areas are being conducted in a similar way.

C. General findings

The deficiencies identified during these inspections can be classified under eight broad headings. The results were as follows:

Deficiencies concerning:	No. of Posts		Deficiencies concerning:	No. of Posts
Organisation	33		Decisions on consignments	28
Documentation	37		Identification of consignments	28
Facilities	50		Checks on consignments	46
Equipment	45		Hygiene	42

Deficiencies identified in FVO inspections in 1999

Recommendations to address the deficiencies found were made to all Member States concerned. The Office is working with the competent authorities in the Member States concerned to monitor progress in the correction of these.

D. Other Activities

The inspectors were heavily involved in the Commission working groups dealing with import controls, in view of their practical experience with the application of the EU-legislation in this field.

4.3. UNIT 3 - FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (FISH) AND FOOD OF NON-ANIMAL ORIGIN

4.3.1. Production of food of animal (fish, crustaceans, bivalve mollusc) origin

A. Mission priorities

High priority was given to the conclusion of a series of missions in all Member States concerning control of the health conditions for the production of live shellfish in Member States, and to Member States in which health problems had been identified. In relation to third countries, priority was given to inspections in countries which are temporarily authorised for imports of fishery products into the EU, with the accent on those with larger export volumes, and to countries in which health problems had been identified

Aside from missions, the evaluation of files submitted by third countries which wish to be eligible for exports of fishery products to the EU continued to be another important part of the group's activities. This evaluation involves a desk analysis of information provided by the authorities related to their controls of fishery products production, the health conditions in the country and the products destined for export to the EU. This evaluation is necessary for the FVO to assess whether, at least on paper, third countries could meet the standards laid down in EU legislation.

B. Mission programme

In total 31 missions (7 in Member States and 24 in third countries) were undertaken.

A cycle of missions in the Member States, which started in 1998, to evaluate the control systems for the production of shellfish was completed.

In third countries, 20 missions concentrated on fishery products, 1 on bivalve molluscs, and 3 covered both fishery products and bivalve molluscs. Missions were classed as evaluation (first time FVO visits) or inspection (follow-up FVO visits).

In addition, a total of 45 documentary audits on third countries were carried out. The information supplied by 6 countries allowed their temporary authorisation. The files provided by the remaining 39 countries were considered insufficient, and further information and additional guarantees were sought.

C. General findings

For live bivalve molluscs, the situation in the Member States was found to be generally satisfactory, with acceptable hygiene standards. The missions also demonstrated the need for existing EU legislation to be brought up-to-date, in order to reflect technological developments. A general review report will be made available in early 2000. Missions to Member States following notifications through the Rapid Alert System showed the need for a more uniform application of the relevant EC legislation.

The standards applied concerning controls on the production did not raise significant concerns in most of the countries visited. However, in two cases, the deficiencies observed were sufficiently serious to recommend the suspension of the authorisation for the import of fishery products.

Problems on the health controls of fishery products were nevertheless identified. Most common deficiencies were the failure to implement own-checks systems in establishments, a lack of staff resources in and training of the inspection services, and a lack of laboratory facilities and supervisory activities. Corrective measures following recommendations made by the FVO generally resulted in improvements that allowed permanent import authorisation.

Missions to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania concentrated on corrective actions on the alleged illegal use of pesticides in the fishery sector in Lake Victoria. The situation in Kenya and Uganda

was found to be unsatisfactory and no export from these countries to the EU is currently allowed. For Tanzania the ban was lifted after satisfactory corrective actions by the Tanzanian authorities.

4.3.2. Production of food of non-animal origin

A. Mission priorities

In relation to pesticides, the continuation of visits to evaluate national and co-ordinated monitoring programmes in all Member States was given priority.

In the field of organic farming, priority was given to the continued evaluation of imports and import controls in the main importing Member States, and to controls in third countries currently on the equivalency list, or applying for equivalent status.

As far as contaminants are concerned, priority was given to countries where specific problems had (repeatedly) been identified.

Finally, in the field of food hygiene, priority was given to the initiation of missions concerning the application of HACCP-principles in the processing and retail sector.

B. Mission programme

A total of 14 missions was carried out, of which 8 in Member States, and 6 in third countries: three missions concerning pesticides, six on organic farming, four in relation to contaminants (contamination with aflatoxins and radio-activity), and one on food hygiene.

C. General findings

Missions concerning pesticides in the Member States revealed that national and EU co-ordinated monitoring programmes have been implemented in the Member States. However, certain shortcomings were also noted, e.g. in relation to certain sampling procedures, which would need to be revised, and in relation to the accreditation of laboratories, which was not always satisfactory. It was also noted that in some cases, the spectrum of pesticides analysed is too limited. Community funding for proficiency tests is considered necessary by the FVO.

A number of specific recommendations were made on the handling of the problem with chlormequat in Belgian pears.

Missions concerning organic farming in the Member States demonstrated that most imports of organically grown products take place on the basis of case-by-case import authorisations. Due to the lack of harmonisation of import procedures within the EU, the situation often poses difficulties for the importers.

Concerning organic farming control systems in third countries, the Czech Republic was found ready to be included on the approved list of third countries.

The missions concerning contamination problems in third countries revealed that although these countries try to comply with Community requirements by setting up control systems (and including the improvement of the laboratory facilities), these systems were not entirely satisfying and recommendations for improvement were made.

Following the one HACCP-mission, recommendations were made to address certain shortcomings.

D. Other Activities

- Supervisory visits were carried out to two laboratories involved in the Commission's "Food Quality Project".

