



DG Health and  
Food Safety

# Health and Food Audits and Analysis Programme 2017

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# 1. Executive Summary

*The European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Health and Food Safety, and, in particular, its Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis<sup>1</sup>, carries out audits to ensure that EU legislation on food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and some areas of human health is properly implemented and enforced.*

Food safety is one of the key concerns of citizens and safe food is essential to public health and long-term economic development. The effective enforcement of EU requirements in the above areas within the EU, and in non-EU countries exporting animals, plants and products to the EU, is key to maintaining high levels of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health in the EU. Strict enforcement also means that the food industry, Europe's largest manufacturing sector and a leading employer, can operate in a stable and predictable regulatory environment.

The EU's high standards both facilitate intra-EU trade and create opportunities for European businesses to compete on the global market. High levels of safety are fundamental to stable markets and consumer confidence and also protect Europe from the economic and human costs of disease outbreaks.

DG Health and Food Safety establishes a multi-annual audit and analysis programme in line with key Commission strategic priorities, notably:

- A regulatory environment which facilitates jobs, growth and investment by ensuring high levels of safety supported by sound control and enforcement systems.

- A deeper and fairer internal market by providing a level playing field where citizens and businesses can be confident in uniform and high levels of safety.
- A strong EU presence on international markets through the promotion of the EU regulatory approach in trade in food products and in trading relations with non-EU countries.

The work programme is organised in projects. An overview of the projects that DG Health and Food Safety plans to perform in 2017 is presented in chapter 3, with a summary of their objective, methodology and outputs. As shown in Annex 1, some of these projects already started in 2016, others will be carried forward into 2018. While some work is desk based (as, for example, the assessment of countries' residue monitoring plans or the operation of Europhyt), the majority of projects involve audits or fact-finding missions to Member States, candidate countries and non-EU countries.

In the areas food and feed safety, food quality, animal health and welfare and plant health, DG Health and Food Safety plans 212 audits for 2017 in Member States, candidate countries and non-EU countries. These are listed in Annexes 2–4.

<sup>1</sup>. The new name of the Directorate (formerly the "Food and Veterinary Office") reflects the expansion of its tasks over recent years.

In human health, the Commission will carry out up to 25 joint assessments, together with designated authorities in Member States, EFTA and EEA countries of the performance and designation of notified bodies in the medical devices sector. In addition, and based on requests of non-EU countries, a small number of audits on active pharmaceutical ingredients for medicinal products for human use will be performed (compare chapter 3.2).

Many projects will result in overview reports summarising the findings on the ground. The Commission will organise

meetings with Member States experts, in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food programme, to discuss common problems and exchange best practices identified.

The work programme on audit and analysis also contains a summary of the audits performed in 2015 (chapter 4).

The programme can be found on the Commission's website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits\\_analysis/audit\\_programmes\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits_analysis/audit_programmes_en)



## DG Health and Food Safety: Priorities for Audit and Analysis for 2016 – 2019

*The results of the audit and analysis work performed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety support the development of evidence-based policies. A solid, evidence-based regulatory framework is essential to sustain high levels of health protection that support growth, investment and competitiveness.*

The European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Health and Food Safety, and, in particular, its Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis, works to ensure the effective and correct implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and some areas of human health. It does this mainly by carrying out audits in Member States and non-EU countries exporting to the EU. The results of this work support the development of evidence-based policies which, in turn, are essential for DG Health and Food Safety to deliver on its objective to promote high levels of health protection that support growth, investment and competitiveness.

The work programme of audits and analysis is developed in consultation with other Commission services and with Member States, taking into consideration risk as well as trade and regulatory factors. It builds on a multi-annual plan that is reviewed annually to make sure it is up to date and focusses on the areas of highest risk (compare Annex 1).

The work on audits and analysis contributes to several key priorities of the Commission, notably:

- A regulatory environment which facilitates jobs, growth and investment by ensuring high levels of safety supported by sound control and enforcement systems.

- A deeper and fairer internal market by providing a level playing field where citizens and businesses can be confident in uniform and high levels of safety.
- A strong EU presence on international markets through the promotion of EU values and the Union regulatory approach on food safety and in its trading relations with non-EU countries.

The aim of the audit and analysis strategy for the 2016 to 2019 period is to achieve a high level of coverage of the priority areas identified by DG Health and Food Safety requiring scrutiny as to the level and effectiveness of control and enforcement measures. This in turn allows weaknesses and the corresponding corrective measures to be identified and taken up with the relevant authorities.

A particular focus of the planned audit and analysis work will be on the following Commission and DG Health and Food Safety objectives:

### • Tackling antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global challenge which has serious implications for the economy and human health unless tough action is taken to address it. The EU is a global leader in the fight against AMR, and DG Health and Food Safety has highlighted AMR as a key challenge in its Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020.

- **Better preparedness, prevention and response to human, animal and plant health threats**

Food borne emergencies, animal or plant health crises not only have serious implications for health but can also have high economic losses as a consequence. “Prevention is better than cure” and more cost-effective, therefore, crisis preparedness, prevention and response capacity in the field of human, animal and plant health will remain a key priority for DG Health and Food Safety in 2017.

**Animal health** is directly linked to public health: many animal diseases are transmissible to humans. The recent outbreaks of African swine fever, Avian influenza or Bluetongue all manifest the important risks confronting the EU in the area of animal diseases. If not quickly detected and effectively treated, such animal diseases can expand uncontrollably and cause substantial damage. The work in animal health therefore aims at ensuring that Member States are capable to react to, isolate and eradicate outbreaks of major animal diseases.

Crisis preparedness and response capability are equally important in the **plant health** area. The globalisation of plant trade has substantially increased the risk of infestation by plant pests - EU Member States currently notify over 200 plant health outbreaks every year. The outbreaks of the pinewood nematode in Portugal and of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy and France have shown that the introduction of harmful organisms into the flora of the EU can have devastating effects for the agricultural economy, public budgets and the environment. With this work programme the Commission aims at enhancing its own crisis preparedness and response capability and that of Member States.

- **Safe and sustainable food and food production systems**

DG Health and Food Safety contributes to the establishment and maintenance of safe and sustainable food and food production systems; by working towards strong control systems for pesticides with an increase on the sustainable use of pesticides, market access for safe products and control/removal of those which are not; continued oversight over GMO controls; and controls

over organic production to ensure effective product flows as well as a level playing field in this growing market.

- **Ensuring effective implementation of EU food legislation**

The audit and analysis work carried out by DG Health and Food Safety provides continued and credible assurance that key EU standards are implemented, controlled and enforced in Member States and non-EU countries. Furthermore, it contributes to the development of evidence-based policies, in particular, through the increased country knowledge available. The knowledge built is presented in “country profiles” on each Member State outlining the state-of-play of their performance and providing transparent country-specific knowledge.

This work also provides a valuable input into the Commission’s “Better Regulation initiative”. Better Regulation is about designing EU policies and laws so that they achieve their objectives in the most efficient and effective way possible. The audit and analysis results provide the Commission with important feedback on the effectiveness and impact of EU legislation on-the-ground and in that way contribute to the process of legislative review.

- **Ensuring a sustainable food production that improves the welfare of animals**

Good treatment of animals is an integral part of a sustainable food production. European citizens are increasingly concerned that the welfare of animals is threatened or affected by the way they are kept and treated. Activities in 2017 will focus on improving the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and on the identification and exchange of information on best welfare and husbandry practices, with priority given to the welfare of pigs and to the transport of animals.

