FOREWORD

In 2016, TRACES users further intensified their activities, with over 35 000 users worldwide generating nearly 2 million certificates and official attestations concerning trade within the European Union (EU), monitoring procedures at borders, but also imports and exports of animals, semen and embryos, food, animal feed, animal by-products and, last but not least, plants.

Compared to 2015, the number of certificates and documents generated under the TRACES system has risen by more than 10 %. At the level of the EU Member States and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, this growth results mainly from an increase in the number of trade documents (25 %), border control documents for plants (50 %) and export certificates (70 %). Non-member countries and overseas territories issued nearly 100 000 certificates. This 50 % increase is attributable to the membership of four new countries (Australia, Myanmar, Moldova and Maldives), bringing the total to 50 countries, and to the increased use of TRACES by the countries wishing to participate.

In 2016, above all else the reorganisation of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), led to the creation of Unit G5, called ‘Alerts, Traceability and Committees’, responsible for the management of all the computerised health monitoring systems, TRACES, RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed), EUROPHYT (European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions) and the administrative cooperation system against fraud, and with the aim in particular to develop essential synergies for the optimisation of health protection.

The adoption of the ‘Animal Health Law’ (Regulation (EU) 2016/429) and the ‘Plant Health Law’ (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031), published on 31 March and 23 November 2016 respectively, supplemented by the new Regulation on ‘controls and official certification’ (Regulation (EU) 2017/625) of 7 April 2017, provides the future action framework for these computerised health systems, which are to be integrated in a single platform (IMSOC: information management system for official controls). This legislation will enter into force from December 2019.

In anticipation of the implementing act relating to the introduction of the harmonised common health entry document (CHED), designed to carry out health checks at borders and provided for in Article 56 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, discussions on control procedures at borders of animals, plants and food and feed have already been conducted within European Commission working groups and also, for plants, under the aegis of the rotating Presidencies of the European Union, held by the Netherlands and Slovakia. All these discussions allowed the creation of the document which forms the basis for the next border control module developed on the new TRACES platform: TNT (TRACES New Technology). This module for the control of plants will be brought into service during the last quarter of 2017, in association with the plant import certification module.

These two modules will be added to two other modules introduced in 2016, the result of the fruitful collaboration between DG SANTE and DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), on the one hand, and DG Environment (DG ENV), on the other, under memoranda of understanding, in order here too to develop synergies in matters of border control. In this way, the certification of inspection for imported organic products (COI) module, developed for DG AGRI, was launched on 19 April 2016. The use of TRACES will be mandatory for the preparation of these certificates from 19 October 2017 under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1842. The module for the certification of imports of precious woods (FLEGT: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) of DG ENV was launched on 15 November 2016.

Finally, to fulfil the Juncker Commission’s objective of a ‘connected single market’, DG SANTE launched an invitation to tender in December 2016 to implement electronic certification through the digitisation of certificates and official attestations with the use of qualified electronic signatures, pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic transactions, which has been in force since July 2016. The selection of the company to act as trusted third party for the supply and recognition of electronic signatures is scheduled for the last quarter of 2017, as a prelude to the launch in 2017 of pilot projects with certain non-eu countries, notably Morocco, Côte d’Ivoire, New Zealand and Australia, on electronic certification on export, and with the Member States so wishing on border control documents.

2016 was therefore a year of consolidation of the traditional activity of TRACES, of collaboration with other directorates-general, through the launch of new modules for synergy of action and intensive preparation for the achievement in 2017 of two major objectives designed to contribute to the creation of the connected single market in our field: the launch on the TNT of modules relating to better traceability of imports and the monitoring of plants, and to the introduction of the electronic signature in veterinary and phytosanitary certificates for the dematerialisation of all associated administrative procedures.

Xavier Prats Monné
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
Director-General
**WHAT IS TRACES?**

TRACES is a multilingual online management tool which notifies, certifies and monitors trade in animals, products of animal origin and feed and food of non-animal origin, as well as of plants, seeds and propagating material.

TRACES is an e-government system, following the requirements of the EU Digital Agenda towards dematerialisation of health documents.

TRACES is an efficient tool to ensure:

- **traceability** (monitoring movements, both within the EU and from non-EU countries);
- **information exchange** (enabling trade partners and competent authorities to easily obtain information on the movements of their consignments, and speeding up administrative procedures);
- **risk management** (reacting rapidly to health threats by tracing the movements of consignments and facilitating the risk management of rejected consignments).

**THE SINGLE MARKET**

**Intra-EU trade health certificates (INTRAs)**

Some 1 531 local competent authorities (59 of which were EFTA Members), issued 778 469 intra-EU trade health certificates: of these, 31 757 were issued for export purposes while transiting through a Member State. About 50% of INTRAs are issued for the trade of bovine, porcine and poultry species, each category representing roughly one third of the total. The number of INTRAs for registered horses is not comprehensive, because the issuance of an INTRA for this animal species is not compulsory. Trade of untreated manure represents 6% of all INTRAs.