- The group provided three lectures to explain the work of the FVO, in particular regarding the aspect of food of plant origin, and participated in a workshop on analytical quality procedures for laboratories involved in the EU co-ordinated pesticide residue monitoring programme.
- Within the context of the latter, the group also compiled the 1997 monitoring report on pesticide residues.

4.3.3. Residues and laboratory controls

A. Mission priorities

The following priorities were identified: in Member States, the completion of the general review of Member States on residue controls, and a start with the follow-up of these missions. In third countries, missions to major exporters to the EU, Eastern candidate countries and EFTA countries, and follow-up missions where unsatisfactory results were recorded previously.

B. Mission Programme

In the Member States, 13 missions were undertaken: four missions concluded the first round of residue missions since Directive 96/23/EC entered into force. Follow-up missions were carried out in Spain and the United Kingdom (laboratory).

In addition, urgent non-planned missions had to be undertaken, as a result of the dioxin crisis (two missions in Belgium, and missions in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain) and following the contamination of Coca-Cola products (Belgium and France).

In third countries, 11 missions were carried out: three follow-up missions (USA: 2 missions concerning non-hormone treated beef, and China), three to major exporters (Brazil, Zimbabwe, Botswana), two to Eastern European and EFTA-countries (Czech Republic and Norway), and urgent missions following illegal use of pesticides (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, see above, 4.3.1).

C. General findings

The series of missions in the Member States revealed that although some improvements were realised since the new legislation entered into force (1 July 1997), the general situation cannot yet be considered as satisfactory:

- Some Member States do not allocate sufficient resources to residue control, therefore important differences between MS were noted and there is a major lack of uniformity in the way in which the requirements are applied.
- In many occasions, laboratory services were found to be unsatisfactory, in particular as far as quality assurance/quality control is concerned.
- a flourishing black market for veterinary drugs (sold without any veterinary supervision) and forbidden substances (growth promoters) still exists in Europe.

In addition, the missions following the dioxin crisis showed that the systems to protect consumer health are not yet fully secure enough in Europe, and that the systems in place to handle a major crisis were not fully reliable or efficient.

In third countries, there is a general lack of comprehension of the European requirements concerning residue control, in particular as regards the products which were not covered by the previous legislation, i.e. poultry meat, aquaculture products, milk, eggs and honey.

Moreover, since 1997 third countries did not receive feedback from the residue monitoring plans sent to the relevant Commission services (due to a shortage of staff). This gave them the feeling that the matter was not really important and did not encourage improvements in that field.

In addition, laboratory services were in several cases found to be insufficient.

However, China, which received the help of outside consultants to improve their residue control system with the financial support of the Commission, proved to be a good example showing that major improvements can be achieved in a short period of time, if technical help is provided.

D. Other Activities

- Participation in working groups chaired by the legislative services: residue monitoring plans evaluation, Harmonisation of the presentation of results and plans, abuse and misuse of hormones.
- Preparation and presentation (SVC) of a report on Member States results for the year 1997, as foreseen by Article 8§3 and 8§5 of Directive 96/23/EC.
- Participation in an international conference (OIE) in Hanoi (Vietnam) to present the new requirements for residue controls to third countries authorities.

4.4 QUALITY AND PLANNING SECTION (QPS)

The Quality and Planning Section (QPS) paid particular attention to the development, launching and monitoring of the July-December 1999 mission programme, and the development of the programme for January-June 2000.

The development of the mission database, containing all information necessary to allow monitoring of the progress of both the mission programme and individual missions was given a high priority. It became fully operational in the course of 1999. Work has started to replace this database by one which should allow further elements concerning the preparation of missions and their execution, report submission, and follow-up to be incorporated

In terms of working procedures, a second Manual of Operations came into effect on 1 March 1999, providing guidance for FVO staff on the planning, performance and reporting of control and inspection missions, and acts as the central reference point for these issues. In the course of the year, further procedures were introduced, and incorporated in a third version of the Manual introduced in September. In addition, and with a view to ensuring uniformity and to avoid undue delays, sets of standard letters were introduced; a draft standard report layout is in its trial phase.

The QPS provides advice on the application of these procedures across the FVO, with a view to promoting a harmonised approach to these core elements of the FVO's responsibilities. Moreover, the QPS carries out systematic quality checks on mission reports to ensure that these are in line with these procedures.

Similarly, the reports are subject to controls by the legal advisers, which also provide support on legal issues in the planning phase of missions. In addition, the legal advisers were involved in a number of areas which impact on the ability of the FVO to carry out inspections, in particular animal welfare issues and the development by the legislative services of texts which extend the legal basis of current FVO control activities.

Further important initiatives in the on-going development of the FVO concerned the drafting of both the overall framework for an FVO Quality Management System, and its specific operational procedures (following accepted international standards), necessary for the FVO to implement the audit-based approach for its evaluation of the performance of official services and its other inspection activities. These are currently subject to consultation within the FVO, with a view to their introduction in the Spring of 2000.

5. RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION

5.1 Personnel and recruitment

The recruitment drive to fill new posts allocated to the FVO, which began in 1998, was intensified in 1999. This resulted in a 50% increase in staff, to 154, of whom 87 were inspectors, with administrative and support staff making up the remainder. Thus over a two year period, both overall staff numbers and the number of inspectors more than doubled. By the end of the period under review the bulk of available posts had been filled.