- **Effective, efficient and reliable controls**

A number of projects in DG Health and Food Safety’s audit and analysis programme 2017 aim specifically at ensuring that Member States’ control systems are effective, efficient and reliable. Activities include audits

and fact-finding missions on specific “horizontal” requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and the systematic follow-up of audit recommendations to ensure that Member States and non-EU countries implement the actions necessary to correct identified shortcomings. In addition, the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme provides the opportunity to discuss common problems identified during the assessment work, and to

exchange good and best practices between countries.

The programme also contains projects that aim at identifying unnecessary legislative burden for food business operators or national authorities, e.g. by exploring synergies with applicable private standards in the food and feed sectors.





# 3.

## Audit and Analysis Work Programme for 2017

**D**G SANTE's work programme for 2017 comprises 55 projects with audit and desk-based control activities. The outcome of projects will be summarised in overview reports which will also be the basis for a discussion with Member States of common problems identified and best practices to share.

### 3.1. Overview of projects



#### Project approach

The work programme is organised in projects with defined objectives, scope, outputs and timeframes. Many projects are prepared through

desk analyses to gain a thorough overview of the topic, identify potentially problematic areas and prioritise audits, followed by a targeted series of audits or fact-finding missions. Fact-finding missions are organised in areas where the Commission needs to complete its knowledge about the operation of legislation on the ground; and the results of these missions provide input into the review or development of legislation.

In addition to individual audit reports, the Commission prepares overview reports which identify what is working, or not, in relation to the enforcement of controls (and the interpretation of legislation). They also form the basis for

meetings with Member State experts in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme to discuss common problems identified and to exchange best practice.

Overall, a large amount of the work programme is made up of desk-based control activities and activities to further promote sound regulatory practices in the implementation of controls that is carried out alongside the traditional audit work.

#### Number and distribution of projects

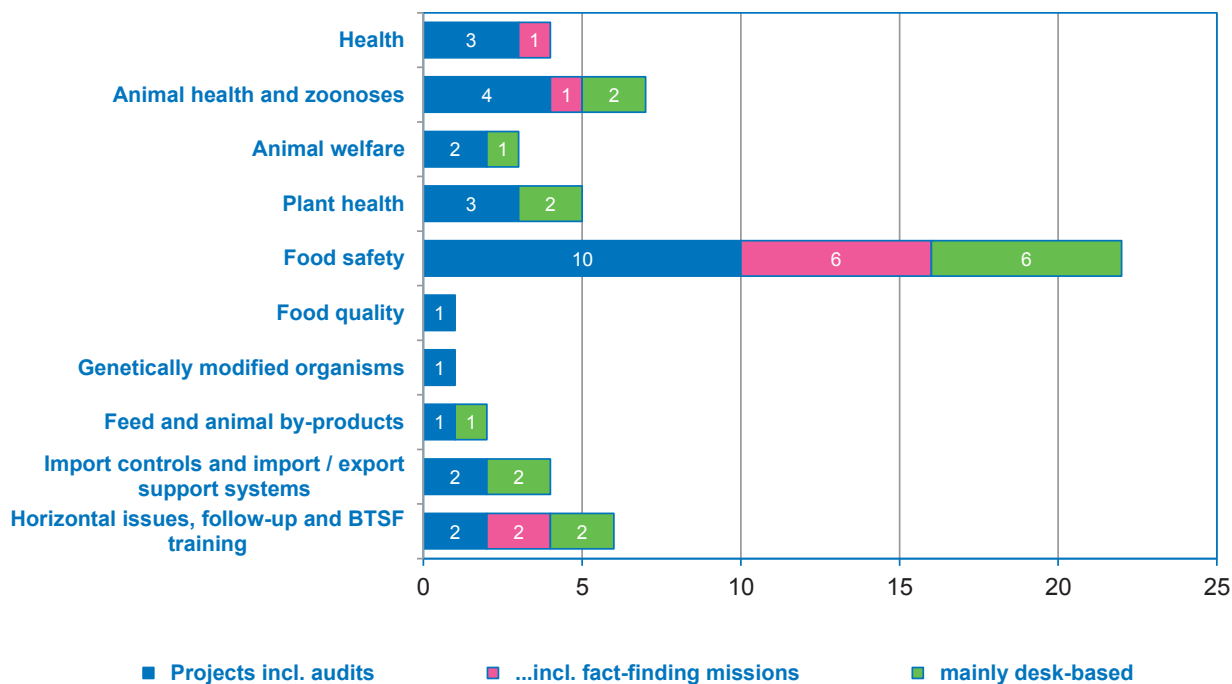
The following subchapters describe the 55 projects on audit and analysis that DG Health and Food Safety will carry out in 2017, by area and sector.

As shown in Chart 1, 7% of projects are planned in the area of human health. The majority of projects, 40%, will be in the area of food safety, 18% will go ahead in animal health and welfare, and 10% in plant health. One project each is planned on genetically modified organisms and food quality, while two projects will deal with feed safety. Work on import controls makes up 7% of the work programme and, finally, 11% of projects cover horizontal issues, follow-up and BTSF training.

Chart 1 also shows the proportion of projects including audits (blue bars), fact-finding missions (pink bars) and desk-based work (green bars). 53% of all projects include audit series, and 18% fact-finding missions. 29% of projects are mainly desk-based. These include desk analyses to support

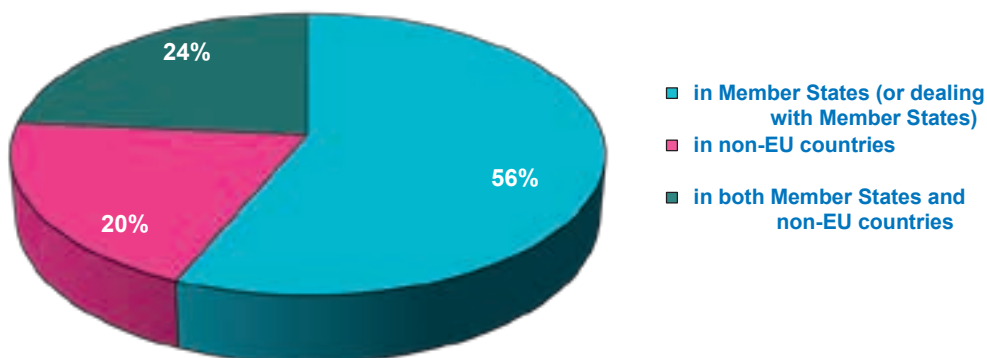
audit planning and prioritisation or projects with only a small number of audits that will be carried out based on the results of a desk analysis. Finally, some projects involve support activities, or describe follow-up and networking or training activities.

**Chart 1: Number of projects on audit and analysis in 2017, by main area**



As shown in Chart 2, 56% of all projects will be in Member States (or deal with Member States). 20% of projects are dealing with non-EU countries while 24% deal with both Member States and non-EU countries.

