Recent EU initiatives in food hygiene and microbiological food safety

Dr. K. De Smet, SANTE European Commission (EC) IAPF Europe meeting, 29-31 March 2017
Basics

~ 900 staff

SANTE Locations

1. Brussels
2. Grange, Ireland
3. Luxembourg

EU Agencies

- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)
- European Medicines Agency
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
Key Policy Areas

Public Health

Food Safety, animal health and welfare
Public Health
Key Policies

Cross-border Health Threats
Tobacco
Pharma
Healthcare System Performance Assessment
Cross-border Healthcare
Organs, Blood & Blood Tissues
Food Safety, animal health & welfare: EU risk management competences

- Contaminants
- Additives
- Nutrition
- Hygiene
- Animal health
- Feed
- Residues
- Contact materials
- Food complements
- Training
- Animal welfare
- Plant health
- Pesticides
- Flavourings
- Labelling
- Official Controls
- Animal-by-products
- GMOs
Why decision making at EU-level on food safety?

• *Same high level of protection of all consumers*
  - Domestically produced
  - From other Member States
  - From countries all over the world

• *One internal market without border controls*

• *Facilitating import and export, as same conditions in whole EU*
EU Treaties, Regulations, Decisions, ..

- **Treaties** *(Rome (1958), Lisbon (2009))*
  - Competences at EU level
  - Role of European Parliament, Council, European Commission
  - Adopted by Council of Europe (Heads of State)

- **Basic acts**: Regulations *(Decision, ..)* of the European Parliament *(EP)* and of the Council on ...
  - Commission proposal sent to EP and Council for further discussion and finally adoption by the EP and Council
  - Indicates the derogations and further details the Commission can introduce
EU Treaties, Regulations, Decisions

- **Commission** *(Implementing) Regulations (Decision, ..) on....., amending ...

Only if allowed in basic act of EP and Council

- **Delegated:** no need for a vote by Member States but EP can block

- **Implementing act:** vote in Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: qualified majority of Member States needed supporting the proposal
Example 1: Microbiological criteria in food

- Lisbon Treaty, Articles 114 (functioning of internal market) and 168(4)(b) (food safety)
  - 4(3)(a): Compliance with microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
  - 4(4): "The criteria,... shall be laid down by the (European) Commission ..."
- Implementing act: Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs: detailed requirements on about 30 food safety criteria and about 20 process hygiene criteria
Example 2: Meat inspection (MI)

- Lisbon Treaty, Articles 43(2) (Common Agricultural and fisheries policies), 114 and 168(4)(b)


Future:

- Basic act: New Official Control Regulation
  - Will be published next month and applies from 14/12/2019
  - Article 18: Specific rules for control of products of animal origin for human consumption (including MI)
  - Article 18(7): legal basis for delegated act, Article 18(8): legal basis for implementing act

- Delegated act (by 14/12/2019): possible derogations e.g. on "WHO" does MI

- Implementing act (by 14/12/2019): specific details on "WHAT" and "HOW" to carry out MI
A coordinated risk analysis approach on food safety

Human data
ECDC

Burden of disease

Food/animal data
EFSA

EFSA: risk assessment

EC: impact assessment, consultation of stakeholders
Risk management: legal requirements, targets, ...

Member States and businesses:
Implementation,
Verification incl. sampling and analysis

Evaluation of monitoring

EURAL & NRL: QA of analyses

Evaluation of monitoring
Data collection – Reporting of monitoring results

The European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2015

European Food Safety Authority and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

PREVALENCE OF TARGET SALMONELLA SEROVARS IN POULTRY AND TURKEYS, 2007 – 2015, IN THE EU
HUMAN ZOONOSES CASES IN EU, 2015

- **Campylobacteriosis**: (N = 229,213)
- **Salmonellosis**: (N = 94,625)
- **Yersiniosis**: (N = 7,202)
- **STEC infections**: (N = 5,901)
- **Listeriosis**: (N = 2,206)
- **Tularaemia**: (N = 1,079)
- **Echinococcosis**: (N = 872)
- **Q fever**: (N = 833)
- **Brucellosis**: (N = 437)
- **TB caused by M. bovis**: (N = 170)
- **Trichinellosis**: (N = 156)
- **West Nile fever**: (N = 127)
- **Rabies**: (N = 0)