5.2 Training

Training of FVO staff remained a high priority in 1999. Particular attention was paid to the needs of new inspectors. To equip them to carry out their duties a range of technical training was provided as part of the overall training programme of the Office. A core element was an in-house FVO induction course to familiarise inspectors with FVO procedures and relevant EU legislation, and to provide instruction in the conduct of missions. A number of inspectors also attended a one week external training course in auditing (ISO9000). Additional, more specific, technical training was also provided, where required, in areas such as epidemiology and HACCP audit. This formal training was complemented by on-the-job training involving the participation of the trainees in actual missions, under the supervision of experienced inspectors.

In 1999, the Member States participated in the FVO training programme by providing both trainers and trainees for the FVO induction courses. The Irish authorities also gave considerable assistance in the organisation and conduct of a pilot training course in HACCP.

Administrative and language training also formed an important part of the training programme of the Office.

In all, a total of 1279 man/days were devoted to training in 1999, of which 450 man/days were for courses catering for the special needs of inspectors.

5.3 Buildings

In September 1999, the FVO moved to a new temporary premises in Dublin sufficiently large to accommodate the entire staff. Meanwhile, work on the building of a permanent premises in Grange, Co Meath had begun, with a view to completion by the end of 2001.

6. FUTURE PLANNING

The FVO will continue to implement the changes to its responsibilities and working methods announced in the two Commission communications on consumer health protection in 1997 and 1998.

The agreement on and introduction of the Quality Management System including Standard Operational Procedures will confirm the new working practices of the FVO in a manner that is transparent to the outside world.

The increasing emphasis placed on the (monitoring of) effective follow-up to mission recommendations will more clearly demonstrate where identified problems have been adequately addressed.

Together with the establishment of clear targets, and the development of an accompanying inspection strategy supported, where possible, by longer term mission programme planning, the FVO should be in a position to contribute significantly to improving operational standards applied in the sectors falling under its responsibility, and thus towards the maintenance of confidence in the safety of food offered to the European consumer.

FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999**Annex I**

(In chronological order, by Unit)

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
1	18/01/99	22/01/99	Yugoslavia	1000/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products
1	25/01/99	29/01/99	France	1012/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis
1	1/02/99	5/02/99	Greece	1009/1999	Disease outbreak - Bluetongue
1	1/02/99	3/02/99	United States	1094/1999	Food production - wild game meat/products/preparations
1	8/02/99	11/02/99	Luxembourg	1037/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	8/02/99	12/02/99	Portugal	1014/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis
1	8/02/99	12/02/99	Bulgaria	1013/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH
1	8/02/99	11/02/99	Luxembourg	1110/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	17/02/99	18/02/99	Germany	1105/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	21/02/99	4/03/99	Mexico	1095/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	22/02/99	26/02/99	Macedonia	1017/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH
1	1/03/99	5/03/99	Denmark	1018/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	8/03/99	12/03/99	Italy	1020/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis
1	15/03/99	19/03/99	Spain	1023/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	15/03/99	19/03/99	Belgium	1019/1999	Disease contingency plans
1	15/03/99	19/03/99	Italy	1099/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	18/03/99	26/03/99	Ireland	1026/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br abortus
1	21/03/99	28/03/99	Poland	1036/1999	Animal welfare - Transport/markets
1	21/03/99	28/03/99	Romania	1024/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH
1	21/03/99	28/03/99	Germany	1015/1999	Animal welfare - Transport/markets
1	24/03/99	25/03/99	Netherlands	1115/1999	Disease outbreak - SVD
1	10/04/99	25/04/99	United States	1106/1999	Audit of CA in TC - subsequent
1	11/04/99	16/04/99	Italy	1011/1999	Erad/control programmes - B. leucosis/TBC/BB
1	14/04/99	19/04/99	Germany	1121/1999	Disease outbreak - Other diseases
1	19/04/99	23/04/99	Portugal	1016/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	19/04/99	23/04/99	Spain	1100/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	21/04/99	23/04/99	Spain	1122/1999	Disease outbreak - Other diseases
1	26/04/99	30/04/99	Spain	1028/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis
1	2/05/99	7/05/99	Bulgaria	1025/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	3/05/99	7/05/99	France	1108/1999	Disease outbreak - Other diseases
1	3/05/99	7/05/99	United States	1096/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	17/05/99	21/05/99	Romania	1021/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	31/05/99	4/06/99	Finland	1032/1999	Erad/control programmes - Rabies
1	14/06/99	18/06/99	Italy	1143/1999	Disease contingency plans

FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999**Annex I
(contd.)**

(In chronological order, by Unit)