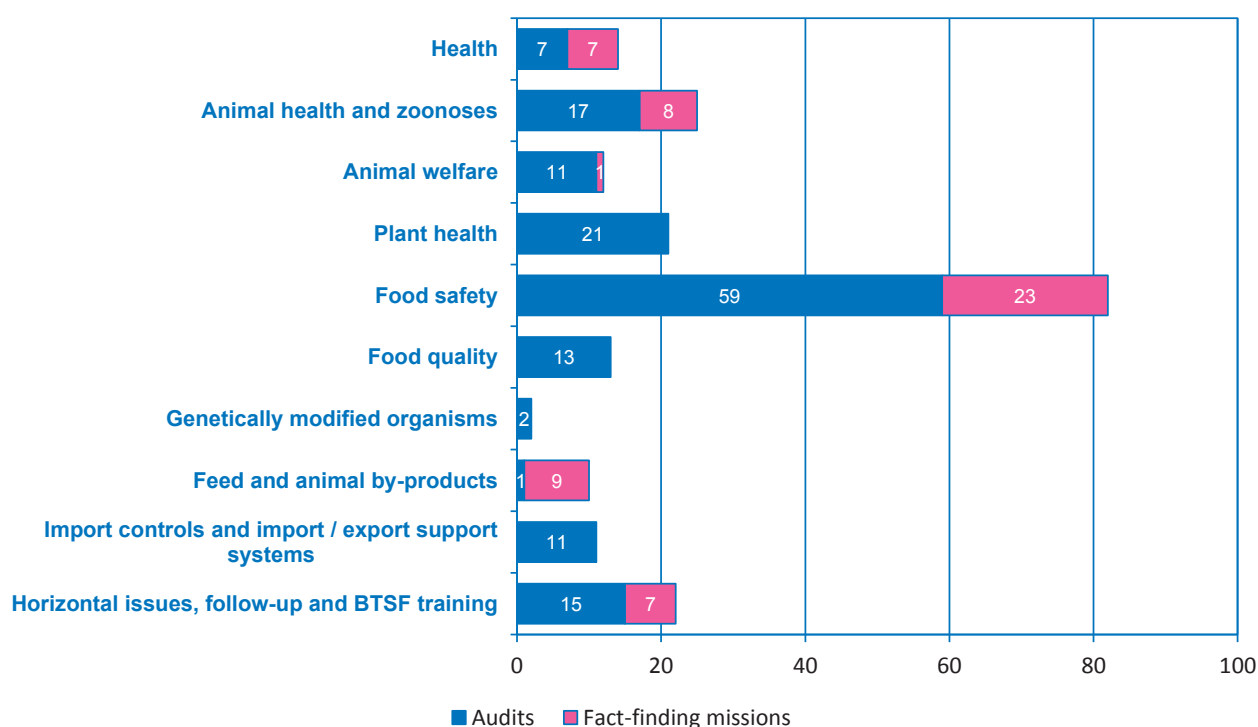
**Chart 2: Breakdown of projects in 2017 by region**



The 55 projects comprise 212 audits and fact-finding missions, corresponding to roughly 5,000 auditor days on the ground (travel time excluded). The figure takes account of the national experts from Member States who accompany more than one third of Commission audits each year.

Chart 3 shows the number of audits (74% of all visits) and fact-finding missions (26% of visits) by main area. 7% of visits are planned in the health area, dealing with antimicrobial resistance. 39% of audits and fact-finding missions will deal with food safety, 17% with animal health and welfare, and 10% with plant health. 6% of audits will be carried out on food quality, and 5% each on feed safety and import controls. Two audits will deal with genetically modified organisms. 10% of audits and fact-finding missions will be follow-up or deal with horizontal issues under Regulation (EC) No 884/2004.

**Chart 3: Number of audits and fact-finding missions 2017, by main area<sup>1</sup>**

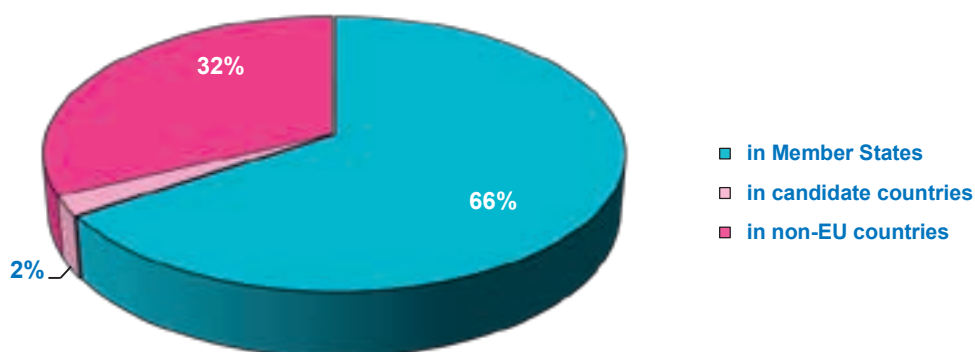


Of the 212 audits and fact-finding missions in the area of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health, 139 are planned in Member States, 5 in candidate countries and 68 in non-EU countries (compare chart 4).

In addition, up to 25 joint assessments of notified bodies for medical devices will go ahead in the area of human health.

<sup>1</sup> Excluding joint assessments in the medical devices area

Chart 4: Breakdown of audits and fact-finding missions 2017 by region



The following subchapters provide summaries of each project planned for 2017.

Annex 1 shows an overview of all projects, together with the number of the page on which they appear in this chapter.

Annexes 2 – 4 list all audits and fact-finding missions in Member States, candidate countries and non-EU countries in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health.

## 3.2. Health



AMR is high on the agenda of the European Commission, Member States, EU agencies (EMA, ECDC, EFSA), non-EU countries and international organisations. The EU's 2011 five year Action Plan is viewed as a precursor to a number of global initiatives including the WHO's Global Action Plan on AMR, launched in May 2015. Among the actions that have been implemented in the EU is harmonised legislation on AMR monitoring in food and animals.

AMR is high on the agenda of the European Commission, Member States, EU agencies (EMA, ECDC, EFSA), non-EU countries and international organisations. The EU's 2011 five

The Commission is continuing the assessment of Member States' AMR monitoring programmes as well as its project on the prudent use of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products in food producing animals.

The Commission also contributes to the safety of, and a well-functioning internal market for, medical devices and human medicinal products by

- leading joint assessments of notified bodies in the medical devices sector and
- assessing the regulatory framework, and its implementation, for the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients imported into the EU for use in human medicines.

## Antimicrobial resistance monitoring

<b>Objective</b>	To obtain an objective evaluation of the implementation of the harmonised antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring in Member States, as required by Decision 2013/652/EU.
<b>Project summary</b>	Decision 2013/652/EU extends AMR control requirements to pigs and calves and extends the range of indicator organisms monitored for. Member States are obliged to carry out sampling of poultry and pigs/calves in alternate years. Following a desk analysis and two pilot audits in 2015, six audits were carried out in 2016. The series will be concluded in 2017.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven audits: Bulgaria, France, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Switzerland and UK;</li> <li>• Interim report in 2017 (final overview report in 2018);</li> <li>• Engagement with Member States and other Commission services in workshops and/or BTSF trainings.</li> </ul>

## Antimicrobial resistance – Prudent use of antimicrobials in animals

<b>Objective</b>	To facilitate the adoption of effective measures on the prudent use of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products in animals, in order to increase the extent to which the EU could be recognised as a 'best practice' region for antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
<b>Project summary</b>	The project started with a desk analysis in 2015, followed by fact-finding missions in 2016 to gather information on the policies put in place in Member States to promote this prudent use. It will establish both examples of good practices and any issues which may hinder their implementation. By extending the work into 2017, the Commission intends to achieve a more comprehensive overview of potential best practices and ensure that the outcome is representative of and more relevant to a broader cross-section of Member States throughout the EU. In particular, fact-finding missions are planned in those Member States which have reported a broad range of antimicrobial sales under the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) programme. A number of countries with particularly developed policies for prudent use or which have specialised production sectors where relatively high levels of antimicrobials are normally used are also included in the plan.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact-finding missions to Belgium, France, Latvia, Norway (jointly with the EFTA Surveillance Authority), Sweden, Switzerland and UK;</li> <li>• Interim overview report in 2017 (final overview report in 2018);</li> <li>• Engagement with Member States and other Commission services in workshops and/or BTSF trainings.</li> </ul>