**Notification rate per 100,000 population**

0 1 2 3
**OVERVIEW BY FOOD VEHICLE AND PLACE OF EXPOSURE**

- **Meat and product thereof (N=122)**
  - Salmonella
  - Bacterial toxins (other than C. botulinum)
  - C. botulinum toxins
  - Calicivirus including Norwalk-like virus
  - Campylobacter
  - Hepatitis A
  - Listeria
  - Other bacterial agents
  - Other causative agents
  - Other Viruses / Virus Unspecified
  - Shigatoxin-producing E.coli (STEC)
  - Trichinella
  - Unknown
  - Yersinia

- **Other foods (N = 74)**

- **Mixed food and buffet meals (N=55)**

- **Milk cheese and dairy (N=55)**

- **Eggs and egg products (N=42)**

- **Fish, shellfish, molluscs and crustaceans and products thereof (N=40)**

- **Vegetables, fruits, cereals, sprouts, herbs and spices and products thereof (N=19)**

% of strong evidence outbreaks
Recent Commission initiatives in "food hygiene"

1. Revision of meat inspection
2. Introduction of a Campylobacter process hygiene criterion
3. Guidelines on the implementation of food safety management systems (FSMS), including HACCP
4. Revision of food-borne outbreak crisis management
5. Changes to the network of European Reference laboratories
Revision of meat inspection

Repeal of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 by new official control Regulation by end 2019. Articles to be supplemented by

• Delegated Regulation ("Who" and derogations)
  – Role of the official veterinarian
  – Derogations/adaptations for reindeer, discontinued slaughter, emergency slaughter
  – Skills and training requirements

• Implementing Regulation ("What" and "How")
  – Balance between public health, animal health and animal welfare control issues
  – Addressing 6 EFSA opinions
## Today's meat-borne risks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Main biological hazard (EFSA opinions)</th>
<th>Covered by meat inspection?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td><em>Salmonella, Toxoplasma, Trichinella</em> and <em>Yersinia</em></td>
<td>+/- Yes (reviewed meat inspection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td><em>Campylobacter, Salmonella, ESBL-AmpC carriers</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>Verocytotoxin-producing <em>E. Coli</em> (VTEC), <em>Salmonella</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and goat</td>
<td>VTEC, <em>Toxoplasma</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solipeds</td>
<td><em>Trichinella</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild boar</td>
<td><em>Salmonella, Toxoplasma</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmed game (deer)</td>
<td><em>Toxoplasma</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A *Campylobacter* process hygiene criterion

Finding a balance between an EFSA opinion, cost-benefit analyses, limited number of control tools, motivation of food businesses, lack of resources for authorities, ...

**FAVOURITE OPINION DURING THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF 29 MARCH 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poultry carcases of broilers</th>
<th>Campylobacter spp.</th>
<th>n = 50</th>
<th>c=20 From 1.1.2020 c=15 From 1.1.2025 c=10</th>
<th>Limit = 1000 cfu/g</th>
<th>EN ISO 10272-2</th>
<th>Carcases after chilling</th>
<th>Improvements in slaughter hygiene, review of process controls, origin of animals and of the biosecurity measures in the farms of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Guidelines on the implementation of FSMS

Main purpose: facilitate, provide guidance to small enterprises

1. Commission Notice on the implementation of FSMS and HACCP, including the facilitation/flexibility of the implementation in certain food businesses

2. Commission Notice on Guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene

3. EFSA opinion on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments in view of the application of their FSMS
Revision of outbreak/crisis management

Apart from human health impact, the economic consequences of an food-borne outbreak can be huge.

Commission priority: jobs

Revision of outbreak management: more focus on prevention of outbreak – limitation of extent

- Strengthen human (EWRS) and food (RASFF) alert networks
- Molecular typing data base
- BTSF training – simulation exercises
- Up-to-date network for food-borne outbreak managers
- ...
Changes to the network of European reference laboratories (EURL)

- 12 biological safety (Salmonella, Listeria, E. coli, Campylobacter, TSE, parasites, ...)
- Also for animal health hazards, chemical hazards, ...

Tasks EURL

- Providing NRLs with details of analytical methods, including reference methods
- Coordinating NRL (comparative tests, practical arrangements to apply new methods, information,...)
- Training of NRLs
- Scientific and technical assistance to the Commission
- Collaborating with official laboratories in 3rd countries
- Workshop – networking
- **New under new official control Regulation: providing reference material (if considered appropriate)**
Thank you & Follow us!

@Food_EU
EU Commission’s DG Health & Food Safety (SANTE). We work for high EU food safety standards. RT ≠ endorsement. Health tweets: ...

@EU_Health
EU Commission’s DG Health & Food Safety (SANTE). We work to protect health, prevent diseases & strengthen health systems. RT ≠ endorsement....