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
1	14/06/99	18/06/99	France	1112/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	21/06/99	25/06/99	Greece	1035/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis
1	28/06/99	2/07/99	United States	1186/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	5/07/99	9/07/99	France	1144/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br abortus
1	12/07/99	23/07/99	Poland	1116/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	12/07/99	16/07/99	Croatia	1158/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products
1	18/08/99	21/08/99	Greece	1233/1999	Disease outbreak - Bluetongue
1	30/08/99	3/09/99	Finland	1152/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	6/09/99	10/09/99	Slovenia	1174/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	19/09/99	24/09/99	Croatia	1175/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	27/09/99	1/10/99	Netherlands	1235/1999	Animal welfare - On-farm
1	27/09/99	1/10/99	Hungary	1156/1999	Import controls - animals/animal products
1	27/09/99	1/10/99	Sweden	1153/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	29/09/99	1/10/99	Italy	1238/1999	Ident/cert/movement - Wild and farmed game meat
1	3/10/99	8/10/99	Macedonia	1031/1999	Food production - red meat (sheep and goats)
1	4/10/99	8/10/99	Belgium	1145/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	5/10/99	8/10/99	Germany	1169/1999	Animal welfare - Transport/markets
1	18/10/99	22/10/99	Greece	1157/1999	Disease outbreak - Bluetongue
1	18/10/99	29/10/99	Brazil	1173/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	18/10/99	22/10/99	Austria	1146/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	20/10/99	29/10/99	Portugal	1162/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br abortus
1	2/11/99	5/11/99	France	1166/1999	Animal welfare - Transport/markets
1	8/11/99	24/11/99	Australia	1170/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	8/11/99	12/11/99	Iceland	1154/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	15/11/99	19/11/99	Portugal	1022/1999	Animal welfare - Transport/markets
1	21/11/99	23/11/99	Portugal	1244/1999	Disease outbreak - ASF
1	22/11/99	26/11/99	Spain	1165/1999	Erad/control programmes - Br abortus
1	22/11/99	26/11/99	Netherlands	1147/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	6/12/99	10/12/99	Slovakia	1172/1999	Food production - red meat/products/preparations
1	6/12/99	10/12/99	Slovakia	1155/1999	Food production - milk/products
1	13/12/99	17/12/99	Slovenia	1247/1999	Food production - wild game meat/products/preparations
1	13/12/99	17/12/99	Denmark	1215/1999	Disease contingency plans FMD and CSF
2	11/01/99	15/01/99	Germany	1003/1999	Import from TCs - Vademecum

FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

(In chronological order, by Unit)

**Annex I
(contd.)**

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
2	11/01/99	15/01/99	Germany	1002/1999	Pest erad/control progs - Protected zones
2	11/01/99	15/01/99	Ireland	1077/1999	TSEs
2	18/01/99	20/01/99	Ireland	1043/1999	TSEs
2	8/02/99	12/02/99	Switzerland	1046/1999	TSEs
2	22/02/99	26/02/99	Spain	1045/1999	Border inspection posts
2	22/02/99	3/03/99	Portugal	1044/1999	TSEs
2	26/02/99	5/03/99	Egypt	1047/1999	Import from TCs - Minimum conditions
2	2/03/99	5/03/99	Greece	1048/1999	Import from TCs - Vademecum
2	2/03/99	5/03/99	Greece	1098/1999	Protected zones -Citrus Tristeza Virus
2	15/03/99	25/03/99	Brazil	1033/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	29/03/99	2/04/99	Greece	1055/1999	Border inspection posts
2	12/04/99	16/04/99	United Kingdom	1054/1999	Date Based Export Scheme (BSE)
2	13/04/99	15/04/99	United Kingdom	1053/1999	Protected zones -BYNNV
2	19/04/99	23/04/99	Netherlands	1060/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	26/04/99	30/04/99	Romania	1052/1999	Import from TCs - Derogations
2	17/05/99	21/05/99	Germany	1062/1999	Border inspection posts
2	17/05/99	19/05/99	United Kingdom	1141/1999	ECHS systems
2	28/05/99	28/05/99	United Kingdom	1178/1999	TSEs
2	31/05/99	4/06/99	Spain	1059/1999	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora
2	31/05/99	4/06/99	France	1118/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	31/05/99	4/06/99	Slovenia	1065/1999	Import from TCs - Derogations
2	31/05/99	4/06/99	France	1058/1999	TSEs
2	31/05/99	31/05/99	Belgium	1139/1999	Border inspection posts
2	1/06/99	2/06/99	Netherlands	1140/1999	Border inspection posts
2	14/06/99	18/06/99	Portugal	1061/1999	TSEs
2	20/06/99	25/06/99	Denmark	1063/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	21/06/99	24/06/99	Finland	1120/1999	Border inspection posts
2	30/06/99	2/07/99	Netherlands	1057/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Ornamentals, incl. Bonsais
2	30/06/99	2/07/99	Netherlands	1181/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Ornamentals, incl. Bonsais
2	2/07/99	2/07/99	Germany	1197/1999	Border inspection posts
2	5/07/99	9/07/99	Italy	1067/1999	Border inspection posts/Animal welfare - Transport/market
2	18/07/99	23/07/99	Cuba	1148/1999	Import from TCs - Derogations
2	19/07/99	23/07/99	Ireland	1119/1999	TSE's
2	22/07/99	30/07/99	Italy	1189/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Arable crops
2	22/07/99	30/07/99	Italy	1188/1999	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora

FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

(In chronological order, by Unit)