## Joint assessments of notified bodies designated under the medical devices Directives

<b>Objective</b>	To ensure that only appropriately resourced and experienced notified bodies for medical devices are designated and notified.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The Directorate has been carrying out joint assessments together with designating authorities from Member States, EFTA and EEA countries on the performance and designation of notified bodies in the medical devices sector since 2013. These notified bodies are responsible for assessing that medical devices are in conformity with the requirements of the medical devices Directives. The field is very wide, with tens of thousands of devices ranging from plasters to pacemakers. The assessments were first carried out in the framework of the voluntary joint action plan following the PIP breast implant scandal and have been mandatory since October 2013.</p> <p>Under the new Regulations on medical devices and <i>in vitro</i> diagnostic medical devices which are expected to be published in 2017 the scope of the current joint assessments will be expanded to cover <i>in vitro</i> devices, and in addition, the 'peer review process' described in those Regulations will necessitate the Commission services' assessment of the performance of the national authorities responsible for notified bodies.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is estimated that up to 13 joint assessments will be performed in 2017 under the existing Directives. Each of these joint assessments results in draft and final reports, specific to the assessed notified bodies. Final reports are shared with all of the designating authorities via the CIRCABC<sup>2</sup> platform.</li> <li>• Depending on the date of publication of the new Regulations on medical devices and <i>in vitro</i> diagnostic devices, some assessments may commence in 2017, although most are likely to take place in 2018.</li> </ul>

## Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for human medicines: equivalence determination in non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to the health protection of EU citizens in the field of active pharmaceutical ingredients for human medicines exported into the EU from non-EU countries.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The Commission assesses applications received from non-EU countries to determine whether their regulatory framework and the control and enforcement activities on the manufacturing of APIs intended for export to the EU are equivalent to the system in the EU or not. The DG also has to re-assess every three years those non-EU countries already listed as equivalent.</p> <p>The assessments include desk evaluations and/or on-site audits.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up of the 2016 audit to South Korea, contribution to the finalisation of the desk evaluation and the decision on equivalence status.</li> <li>• Contribution to the evaluation of any new applications received from other countries.</li> <li>• An on-site audit in Brazil as part of the three-yearly re-assessment of equivalence listing will likely take place in 2018.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> CIRCabc is a European Commission application to create collaborative workspaces where communities of users can work together over the web and share information and resources.

### 3.3. Animal health and zoonoses



The projects in the area of animal health aim at providing continued support to the objective of managing and isolating **outbreaks of major animal diseases**: Classical swine fever, African

swine fever, avian influenza, and the emerging lumpy skin disease. For Classical swine fever, the project aims to develop road maps for certain countries to prove freedom from the disease.

**Zoonoses** are infectious diseases of animals that can be naturally transmitted to humans. Two projects are

planned to support the continued eradication of rabies and to further reduce the number of salmonellosis outbreaks in the EU.

To provide input into Better Regulation, a project on **aquatic animal health** in the Union is ongoing to assist in developing relevant legislation in the field.

Several activities will deal with non-EU countries; a desk analysis will develop a **risk categorisation of non-EU countries** for animal health, in relation to their exports to the EU.

Finally, this chapter also lists a cross-sectoral project on Member States' **preparedness for dealing with potential secondary effects of natural or chemical disasters** on food safety, or animal health and welfare, and the feed supply.

## Animal health preparedness – Lumpy Skin Disease, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the preparedness, early detection and rapid response in Member States to the major animal diseases: Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI);</li> <li>• Strengthen the effectiveness of EU regionalisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>Through audits and visits, the Commission will verify, amongst others, Member States' surveillance programmes, their capacity for, and effectiveness of vaccination campaigns - when relevant-, movement controls and containment measures, cleaning and disinfection, laboratory network, eradication measures and regionalisation. The audits and visits will also aim to identify good practices.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 audits</li> <li>• on LSD: Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia</li> <li>• on CSF: Bulgaria</li> <li>• on ASF: Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia</li> <li>• on AI (fact-finding missions): France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK</li> <li>• Overview reports, roadmaps for affected Member States, communication activities (presentations at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed; workshops with Member States).</li> </ul>

## Salmonella Control Programmes

<b>Objective</b>	To further reduce the number of foodborne outbreaks in the EU by improving the effectiveness of control programmes in live poultry.
<b>Project summary</b>	Among the zoonoses, salmonellosis had a statistically significant downward trend in the seven year period of 2008-2014 (44% less reported outbreaks) mainly due to the successful <i>Salmonella</i> control programmes put in place for poultry by EU Member States and the European Commission (EFSA-ECDC report 2014). The Commission will continue the audits on the correct implementation of <i>Salmonella</i> control programs for poultry populations in Member States. In parallel, the Commission will evaluate the approach taken to see which Member States and sectors should be assessed from 2018 onwards.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 audits: Austria and Bulgaria</li> </ul>

## Rabies eradication in the EU

<b>Objective</b>	To support Member States in achieving the Commission targets of reducing the number of rabies cases in wildlife (excluding bats) to no more than 80 in 2017 and eradicating wildlife rabies in the EU by 2020.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The project will verify - through audits - the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes in two Member States and of oral rabies vaccination in a buffer zone outside the EU's Eastern borders.</p> <p>The project will also include a desk analysis of the current state of play of oral rabies vaccination of wildlife, vaccination of domestic animals, and rabies surveillance in neighbouring non-EU countries and fact-finding missions to two non-EU countries where the EU is co-funding rabies eradication programmes in order to create a rabies-free buffer zone outside the EU's Eastern borders (end 2017 or 2018).</p> <p>In 2018, a workshop will be organised together with Member States and non-EU countries on both sides of the Eastern border of the EU, to discuss common problems found and disseminate best practices.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audits to Greece, Poland</li> <li>• Desk analysis on non-EU neighbouring countries</li> </ul>



## Listing requests of non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate requests by non-EU countries for approval of exports of live animals or food of animal origin to the EU.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Non-EU countries wishing to export live animals, germinal products or a category of food of animal origin must be in the list of approved countries for that specific commodity. Before a country is approved, DG Health and Food Safety carries out an evaluation of its competent authority and its control system to ensure they provide the necessary guarantees.</p> <p>The Commission has received requests from a number of non-EU countries for approval of exports of various commodities. Once the Commission has received satisfactory replies to its questionnaire on various elements of the country's control system, disease situation and more, an audit will be planned.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audits to Japan and Morocco (poultry exports), the Russian Federation (bovine exports), South Africa (game meat).</li> </ul>

## Categorisation of non-EU countries exporting to the EU

<b>Objective</b>	To develop and apply a methodology to classify countries exporting live animals or products of animal origin according to their animal health risk, in order to facilitate policy- and operational decisions with regard to these countries.
<b>Project summary</b>	A desk analysis will analyse information available from Commission sources (audits and their follow-up, RASFF <sup>3</sup> notifications, COMEXT <sup>4</sup> data, import control sampling results, etc.) and it will study risk analysis models available (OIE, FAO/WHO) to decide which factors should be considered and their weight for systematic classification and categorisation of exporting countries.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A categorisation methodology for non-EU countries exporting commodities with potential impact on animal health in the EU;</li> <li>• A list of all exporting countries categorised as low-medium-high "risk" for each of the commodities they export to the EU.</li> </ul>

3. RASFF = the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

4. Comext is Eurostat's (the statistical office of the European Union) reference database for detailed statistics on international trade in goods