117 423 consignments have been controlled. 7 586 consignments were discovered to have violations relating to animal health and 2 251 relating to welfare.

**Reason for refusal / Number of rejections of INTRA issued and received**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health infringements</th>
<th>Welfare infringements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 173 Mis-match with documents</td>
<td>492 Travel times exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 775 Address of destination invalid</td>
<td>331 Non-compliance of the means of transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>894 Absence / Invalid certification</td>
<td>197 Supplementary measures for the journeys of long duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>434 Absence or non legal identification</td>
<td>129 Mishandling or negligence to the animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>379 Non approved holding</td>
<td>112 Watering and feeding not fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 4 million heads of cattle, 33 million pigs, 3 million sheep and 1.3 billion poultry were exchanged between the Member States of EU and EFTA, in more than 390 000 movements.

**Number of INTRA issued and received**

![Graph showing the number of INTRA issued and received across different countries](image-url)

Exact numbers can be found in the country sheets.
THE SINGLE MARKET

Bovine Exchange (BOVEX)

BOVEX is a specific interface linked to TRACES, so as to allow automatic exchange of bovine identification data across relevant national databases. The objective is to digitise bovine passports, save time and avoid errors while introducing passport data into national databases upon reception of cattle. In March 2015 the requirement to list, in the health certificate, all passport numbers of marketed cattle was introduced to improve the quality of exchanged data. In 2016, Belgium, France, Greece and Italy have exchanged more than 1.4 million head of cattle in more than 52 000 consignments and more than 1 289 000 passports were automatically integrated via BOVEX in national databases, which makes 90% of the shipments. Although these five pilot countries account for a third of all exchanged passports the challenge ahead is enormous, with approximately 4 million head of cattle exchanged over 120 000 consignments.

Commercial document for intra-EU exchanges of animal by-products (DOCOM)

To fulfil the obligation of Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption (regarding EU trade of animal by-products), the notification for the validation of a commercial document (DOCOM) was implemented in May 2012 in TRACES. The economic operator can prepare and validate this DOCOM directly; the competent authorities at the place of origin and destination are notified of the by-product movements. The competent authority at the place of destination must acknowledge receipt of the commodity. When necessary, as with untreated manure, a link is automatically implemented in TRACES between the DOCOM and the intra-EU trade health certificate. In 2016, 158 273 DOCOMs were issued by Member States of the EU and EFTA countries.

BORDER CONTROL

Customs Single Windows and digitisation

The interconnection of TRACES with customs systems is ongoing as part of the set-up of a Single Window for Customs Administrations. The objective is to automate the integration of health documents developed in TRACES into their customs systems in order to completely digitize the border control procedures. France (2009), Spain (2012), the United Kingdom and Italy (2014) have implemented their own system. Bulgaria, Poland and Cyprus joined the Czech Republic, Ireland, Slovenia and Latvia and implemented the generic interface CERTEX (Certificates exchange; ex-SPEED 2) developed in collaboration with DG Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD).

Common Health Entry Document for Plants and Plant protection (CHEDPP)

This module launched on 22 April 2013 and connected to EUROPHT on 21 October 2014 will be installed at the end of 2017 on the new TNT platform together with the import certification module in the EU. In December 2016, the control of invasive alien species was integrated. There is a total of 10 Member States and Switzerland who have used this module in 2016 to produce 113 712 CHEDPP. This means an augmentation of 75% compared to 2015.

Number of CHEDPP by category

- 88 Vegetable plaiting materials and other textile fibres
- 79 Mineral fuels and oils
- 3 Other
- 2 286 Coffee, tea, mate and spices
- 7 100 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits
- 15 461 Live trees and other plants
- 50 472 Edible fruits and nuts
- 51 381 Edible vegetables

Number of CHEDPP by issuing country

- FR (France): 47 065
- LV (Latvia): 35 113
- EE (Estonia): 10 420
- CH (Switzerland): 6 305
- LT (Lithuania): 2 764
- SK (Slovakia): 985
- HU (Hungary): 605
- ES (Spain): 270
- PL (Poland): 195
- AT (Austria): 29

Number of passports (BOVEX)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Number of passports</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>FR (France)</td>
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<td>DE (Germany)</td>
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<td>SI (Slovenia)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>AT (Austria)</td>
<td>53 590</td>
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Number of DOCOM by issuing country

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
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Common Veterinary Entry Document for Animals (CVEDA)

Of the 56 224 CVEDAs issued, 429 were rejected. This represented 0.8% of the total number of consignments. The principal reason for rejection was an invalid certificate or the absence of a certificate. In December 2016, the control of invasive alien species was integrated in accordance with the Article 15 of the regulation 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species’ both animal and plants.