**Annex I
(contd.)**

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
2	19/08/99	20/08/99	France	1234/1999	Animal feedstuffs
2	23/08/99	27/08/99	United Kingdom	1211/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	7/09/99	10/09/99	Austria	1200/1999	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora
2	9/09/99	10/09/99	Luxembourg	1201/1999	Border inspection posts
2	13/09/99	16/09/99	Portugal	1223/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Forest plants/products
2	13/09/99	17/09/99	France	1202/1999	Border inspection posts
2	27/09/99	1/10/99	Netherlands	1232/1999	TSEs
2	4/10/99	15/10/99	Italy	1212/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	4/10/99	8/10/99	United Kingdom	1230/1999	TSEs
2	11/10/99	13/10/99	Ireland	1208/1999	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora
2	18/10/99	22/10/99	United Kingdom	1203/1999	Border inspection posts
2	18/10/99	22/10/99	Belgium	1229/1999	TSEs
2	18/10/99	29/10/99	Spain	1213/1999	Poultry meat
2	25/10/99	29/10/99	Portugal	1227/1999	BSE emergency measures
2	2/11/99	5/11/99	Spain	1240/1999	Plant pest outbreak -Ornamentals, incl. Bonsais
2	10/11/99	24/11/99	Ireland	1236/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	15/11/99	19/11/99	Germany	1204/1999	Border inspection posts
2	22/11/99	26/11/99	Ireland	1241/1999	Audit of CA in MS - partial
2	29/11/99	3/12/99	Netherlands	1205/1999	Border inspection posts
2	30/11/99	1/12/99	United Kingdom	1245/1999	Border inspection posts
2	6/12/99	13/12/99	Thailand	1214/1999	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations
2	13/12/99	17/12/99	Chile	1206/1999	Import from TCs - Derogations
2	16/12/99	17/12/99	Austria	1246/1999	Border inspection posts
3	11/01/99	15/01/99	Brazil	1005/1999	Contaminants
3	18/01/99	22/01/99	United Kingdom	1001/1999	Organic farming controls
3	22/01/99	22/01/99	Ireland	1079/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	25/01/99	29/01/99	Denmark	1004/1999	Residues
3	1/02/99	5/02/99	Portugal	1006/1999	Residues
3	15/02/99	19/02/99	Portugal	1038/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	22/02/99	26/02/99	United Kingdom	1042/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	22/02/99	26/02/99	Spain	1041/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	22/02/99	26/02/99	Germany	1039/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	28/02/99	5/03/99	Pakistan	1069/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	4/03/99	19/03/99	Australia	1093/1999	Organic farming controls

FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

(In chronological order, by Unit)

**Annex I
(contd.)**

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
3	8/03/99	12/03/99	India	1070/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	15/03/99	19/03/99	Saint Lucia	1091/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	15/03/99	25/03/99	Brazil	1034/1999	Residues
3	19/03/99	3/04/99	Venezuela	1071/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	21/03/99	26/03/99	Czech Republic	1008/1999	Residues
3	22/03/99	24/03/99	Germany	1113/1999	Food-borne diseases
3	22/03/99	22/03/99	Finland	1107/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	28/03/99	1/04/99	Greece	1040/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	6/04/99	9/04/99	Denmark	1073/1999	Pesticides - Residues
3	19/04/99	30/04/99	Jamaica	1085/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	19/04/99	30/04/99	Bahamas	1081/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	25/04/99	30/04/99	Austria	1074/1999	Residues
3	26/04/99	7/05/99	Czech Republic	1089/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	26/04/99	7/05/99	Hungary	1084/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	3/05/99	7/05/99	Portugal	1104/1999	Pesticides - Residues
3	28/05/99	16/06/99	China	1072/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	31/05/99	4/06/99	France	1131/1999	Organic farming controls
3	31/05/99	2/06/99	Luxembourg	1007/1999	Residues
3	8/06/99	11/06/99	Belgium	1177/1999	Dioxine
3	10/06/99	16/06/99	Netherlands	1180/1999	Contaminants
3	14/06/99	18/06/99	Croatia	1082/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	15/06/99	18/06/99	France	1184/1999	Residues - dioxins
3	21/06/99	25/06/99	Slovenia	1090/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	21/06/99	24/06/99	Germany	1185/1999	Contaminants
3	22/06/99	25/06/99	Belgium + France	1187/1999	Contaminants-soft drinks
3	28/06/99	2/07/99	Latvia	1086/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	28/06/99	2/07/99	Spain	1190/1999	Residues - dioxins
3	5/07/99	9/07/99	Lithuania	1087/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	5/07/99	9/07/99	Brazil	1198/1999	Contaminants
3	18/07/99	24/07/99	Turkey	1199/1999	Food production - bivalve molluscs
3	26/07/99	30/07/99	Czech Republic	1102/1999	Organic farming controls
3	15/08/99	27/08/99	Kenya	1127/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	15/08/99	27/08/99	Tanzania	1128/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	15/08/99	27/08/99	Uganda	1129/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	16/08/99	20/08/99	Egypt	1216/1999	Contaminants (aflatoxins)