## Better legislation for controlling aquatic animal diseases in the Union

<b>Objective</b>	To increase the knowledge about certain parts of the aquaculture industry within the Union.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The project will entail fact-finding missions to Member States to collect information from the competent authorities, the industry (in particular on those parts of the aquaculture industry which seem to have the biggest challenges in implementing the current legislation), transporters and local veterinarians about their experience with the implementation of the current legislation. The knowledge gained will constitute a basis for drafting delegated and implementing acts under the animal health law which intend to provide appropriate and suitable tools for the prevention and control of diseases in major parts of the European aquaculture industry.</p> <p>The project will be prepared by a desk analysis and pre-mission surveys.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study report, including the findings from the pre-mission questionnaires and the fact-finding missions (planned to Germany, Greece and Italy) for the benefit of the development of relevant implementing/delegated acts.</li> </ul>

## Cross-sectoral emergency preparedness for disasters affecting food, animals and feed

<b>Objective</b>	To support Member States' preparedness for dealing with potential secondary effects of a natural or chemical disaster causing destruction of infrastructure and often large-scale evacuation of people and animals. Such preparedness is likely to require effective interoperability between competent authorities in several national sectors.
<b>Project summary</b>	DG Health and Food Safety will verify the cross-sectoral preparedness and coordination among authorities and non-governmental organisations, for dealing with secondary effects of a disaster. The project will be prepared in collaboration with other Commission services and consist of a desk analysis including questionnaires to Member States, fact-finding missions to Member States (2018 and 2019), an overview report and a workshop or BTSF activity with Member States.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One desk analysis report to be published in 2018/2019 together with the outcome of the fact-finding visits.</li> </ul>

## 3.4. Animal welfare



The audit and analysis programme on animal welfare supports DG Health and Food Safety's animal welfare strategy. There are two main projects related to better implementation of existing legislation: one dealing with pig

welfare at farm, focussing on rearing piglets with intact tails, the other aiming at improving welfare during transport for animals exported to non-EU countries.

An ongoing project on welfare at dairy farms, in the light of the end of the milk quota regime and likely changes to the structure of dairy farming, will conclude in 2017 with an overview report and a workshop with Member States.

Other activities in the area of animal welfare concentrate notably on promoting good practices through networking with Member States. One example is a workshop with Member States on poultry welfare that the Commission will organise in 2017 in the framework of Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF). The Commission carries out a variety of activities under the Commission's 2015 Animal Welfare Strategy.

### Animal welfare during export to non-EU countries

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To reduce animal suffering during long distance transport to non-EU countries. The specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decreasing the time that animals spend awaiting export at external EU borders;</li> <li>• decreasing the number of livestock consignments rejected by non-EU countries, and</li> <li>• increasing compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 regarding journey times and transport conditions (water, feed, resting times, temperature).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The project will focus on improving the performance of official controls at departure points, improving communication within and between Member States authorities and improving cooperation and communication with non-EU authorities (mainly Turkey), as well as by achieving better risk-based official checks on live animals for export.</p> <p>The project will use the network of contact points for animal transport and develop a common Document on controls at departure.</p> <p>The project will explore and address problems arising at the border to Turkey and at EU exit points, their communication and follow-up. In addition, data from TRACES<sup>5</sup>, EUROSTAT<sup>6</sup> and other sources will be analysed.</p> <p>The project includes audits in 2017 and 2018 which will focus on main exit points for sea and road transport and main EU countries of departure as well as a fact-finding mission to Turkey. The project also includes an overview report and a BTSF workshop.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network Document for official controls at departure of animal consignments for export.</li> <li>• 7 audits (2017): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland; one fact-finding mission to Turkey;</li> <li>• Upload of documents (good practice) on CIRCABC. Overview report (2018);</li> <li>• BTSF workshop in Grange (2018).</li> </ul>

5. TRACES is the online management tool of the European Commission for health certification and control that tracks the movements of animals, plants, food and feed imported from outside the European Union and traded throughout the EU Member States.

6. Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union

## Reducing the systematic tail docking of piglets

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To reduce animal suffering during the rearing of piglets by improving the application of Council Directive 2008/120/EC over a three year period. The project focusses specifically on the rules pertaining to the avoidance of routine tail docking of piglets and the provision of manipulable material.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The objective focuses on improving management practices which impact on animal welfare, on pig farms.</p> <p>The project includes providing support to national authorities to assess the current situation in pig farms and improving communication within and between stakeholders, including farmers and private veterinarians.</p> <p>The project foresees meetings, both political and technical, targeted audits and a specialised group to support Member States in implementing the relevant legislation.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview report (on 2016 elements of the project);</li> <li>• 4 audits: Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Spain (further audits and visits of the specialised group planned for 2018);</li> <li>• Communication activities (including workshops/BTSF meetings with Member States, presentations at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and others).</li> </ul>

## Animal welfare on dairy farms

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To identify and evaluate measures that are suitable and effective in ensuring that cattle on dairy farms are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury.</p> <p>The project aims at identifying what factors influence the steps taken by dairy farmers to minimise the occurrence of a number of identified animal welfare indicators (mastitis, lameness, injuries, reproductive and metabolic diseases and disease in calves).</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The project looks at the impact that the actions of different actors, including competent authorities, farmers organisations, advisory bodies and quality schemes have in ensuring the welfare of dairy cows. The project also explores the use of indicators and its usefulness for different groups.</p> <p>Preparation of this project, including consultation with other Commission services and other stakeholders, was carried out between the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016. A series of five audits was carried out in 2016. An overview report will be produced in 2017.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>(In 2017:)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and publication of the overview report.</li> <li>• Better Training for Safer Food workshop with Member States.</li> </ul>

## 3.5. Plant health



With the increase in trade over the last decades, the risk of introducing new pests and diseases into the EU has increased. Given favorable weather conditions and a lack of natural enemies, they can spread and lead to environmental damage, destruction of native plant species, substantial economic losses in agricultural production and an increase in the use of pesticides.

The main aim of the audit and analysis activities of DG

Health and Food Safety in the plant health area, therefore, is to prevent the introduction into and spread of harmful organisms within the EU and at the same time, maintain a dynamic trade environment within the EU single market and in our trade relations with our non-EU trading partners. Its work will cover phytosanitary controls of the trade in plants and plant products both by non-EU countries and Member States and the eradication and control of harmful organisms on EU territory by Member States.

The projects presented below describe: the audits planned in targeted non-EU exporting countries (to follow up on non-compliant imports to the EU) and in Member States (including rapid responses to outbreaks), and the further development of EUROPHYT (the rapid alert system for plant health interceptions and outbreaks of harmful organisms) as well as other tools for alerts and analysis.

## Plant pest outbreaks

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To contribute, as part of the Commission crisis preparedness, to the proper handling of outbreaks of harmful organisms on the EU territory (their eradication or containment), including timely EU level involvement where needed.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>This will be achieved by audits, the number and scope of which will be regularly reviewed in light of the developments concerning plant pests. There will be follow-up of existing outbreaks and audits of the measures taken by Member States in response to new ones. The outcome will be used for review and enforcement, as appropriate, of EU legislation, including emergency measures.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>8 audits in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Italy and France)</li> <li>• <i>Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. sepedonicus</i> (Lithuania and Poland)</li> <li>• <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (Portugal)</li> <li>• <i>Epitrix papa</i> (Spain)</li> <li>• 2 further audits to be confirmed</li> </ul> <p>The results of the audits will be presented to the Member States. In addition, and for those Member States that are not audited, the Commission will evaluate the action plans submitted to deal with key harmful organisms.</p>

## Plant pest import controls

<b>Objective</b>	To prevent the introduction of harmful organisms to the EU whilst maintaining a dynamic trade environment.
<b>Project summary</b>	Import controls operated by Member States of the EU should be applied uniformly; however, previous audits of import control systems have revealed differences between Member States in the knowledge of EU requirements as well as their approach and level of controls for imports of various plants and plant products. The audit series will therefore focus on the inspection methodology employed with regard to plant health checks and will include the policy and capacities of Member States with regard to diagnosis of harmful organisms.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaire to each Member State and Switzerland (2016);</li> <li>• Desk analysis (first quarter of 2017);</li> <li>• 5 audits in 2017: Austria, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Portugal;</li> <li>• Further audits and overview report (end 2018).</li> </ul>