Common Veterinary Entry Document for products of animal origin (CVEDP)

Of the 511 814 CVEDPs issued, 4 356 were rejected. This represented 0.9% of the total number of consignments. More than half of these were rejected due to an invalid certificate or the absence of a certificate. About 16% of the total were issued for transiting purposes. Amongst these 83 739 consignments in transit, 17 267 headed for American military bases located in Italy (4), Germany (9), Greece (1), Spain (2) and Bulgaria (1).
Electronic certificate of inspection for imported organic products

This module, launched on 19 April 2016, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1255/2008 on imports of organic products and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1842, which appoints TRACES as electronic management system for certificates of inspection, is integrated in the action plan for future organic production in the EU. The mandatory use of TRACES will come into effect only for certificates of inspection, is integrated in the action plan for future organic 

2016, training in the use of this module has been very intensive. from 19 October 2017 and even though only 8 certificates were issued in the EU. The mandatory use of TRACES will come into effect only for certificates of inspection, is integrated in the action plan for future organic (EU) 2016/1842, which appoints TRACES as electronic management system No 1235/2008 on imports of organic products and Implementing Regulation This module, launched on 19 April 2016, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 

Commission. 

the national contact point and to inform the EU pre-completed RASFF declaration form, to notify possible, wherever necessary, to supplement the 

been logged in TRACES. This link makes it 

to resubmit data in RASFF which has already 

between RASFF and TRACES, to obviate the need 

Since September 2008, a link has been created 

Food and Feed (RASFF) 

Re-enforced checks (REC) and link to Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Since September 2008, a link has been created between RASFF and TRACES, to obviate the need to resubmit data in RASSFF which has already been logged in TRACES. This link makes it possible, wherever necessary, to supplement the pre-completed RASFF declaration form, to notify the national contact point and to inform the EU Commission. 

In January 2012 the module of REC, defined in Article 24 of Directive 97/85/EC laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from non-EU countries, was implemented in TRACES. This module enables the control on EU level 10 consecutive consignments originating from the same targeted establishment, instead of country or border inspection post level. A total of 1,082 RASFF notifications were made through TRACES, 110 of which were notifications for REC procedures. Fish products represent 76 % of the REC, followed by Minced Meat / meat preparations; each representing 9 %. Chemical (57 %) and microbiological (26 %) contaminants are the main reason for REC procedures. A total of 27 non-EU countries had to deal with RECs, predominantly Vietnam (17 %), India (14 %), Thailand (13 %), Morocco (12 %) and China (8 %). 

Common Entry Document for products of non-animal origin (CED)

The CED module is used on a voluntary basis by 20 Member States (Slovakia joined the 19 voluntary Member States in 2016) plus Norway; 198 408 documents were issued of which 949 were rejected. The module was launched on 15 November 2016 for the implementation of Commission Regulation (CE) No 669/2009 as regards the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from non-EU countries due to contamination risk in aflatoxins. Some Member States are using this module to declare other commodities not related to the above regulations, for example food contact material. No new Member State came to join the 20 volunteering countries in 2015. 

The CED module is used on a voluntary basis by 20 Member States (Slovakia joined the 19 voluntary Member States in 2016) plus Norway; 198 408 documents were issued of which 949 were rejected. The module was launched on 15 November 2016 for the implementation of Commission Regulation (CE) No 669/2009 as regards the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from non-EU countries due to contamination risk in aflatoxins. Some Member States are using this module to declare other commodities not related to the above regulations, for example food contact material. No new Member State came to join the 20 volunteering countries in 2015. 


countries with more than 1 REC

Countries with more than 1 REC

REC category Number of REC

REC category Number of REC

Total 123

Other bacteria and viruses

Histamine

Nitrofurans

Heavy metals

Sulphites

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon

Labeling

Dyes

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Temperature

Anisakis

Other bacteria and viruses

Histamine

Nitrofurans

Heavy metals

Sulphites

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon

Labeling

Dyes

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Temperature

Anisakis

Number of REC by category

Number of CED by issuing country

Number of CED by species

Common Entry Document for products of non-animal origin (CED)

The CED module is used on a voluntary basis by 20 Member States (Slovakia joined the 19 voluntary Member States in 2016) plus Norway; 198 408 documents were issued of which 949 were rejected. The module was launched in June 2011 to give Member States the option to implement Commission Regulation (CE) No 669/2009 as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 884/2014 imposing special conditions governing the import of certain feed and food from certain non-EU countries due to contamination risk in aflatoxins. Some Member States are using this module to declare other commodities not related to the above regulations, for example food contact material. No new Member State came to join the 20 volunteering countries in 2015.