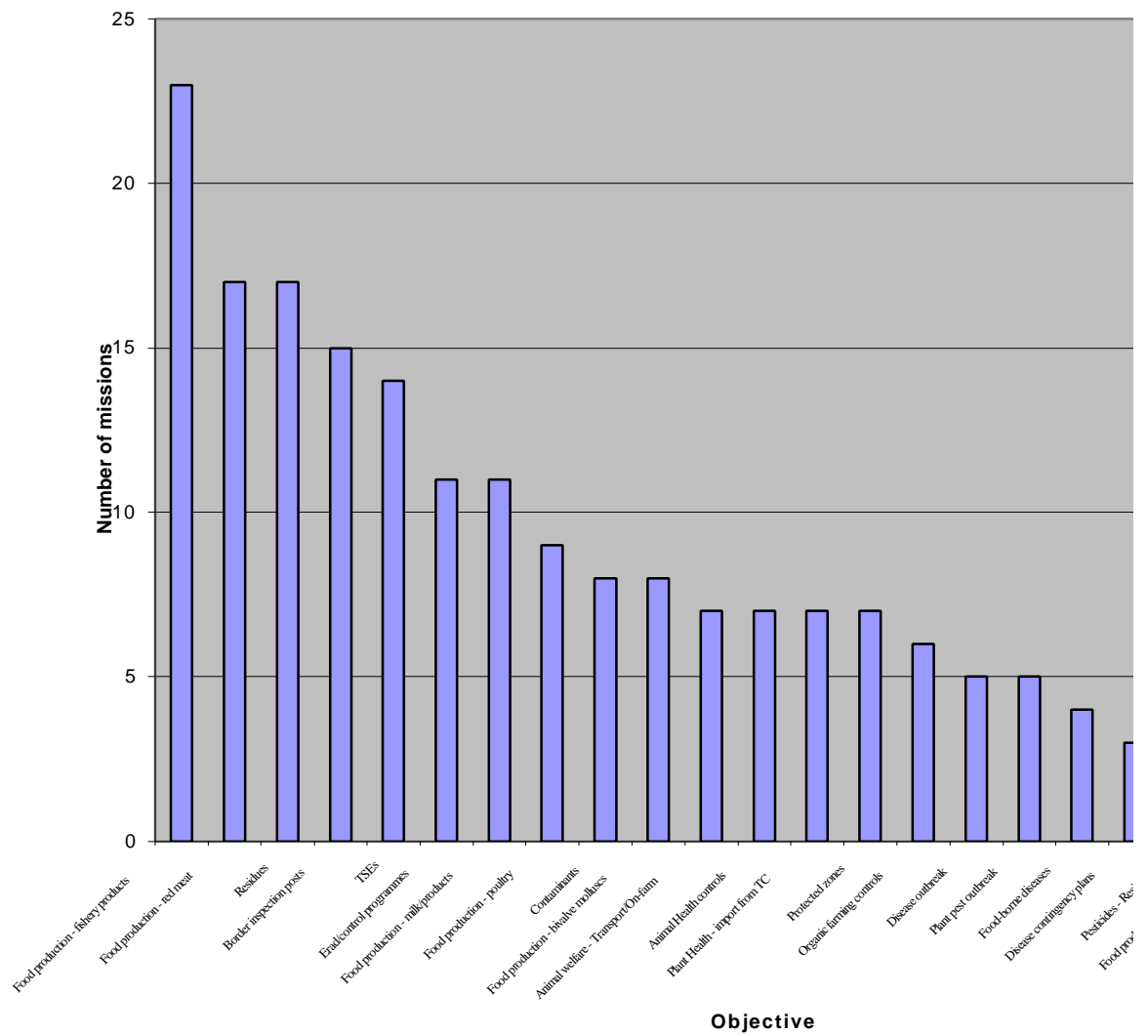
FVO MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

(In chronological order, by Unit)