## Plant health audits in non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To improve compliance of the exports from the countries audited with EU requirements for freedom of regulated harmful organisms.
<b>Project summary</b>	The project aims to cover the most important plant health issues in non-EU countries, selected based on the risk from their imports to the EU. Three groups of audits are envisaged for 2017, continuing the series from 2016: citrus exporting countries, planting material exporting countries and selected countries from the non-EU trade alert list with most EUROPHYT notifications (exporting mainly produce other than citrus). The latter series will continue also in 2018. The country selection needs to be flexible to take account of unforeseen developments, e.g. the interceptions in EUROPHYT over the next 6-10 months.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>9 audits in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citrus from Brazil (citrus black spot and citrus canker);</li> <li>• Planting material from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Thailand (combined with alert list audit);</li> <li>• Alert list countries: Cameroon (mainly tropical fruits), Mali (mangos), Thailand (a variety of tropical fruit and vegetables as well as cut orchids) and Uganda (follow-up to the 2016 audit);</li> <li>• Overview reports on planting material and citrus series (2018).</li> <li>• The Commission will present the results of the project to the Member States.</li> </ul>

# EUROPHYT

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To operate and develop the IT systems EUROPHYT-<i>Interceptions</i> and EUROPHYT-<i>Outbreaks</i> and provide the necessary data for Member States and Commission for policy development and for the targeting of controls. The operation of EUROPHYT-<i>Interceptions</i> and the launch in the beginning of 2017 of EUROPHYT-<i>Outbreaks</i> will significantly contribute to the successful handling of new risks and to the management of crises.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>EUROPHYT is the European Commission notification and rapid alert system for plant health interceptions of imported and traded consignments and (from 2017) outbreaks of organisms harmful to plants on the EU territory. EUROPHYT provides an essential support for the implementation of preventative measures by ensuring that the data on risks to plant health from trade in plants and plant products and from outbreaks are up-to-date and accurate.</p> <p>Data analysis will be provided for identification of new risks, regular monitoring of the interception and outbreak situation, prioritisation of the DG Health and Food Safety plant health audit programme and action against non-EU countries. The latter will be done through the operation of the RERI (Response to Emerging Risks from Imports) working group. Results of the actions will be monitored, including analysis of non-EU country action plans and monitoring of developments in interceptions.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>Main outputs EUROPHYT-<i>Interceptions</i>: weekly Commission internal interception reports, monthly and annual statistics as well as annual report and monthly non-EU trade Alert List published on DG Health and Food Safety's website<sup>7</sup>.</p> <p>Main outputs EUROPHYT-<i>Outbreaks</i>: monthly outbreak reports produced for the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. Annual report published on the website and in print.</p> <p>Output RERI working group: Recommendations for actions to be taken by Member States and the Commission, on the basis of an analysis of interception, trade and other relevant data.</p>

## Plant health surveys

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To analyse and report on the results of the harmful organism surveys Member States must carry out under emergency decisions and control Directives.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The Commission will launch a "Plant Health Surveys" module under the EUROPHYT portal and extract and analyse data for the production of reports for presentation to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and some for publication. In addition, it will evaluate Member States' action plans for at least the most important harmful organisms.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>Output 1: An electronic system in operation for the 2016 survey results. Output 2: 10 reports (including on Potato bacteria, <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and <i>Anoplophora</i>).</p>

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions_en)

## 3.6. Food safety



Contributing to the effective implementation of food legislation continues to be a core element of DG Health and Food Safety's work programme of audit and analysis.

The projects described below deal with food control systems in Member States and non-EU countries exporting food to the EU, covering both food of animal and non-animal origin.

A number of projects started already in 2016, of those, work on the traceability of fish and fishery products, on imports of tuna from non-EU countries, and on the authorisation of plant protection products will be finalised in 2017 while projects on the management of microbiological risks in primary production of seeds for sprouting, on contaminants and on biocides will continue into 2018.

Activities in relation to residues of veterinary medicines in products of animal origin are a regular component of the work programmes; new projects will commence on the labelling of food, nutrition and health claims and food contact materials, and, in the area of pesticides, projects on the control of pesticide residues and on the sustainable use of pesticides.

The programme will also address new topics, namely ready-to-eat food (an increasing source of food-borne outbreaks), controls on internet sales of food and the application of flexibility rules and derogations of food safety legislation for micro, small and medium sized food enterprises in the Member States.

While the majority of projects include audit activities, a small number of mainly desk based projects aim to support the prioritisation of future audits or preparation of projects (projects on controls on food of animal origin in Member States, on non-EU countries exporting small volumes of food of animal origin, or scallops, and on food-borne outbreaks).

## Food of animal origin – controls in Member States

<b>Objective</b>	To verify that official controls on the food production chain are in compliance with EU food law and to contribute to a better and harmonised implementation by Member States.
<b>Project summary</b>	Desk analysis covering all Member States in 2017 to obtain information from a number of sources (incl. TRACES, RASFF, Scientific Committees, previous audit series, and others) with a view to better targeting risks and prioritising future audit work. The desk analysis will also exploit synergies to combine food commodities into one audit.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for the 2018 work programme in the area of food of animal origin in Member States.</li> </ul>



## Food of animal origin – controls in non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To verify the compliance or equivalence of legislation and of the control systems of non-EU countries with EU food law.
<b>Project summary</b>	Based on a risk-based methodology which takes account of, amongst others, export volumes and compliance records (e.g. rapid alert notifications, information from previous audits, foodborne outbreaks), medium to large non-EU trade partners are selected for audits. Audits will cover the organisation and performance of the competent authorities, the official control system in place covering production, processing and distribution stages applicable to the commodity produced. A number of audits will also be planned to non-EU countries who have requested approval of exports of various commodities, and for which the Commission has received satisfactory replies to its questionnaire on the control systems in place.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>20 audits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Poultry meat and poultry meat products): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Russian Federation, United States;</li> <li>• (Fishery products): Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Curaçao, India, Japan, Morocco, Peru, Vietnam, Zimbabwe;</li> <li>• (Various products of animal origin): China, Greenland, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa.</li> </ul>

## Microbiological risks in food of non-animal origin – primary production

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate the system of official controls in the area of microbiological risks for primary production of food of non-animal origin exported to the EU, like fresh fruit and vegetables eaten raw, and soft berries, including frozen produce.
<b>Project summary</b>	This project continues on from the earlier series of audits in non-EU countries on the production and processing of seeds for human consumption (in particular, for sprouting) with further audits of non-EU countries with the highest risk regarding seeds for sprouting. The project will be continued in 2018 with further audits and conclude with an overview report.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 audits (2017): Canada, Myanmar, Turkey, United States.</li> </ul>

## Small exporters of mammalian and poultry products

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate the effectiveness of the measures implemented by the competent authorities of non-EU countries exporting small amounts of food of mammalian and poultry origin to the EU.
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<b>Project summary</b>	The project consists of a desk analysis to develop a risk-based approach for the selection and assessment of non-EU countries exporting low volumes (less than 5,000 tons) of food of mammalian and poultry origin. Pre-audit questionnaires will be sent to the competent authorities in selected non-EU countries. Based on an assessment of the responses to these questionnaires, audits of selected non-EU countries will be performed to verify the data submitted.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 audits to non-EU countries to be determined based on the results of the desk analysis.</li> </ul>