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FLEGT licensing (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade)

This module was launched on 15 November 2016 for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1024/2008 on imports of timber into the EU, under the EU environmental policy for forest protection. 331 licences have been recorded in TRACES and checked by customs. It covers timber only from Indonesia, the sole country meeting the requirements to issue licences.
Created in 2006, this module was launched in 2008 to facilitate trade with non-EU countries by providing them with all the updated and consolidated export certificates to the EU, translated into all the EU official languages, and giving them access to the feedback of decisions taken by the border inspection posts. In 2016, 48 non-EU countries and overseas territories issued more than 99,282 certificates. Moldavia, Myanmar and Maldives started using TRACES through its interface, while Australia has connected its certification system to TRACES. About 86% of the IMPORT certificates are used by border inspection posts to automatically generate the first part of a CVE, speeding up the administrative process at the border.
Certificates for exportation from EU (EXPORT)

Created in 2009, this module was put to use in 2011. In 2016, 17 Member States and Switzerland issued 4,195 export certificates with one of the 60 harmonised certificates negotiated with Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, United States and Russia since October 2016. 44% of all these certificates concerned meat, 21% milk, 13% fish products, 9% registered horses and 7% semen.

80 Gelatine
87 Other
301 Semen
388 Horses
528 Fish products
879 Milk

Number of EXPORT by category

Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)

It is the use by a non-EU country of the border control certification module for its own imports, with the candidate countries gaining experience in the real-life environment of TRACES in view to their EU accession. The mechanism of the CVED module is identical to that foreseen for Member States, without a business check upon countries or establishments authorised to export. In total, 659 CVEDs were issued by 5 countries (Kosovo(1) and Serbia, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Moldavia) and one overseas territory (Greenland under Council Decision 2011/408/EU).

TRAINING

Member States

Under the ‘Better Training for Safer Food’ (BTSF) programme, six sessions were organised for the Member States in 2016 (one for CVED, one for CED, three for INTRA and one for CHEDPP). About 180 persons were trained on how to use the different modules of TRACES.

Under the internal budget of DG SANTE, four training sessions were organised in February for all the EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway, to introduce them to the use of the inspection certification module for imported organic products (COI) 60 persons were trained.

Non-EU countries

Under the BTSF World programme, seven sustained training missions were organised in Vietnam (January), Myanmar (January), Paraguay (March), Maldives (August) Sri Lanka (August), Bangladesh (November) and Namibia (November). These trainings were successful with Myanmar and Maldives whose started to use TRACES in 2016 and Bangladesh in the beginning of 2017 while Vietnam has intensified its use.

Under the Instrument Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), training sessions were organised for countries that fall under the neighbouring policy: Turkey (May) and Moldavia (October). Moldavia joined the countries that are using TRACES and Turkey has intensified its use.

Certificates for exportation from EU (EXPORT)

25-26/01 BTSF Vietnam
28-29/01 BTSF Myanmar
7-11/03 BTSF Paraguay
24-27/05 TAIEX Turkey
9-11/08 BTSF Maldives
15-19/08 BTSF Sri Lanka
3-7/10 TAIEX Republic of Moldova
30/10-3/11 BTSF Bangladesh
31/10-4/11 BTSF Namibia
18-23/02 EU Commission COI (Belgium)
15-18/03 BTSF INTRA (Italy)
5-8/04 BTSF CVED (Spain)
10-13/05 BTSF CED (Estonia)
14-17/06 BTSF CHEDPP(Latvia)
19-23/09 BTSF INTRA (Spain)
14-18/11 BTSF INTRA (Italy)

2016

Top countries having raised questions with the helpdesk

(1) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
USER SUPPORT

8301 calls were made in 2016 (increase of 61% / 2015)

2.2% via telephone

97.8% via mail

70% being resolved in under 8 hours.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Multilingualism

TRACES is a multilingual online management tool with a user interface translated in 36 languages: 23 EU official languages plus Albanian, Bosnian, Chinese, Icelandic, Indonesian, Korean, of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norwegian, Russian, Serbian, Turkish, Vietnamese and in 2016 the Bengali. The multilingual aspect of TRACES reduces the risk of error when issuing certificates in your native language, while complying with the obligation to produce certificates in the relevant languages, following Annex VI of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

Users

In 2016, 35,597 active users were registered of these, 67% are originating from competent authorities and 33% from the private sector.

Certificates and documents

Total: 1 919 479

Number of certificates by type

- 56 224 CVEDA 3 %
- 97 716 IMPORT 5 %
- 113 712 CVEDP 6 %
- 158 273 DOCOM 8 %
- 198 408 ČEDP 10 %
- 4 195 DECLAR
- 3 311 EXPORT <0.5%
- 329 FLEGT <0.5%
- 9 COI <0.5%
- 778 469 INTRA 41 %
- 511 814 CVEDA 27%