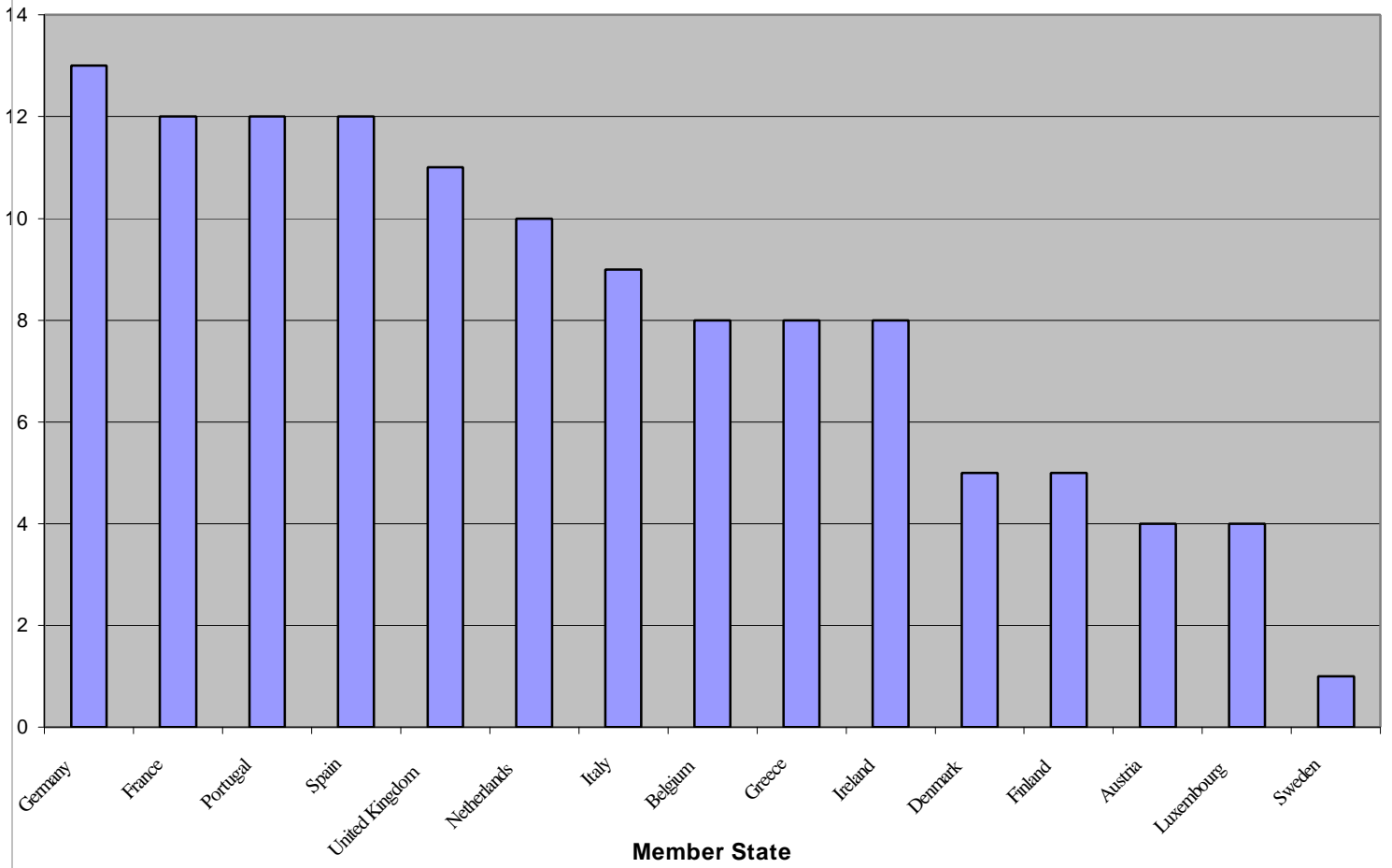
**Annex I
(contd.)**

Unit	Start date	Finish date	Country	Ref No.	Objective
3	30/08/99	3/09/99	Belgium	1226/1999	Contaminants (dioxin)
3	26/09/99	1/10/99	Poland	1088/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	27/09/99	1/10/99	Spain	1142/1999	Residues
3	2/10/99	14/10/99	Vietnam	1130/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	9/10/99	22/10/99	China	1133/1999	Residues
3	11/10/99	15/10/99	Germany	1101/1999	Organic farming controls
3	18/10/99	22/10/99	Bulgaria	1126/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	19/10/99	22/10/99	Belgium	1239/1999	Pears/chlormequat
3	20/10/99	30/10/99	Namibia	1092/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	24/10/99	30/10/99	Finland	1218/1999	HACCP-Food
3	3/11/99	13/11/99	United States	1076/1999	Evaluation of non-hormone treated cattle programme (NHTC)
3	12/11/99	26/11/99	Iran	1125/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	12/11/99	19/11/99	Israel	1109/1999	Organic farming controls
3	16/11/99	17/11/99	United Kingdom	1075/1999	Residues
3	21/11/99	4/12/99	Botswana	1219/1999	Residues
3	21/11/99	4/12/99	Zimbabwe	1220/1999	Residues
3	28/11/99	3/12/99	Senegal	1123/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	28/11/99	11/12/99	Cape Verde	1242/1999	Food production - fish/fishery products
3	29/11/99	3/12/99	Poland	1243/1999	Radioactivity contamination foodstuff

Missions FVO 1999: Objectives



FVO Missions 1999: Distribution in Member States



The following areas constitute the main priorities for FVO missions in the first semester of 2000:

1. Food Safety

1.1 Member States

1. Series of missions in all Member States will be continued or concluded in the following sectors:

- **Poultry-meat production** The programme concentrates on controls over the whole production chain, including on-farm disease controls, and with attention for certain zoonoses (Salmonella); The programme also includes welfare-aspects (laying hens);
- **Milk and milk products**
- **TSE-controls:** the series of missions concerning TSE-surveillance will be concluded, where appropriate combined with follow-ups on previous missions (animal waste, feed ban);
- Concerning **food of non-animal origin** missions concerning the application of HACCP-systems in the retail sector will continue. Furthermore, visits concerning **pesticides** and **organic farming** will be continued.

2. Follow-up missions and re-visits will be carried out concerning:

- **residue programmes**

3. New series of missions will be started in the following areas:

- with regard to meat and meat products, series of missions will be started concerning **pig meat production, meat products and preparations, and game meat**
- **the production of animal feedstuffs**

1.2 The programme for **Border Inspection Posts** will continue, but will focus more on the competent authority performance than was previously the case. The issue of inspection fees will continue to be dealt with in this area.

1.3 Third Countries:

- Assessment of CA performance in third countries which export to the EU on the basis of Council Decision 95/408/EC, which establishes provisional lists of authorised third countries and establishments. In this context, controls concerning **fishery products and bivalve molluscs (country lists), milk products, certain meat products and certain categories of game meat** will be of particular importance.
- certain missions are planned concerning **waste, processed animal proteins** and products therefrom;
- the series of missions concerning **residue programmes** will concentrate on larger producers and will take account of the relevant products;

- concerning **organic farming** one third country mission is foreseen within the framework of an existing equivalency agreement;
- missions concerning **contaminants** will be carried out in 1 third country where the Rapid Alert System has identified regular excessive radioactivity levels in certain products.

2. Animal Health and Welfare

2.1 Member States

1. The series of missions in Member States will be continued concerning **disease contingency plans**, concerning Foot- and mouth disease and Classical Swine Fever.
2. Follow-up missions and re-visits will be carried out concerning:
 - **animal welfare** and concentrating on staging posts. The checks on the application of EU welfare rules for slaughter will continue to be included in visits to slaughterhouses;
 - certain EU-funded **disease eradication programmes** in countries where problems were identified.
3. New series of missions will be started in the following areas:
 - concerning **animal health** new missions will be planned concerning certification and movement control of live animals;
 - In relation to **animal welfare** a new series of missions will be started concerning the housing of calves (for veal production), and pigs.

2.2 Third Countries:

In relation to animal health, **animal disease control procedures** will be subject to inspections in relation to exports and certification of live animals, and animal products.

3. Plant Health

3.1 Member States

1. Follow-up missions, re-visits and routine missions will be carried out, concentrating on disease outbreaks;
2. New series of audit-type missions will be started in the areas of potato crops and fruit plants.