## Tuna imports from non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To verify that the official control systems in place in non-EU countries exporting tuna to the EU are capable to ensure that tuna imported to the EU meets the applicable requirements concerning public health, fish policy and customs rules.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Tuna is a high value and high volume product, therefore traceability, labelling, identity (species), harvesting/catching (hygiene, temperature) and transport (conditions, reefer vessels) are important elements covered by the project, as well as sustainability.</p> <p>The project started in 2016 with an initial desk analysis to assess the worldwide tuna catch and identify representative exporting countries located within the regional tuna fishing centres. This is followed by a short series of targeted audits of the most important tuna exporters which will be finalised in 2017 and conclude in an overview report. The results will be presented to Member States in a BTSF workshop and at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Feed and Food.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 audits: Indonesia, Philippines, Seychelles;</li> <li>• overview report, workshop.</li> </ul>

## Traceability and labelling of fishery products

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate Member States' official control systems on compulsory traceability information (from sea to shelf), labelling rules and the use of additives for fishery products.
<b>Project summary</b>	The project consists of a short series of fact-finding missions to selected Member States which will be finalised in 2017. An overview report will summarise the results and highlight best practices identified.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last fact-finding mission of the series to Spain;</li> <li>• overview report.</li> </ul>

## Small exporters of fishery products

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate the effectiveness of the measures implemented by the competent authorities of non-EU country trading partners exporting small amounts of fishery products to the EU.
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<b>Project summary</b>	The project consists of a desk analysis to develop a risk-based approach for the selection and assessment of non-EU countries exporting low volumes (less than 5,000 tons) of fishery products. Pre-audit questionnaires will be sent to the competent authorities in selected non-EU countries. Based on an assessment of the responses to these questionnaires, audits of selected non-EU countries will be performed to verify the data submitted.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 audits to non-EU countries to be determined based on the results of the desk analysis.</li> </ul>

## Flexibility and derogations in SMEs<sup>8</sup>

<b>Objective</b>	To provide a factual overview of the use by Member States of the flexibility provisions foreseen in EU hygiene legislation aimed at establishing a proportionate environment favourable to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>EU legislation allows for the application of flexibility for SMEs in the food sector so that their creation and development is not affected by technical and administrative requirements which would be disproportionate for these enterprises. These rules are voluntary for Member States and their implementation varies across the EU.</p> <p>The project will involve a desk analysis mapping how Member States apply flexibility, and fact-finding missions. The results will be discussed in workshops with Member States to share good practices that support the implementation of flexibility rules.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 fact-finding missions: Austria, France, Hungary, Spain.</li> </ul>

## Controls of internet sales of food

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate how Member States have integrated into their official control systems controls on the sales of products via the internet, especially of foodstuffs (business to business, business to consumer and cross-border trade).
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Based on Member States' answers to a questionnaire, and additional information received in a working group meeting with Member State experts, a short series of fact-finding missions will be developed. Additional information will be gathered on how official controls of internet sales of food are carried out in some non-EU countries.</p> <p>The project will result in an overview report which will be discussed with Member States at a Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) workshop.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 fact-finding missions: Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, UK;</li> <li>• overview report;</li> <li>• BTSF workshop.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> SMEs = micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

## Ready-to-eat food

<b>Objective</b>	To provide an overview of the measures Member States have in place to comply with EU requirements on ready-to-eat (RTE) food and identify any difficulties in their implementation and/or any good practices that could support the Commission's policy of reducing the number of foodborne outbreaks caused by the consumption of this category of food.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Ready-to-eat food is food that will not be cooked or reheated before consumption (e.g. salads, smoked fish, desserts, sandwiches, sushi, and food that has been cooked in advance to serve cold).</p> <p>Following a desk analysis, involving a questionnaire to Member States, and workshops with Member State and industry stakeholders, a short audit series will start at the end of 2017. The results will be summarised in an overview report (2018) and possible difficulties in the implementation, and any best practices identified will be discussed with Member States.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (2017) 1 audit to Finland.</li> </ul>

## Food-borne outbreaks

<b>Objective</b>	To collect and analyse available data to identify future activities addressing food borne outbreaks in the EU.
<b>Project summary</b>	The project will be desk-based and create an "inventory" of information available through previous audit work, notifications of the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food, relevant studies etc. Consultation of Commission agencies in the field (European Food Safety Agency, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) will be a further element. The results will feed into the development of future work programmes.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input into programme planning.</li> </ul>

## Import of scallops

<b>Objective</b>	To verify whether non-EU countries exporting scallops to the EU are correctly applying the EU food safety requirements for the production of live bivalve molluscs.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The project will gather, analyse and summarise information on the controls performed in main exporters of scallops to the EU.</p> <p>The project will be limited to those countries that are included in the Annex II of Decision 2006/766/EC, but not listed in its Annex I, and which are availing of the exception in this Decision.</p> <p>The project will use information available, amongst others, in TRACES<sup>9</sup>, EUROSTAT<sup>10</sup>, previous audits (if available). A questionnaire will be prepared and sent to the relevant exporting countries.</p>

9. TRACES is the online management tool of the European Commission for health certification and control that tracks the movements of animals, plants, food and feed imported from outside the European Union and traded throughout the EU Member States

10. Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union

<b>Outputs</b>	Overview of the current situation regarding the imports of scallops and the official controls carried out in the relevant non-EU countries.
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## Labelling of food in Member States

<b>Objective</b>	To evaluate the performance of Member States' official control systems on the labelling of food throughout the food chain.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 (the Food Information Regulation) contains requirements for the labelling of food such as on the legibility of information, allergen labelling, nutrition information etc.</p> <p>The project will start with a short audit series focusing on the current situation in the Member States with regard to control systems on labelling and the cooperation between food business operators and competent authorities. The number of products recalled from the market internally or due to false allergen labelling is increasing.</p> <p>The project will be summarised in an overview report which may also be the basis for a discussion with Member States of main problems encountered and best practices identified.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 audits: France, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal (combined with nutrition and health claims).</li> </ul>

## Nutrition and health claims

<b>Objective</b>	To provide an overview on how the Nutrition and Health Claims legislation (Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006) is implemented "on the ground", i.e. how the rules are applied in Member States and, particularly, to which extent official controls have been put in place.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The regulation is the legal framework used by food business operators when they want to highlight the particular beneficial effects of their products - in relation to health and nutrition - on the product label or in its advertising (such as "low fat" or "Vitamin D is needed for the normal growth and development of bone in children"). The objective of those rules is to ensure that any claim made on a food's labelling, presentation or advertising in the European Union is clear, accurate and based on scientific evidence. Food bearing claims that could mislead consumers are prohibited on the EU market.</p> <p>The project consists of a short series of audits to a representative sample of Member States to evaluate their control system. The project will be summarised in an overview report which may also be the basis for a discussion with Member States of main problems encountered and best practices identified.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 audits: France, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal (combined with food labelling).</li> </ul>

## Food contact materials

<b>Objective</b>	To provide an overview of the general situation in the EU market regarding the use of food contact materials (FCM), the regulatory measures applied and the main characteristics of Member States' official control systems.
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<b>Project summary</b>	<p>A short series of fact-finding missions will be carried out in 2017 focussing on the current situation in Member States with regard to control systems in place for the use of FCM. Results are also aimed to support further Commission work in this field, notably an evaluation of the regulatory framework for FCM.</p> <p>The project will be summarised in an overview report which will also be the basis for a discussion with Member States of main problems encountered and best practices identified.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 fact-finding missions: Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania.</li> </ul>

