

Overview on how quality and food safety inspection systems are organized and work in EU countries

Mr. István Ecsedi
Head of Department
National Food-Chain Safety
Office
Hungary



Legal instructions (food safety)



- Member States shall ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency, so as to achieve the objectives of this Regulation (882/2004 EC)



Legal instructions (quality inspections)



Each Member State shall designate:

- (a) a single competent authority responsible for coordination and contacts in the areas covered by this Chapter, hereinafter called 'the coordinating authority'; and
- (b) an inspection body or bodies responsible for the application of this Chapter, hereinafter called 'the inspection bodies'.

The coordinating authorities and inspection bodies referred to in the first subparagraph may be public or private. However, the Member States shall be responsible for them in either case.



Structure



No structural rules – only tasks are defined



Very heterogenic structure between
Member States



Some typical solutions

Competent /Coordinating Authority



- Trade/foreign trade
- Agricultural Institutions
- Health Institutions
- Consumer protection



Some typical solutions

Inspection body



- Local government
- Local office of the competent authority
- Other solutions (e.g. custom authority)



Integration of inspections?

Yes, but only after feasibility study



Good example: The Netherlands

- After 1,5 years of analysis and preparation has been merged quality and plant health
- After the merge another half year of analysis

Hungary



One inspector with several responsibilities:

- Quality inspections
- Plant health inspections
- Plant protection material inspections
- Different inspections for agr. aids
- Food safety inspections and sampling



Problems



- „multitasking”, people are not robots
- usually no direct influence on inspectors at inspection body
- export – import – domestic market inspections are separated
- independent audit on performance of ins. body
- no crossway between the different areas
- different interpretation of risk assesment



Conclusions



- Integration only if indicated
(cost should not be the only reason)
- Not more than two tasks / inspectors
- Direct influence/connection to inspectors
- More cooperation between different departments (share the good ideas)
- Everything is possible!



Everything is possible!

Be the first to change!

Thank you!