3.2 Third Countries:

missions are envisaged in relation to requests for the recognition of disease-free status, and with a view to establishing controls in place following the interception in the EU of diseased material.

BELGIUM:

Fresh Meat - pig meat
Meat products/preparations
Game Meat
On-farm Welfare
Poultry meat production
[Pesticides]

DENMARK:

Meat products/preparations
On-farm welfare
TSEs
Plant health - Potatoes
BIPs

GERMANY:

Fresh Meat - pig meat
Milk/Milk products
Contingency plans
Poultrymeat production
Plant health – Potatoes
Animal feedstuffs
TSEs
BIPs
Laboratory Controls – CRL CSF

GREECE:

Milk/Milk products
Transport of live animals
Poultrymeat production, zoonoses
Plant health – Potatoes
Contaminants
Residue monitoring

SPAIN:

Fresh Meat - pig meat
Meat Products & Preparations
Game Meat
Staging points/Transport
Plant health – Forest plants
BIPs
TSEs

FRANCE:

Fresh Meat - pig meat
Meat Products & Preparations
Game Meat
Certification/Movement control
Plant health – fruit plants
Plant health – forest plants
BIPs
Laboratory Controls – CRL Milk

IRELAND:

Milk/Milk products
Certification/Movement control
Eradication programmes – *Tuberculosis*
BIPs
Fishery Products

ITALY:

Game Meat
Milk/Milk products
Eradication programmes – *B. Melitensis*
Staging points/Transport
Plant health – fruit plants
TSEs
Animal feedstuffs
Pesticide Controls
Contaminants
Organic Farming

LUXEMBOURG:

Milk/Milk products
Poultrymeat production

NETHERLANDS:

Fresh Meat - pig meat
Meat Products & Preparations
Game Meat
BIPs
Pesticides

AUSTRIA:

Contingency plans
Staging points/Transport
Poultrymeat production
BIPs
Food Controls – HACCP
Fishery Products

PORTUGAL:

Milk/Milk products
Eradication programmes – *B. Melitensis*
Poultrymeat Production
Plant health – Outbreaks
TSEs
Food Controls - HACCP

FINLAND:

Contingency plans
Poultrymeat Production
TSEs
BIPs

SWEDEN:

Contingency plans
On-farm welfare
Poultrymeat Production
Animal feedstuffs
Food Controls – HACCP

UNITED KINGDOM:

Milk/Milk products
On-farm welfare, staging posts
TSEs
BIPs
Aquaculture
Pesticide Controls

**Inspections FVO January-June 2000
Third Countries**

**Annex IV
(cont.)**

(ALBANIA)

- Animal Health

ANGOLA:

- Fishery Products

ARGENTINA:

- Meat Products & Preparations
- Milk/Milk products
- Organic Farming
- Residue Monitoring

AUSTRALIA:

- Fresh Meat
- Residue Monitoring

BELIZE:

- Fishery Products

BOTSWANA:

- Animal Health - FMD (combined Zimbabwe/Swaziland)

BULGARIA

- Residue Monitoring
- Laboratory Controls: FMD Lab.

CAMEROON:

- Fishery Products

CANADA:

- Fresh Meat (CA audit, pig meat)
- Waste / by-products
- Residue monitoring

CHILE :

- Animal Health
- Residue monitoring

COSTA RICA:

- Fishery Products

CYPRUS:

- Animal Health – General
- Fishery Products

CZECH REPUBLIC:

- Game Meat
- Milk/Milk products

EGYPT:

- Plant health - Potatoes

FAROE ISLANDS:

- Bivalve Molluscs

GABON:

- Fishery products

GREENLAND:

- Bivalve Molluscs
- Fishery Products

HONDURAS:

- Fishery Products

HUNGARY:

- Fresh Meat
- Meat products & Preparations
- Game Meat
- Poultrymeat Production
- Residue monitoring

ICELAND:

- BIPs
- (- Fishery Products)
- Residue monitoring

KAZAKHSTAN:

- Fishery Products

LAOS:

- Animal health - "balai" -products

LEBANON:

- Animal welfare - transport

MALTA:

- Fishery Products

MOZAMBIQUE

- Fishery Products

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES:

- Fishery Products

(NEW CALEDONIA):

- Fishery Products

NICARAGUA:

- Fishery Products

NORWAY:

- BIPs

POLAND:
- Game Meat
- Meat Products & Preparations

RUSSIA:
- Residue monitoring

SINGAPORE:
- Milk/Milk products

SLOVAK REPUBLIC:
- Game Meat
- Plant health - Potato crops
- Plant health - Fruit plants

SLOVENIA:
- Residue Monitoring

(SOLOMON ISLANDS:)
- Fishery Products

SOUTH AFRICA:
- Game Meat

ST. VINCENT/GRENADINES:
- Fishery Products

SWAZILAND:
- Animal Health - FMD (combined
Zimbabwe/Botswana)

SWITZERLAND:
- Fresh Meat

TAIWAN:
- Animal health - "balai"-products

TUNISIA:
- Poultrymeat Production

TURKEY:
- Milk/Milk products

UKRAINE:
- Contaminants (radio-activity)

USA:
- Fresh Meat (CA audit, pig meat)
- Plant health - Citrus fruits
(- Fishery Products)
(- Residue Monitoring)

URUGUAY:
- Meat Products
- Milk/Milk products
- Animal Health – FMD, CSF

ZIMBABWE:
- Meat Products
- Animal Health – FMD (combined
Botswana/Swaziland)

Organisation FVO