## Controls of contaminants in food

<b>Objective</b>	To enhance control systems of chemical contaminants in foods, at all stages of production, in the country of origin with the objective of strengthening the system of control at the point of contamination.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Contaminants - unwanted substances that have not been intentionally added to food and feed - can occur at various stages of production, processing and distribution. They can occur in products from the EU or in products that are imported from non-EU countries. As most are naturally occurring and can't be removed they are regulated with the establishment of a maximum level, acceptable from a public and animal health point of view and achievable by applying good practices. This level can normally be achieved by applying good agricultural and manufacturing practices combined with controls on the processing and exporting stages. The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audits in non-EU countries presenting a high level of Rapid Alert notifications for chemical contaminants in foods;</li> <li>• a desk analysis in 2017 on the incidence of heavy metals contamination in fish and management of that risk by Member States. Audits will be carried out, based on the results of the desk analysis, in 2018. The project will conclude with an overview report which will be discussed with Member States, industry and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 audits: China, India, United States</li> </ul>

## Assessment of residue monitoring plans

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to the effectiveness of official controls on residues of veterinary medicines and contaminants in live animals and animal products.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Member States have the legal obligation to present to the Commission their annual residue monitoring plans (RMPs) for assessment and approval. The same applies to the (currently) 84 non-EU countries which are exporting to the EU and who have to annually present their RMPs for the commodities they are listed for in the Annex to Decision 2011/163/EU. The activities of DG Health and Food Safety in this regard are as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It assesses the Member States' RMPs, taking into consideration the comments provided by the EU Reference Laboratories. The outcome of the evaluations is presented to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed for approval.</li> <li>• It also verifies whether the listed non-EU countries have provided their annual RMPs for all the commodities for which they are listed (260 RMPs in total), and also whether any non-EU country wishes to be listed for another commodity. In addition, all RMPs with a request for new listing are assessed. Finally, other non-EU countries' RMPs are assessed on a risk basis (starting with those where previous audit reports have made recommendations on this matter) with a view to a continuation of listing or de-listing. The aim is to cover all non-EU countries in a 5 year cycle.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of 28 Member State RMPs;</li> <li>• Assessment of concerned non-EU country RMPs which results in (continuation of) listing or de-listing of certain non-EU countries in the Annex to Decision 2011/163/EU for the respective commodities.</li> </ul>

## Residue audits in non-EU countries

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to the effectiveness of official controls regarding food safety, in particular by establishing whether the guarantees provided by non-EU countries' approved residue monitoring plans (RMPs) remain effective.
<b>Project summary</b>	The annual programme of residue audits in non-EU countries is established on a risk basis, taking account of the information obtained from the assessment of the RMPs, rapid alert notifications, audit history or requests for new listing.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 audits: Albania, Armenia, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Vietnam, Zimbabwe (combined with other food safety audits, where appropriate);</li> <li>• The results of the audits will also inform Member States in the framework of the Residue Experts Working Group of the substances that could be targeted for imported products of animal origin at border inspection posts.</li> </ul>

## Authorisation of Plant Protection Products

<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess and evaluate the system in place in the Member States for authorising plant protection products (PPPs) to EU standards;</li> <li>• To improve co-operation and co-ordination of competent authorities evaluating applications of PPPs;</li> <li>• To provide information to EU policymakers regarding the implementation of the Regulation on the authorisation of PPPs and to share good practices identified amongst Member States.</li> </ul>
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<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The project started in 2016 with six audits and will be finalised in 2017 with a further audit. Apart from conclusions on the functioning of the authorisation systems, the audit reports also identify good practice. An overview report will be produced in 2017 on the implementation of legislation regulating the authorisation of PPP. This will also be discussed with Member States.</p> <p>The results will feed into the REFIT<sup>11</sup> exercise.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 audit to Spain;</li> <li>• overview report, presentation to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.</li> </ul>

## Controls of pesticide residues

<b>Objective</b>	<p>To contribute to the improvement of pesticide residue controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in Member States by identifying any root causes for weaknesses in the control systems for pesticide residues in foodstuffs of plant origin as well as any weaknesses in the laboratory network;</li> <li>• in non-EU countries exporting produce to the EU; with a focus on countries with the highest non-compliance rate with EU Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), and based on Rapid Alert Notifications.</li> </ul>
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>A new audit series will be developed for Member States, commencing in the second half of 2017. Its results will be compiled in an overview report in 2018 and presented to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Feed and Food (PAFF), the European Pesticide Residue Workshop (EPRW), at European Reference Laboratory workshops and the EFSA Pesticide Monitoring Network.</p> <p>Audits in non-EU countries will be targeted annually on the basis of pesticide residue control data. The results will be disseminated at the PAFF, the EPRW, and the Commission working group on import controls under Commission Regulation (EC) 669/2009.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 audits: Croatia, India, Uganda, Vietnam;</li> <li>• overview report on pesticide controls in MS (2018).</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD)

<b>Objective</b>	<p>To contribute to achieving a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.</p>
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11. REFIT is the European Commission's Fitness and Performance programme. It is about keeping EU Law fit for purpose, making it simpler and reducing regulatory costs.



<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>New activities for 2017-2018 will focus on assessing the achievements and impact of the overall process and improving information exchange through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six fact-finding missions on the ground and desk analysis in 2017 on the implementation by Member States of the SUD including national targets, and production of a report to the European Parliament and the Council;</li> <li>• Finalisation of a strategic guidance document on monitoring and surveying impacts of pesticide use;</li> <li>• Development of a new web portal for information sharing, including links to national technical guidelines, national indicators and any revised National Action Plans after 2017;</li> <li>• Engagement with ESTAT and OECD on the development of harmonised risk indicators;</li> <li>• Evaluation of previous courses under the Better Training for Safer Food programme and launch of new courses/workshops based on identified needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 fact-finding missions to Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden;</li> <li>• report to the European Parliament and the Council on overall progress on the implementation in the Member States, including the implementation of national targets;</li> <li>• guidance document on monitoring and surveying of impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment.</li> </ul>

## Biocides

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To monitor the implementation and enforcement of the Biocidal Products Regulation.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>Biocidal products are used to control unwanted organisms that are harmful to human or animal health, or that cause damage to human activities. These harmful organisms include pests (e.g. insects, rats or mice) and microorganisms (e.g. moulds or bacteria).</p> <p>Fact-finding missions, based on a questionnaire sent to Member States in 2016, will assess the enforcement of the regulation including the assessment of active substances, authorisation of biocidal products and official controls of biocides and treated articles. The series of missions will be conducted over a two-year period and commence in late 2017. The results will be compiled in an overview report, and disseminated at the Standing Committee on Biocidal Products. Study visits to disseminate good practice are planned for 2018.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fact-finding mission to Hungary.</li> </ul>

## 3.7. Food quality



The markets for organic production and geographical indications in the EU are growing in

value and contribute to the economic sustainability of rural communities. Growth in consumer demand for these products in recent years is remarkable. Ensuring the integrity of these products is, therefore, important.

### Organic production and geographical indications

<b>Objective</b>	To ensure that products labelled as being of organic production or designated as geographical indications or traditional specialities guaranteed are in compliance with EU legislation.
<b>Project summary</b>	Official controls on organic production and on geographical indications (PDO, PGI <sup>12</sup> ) as well as on traditional specialities guaranteed in Member States, and on organic production in non-EU countries are verified through audits. In non-EU countries, the Commission is also assessing private Control Bodies which are recognised for certifying/providing guarantees in relation to export of organic products to the EU.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 audits to Control Bodies operating in non-EU countries;</li><li>• 3 audits on geographical indications (Germany, Poland, Romania);</li><li>• 3 audits on organic production (Austria, Belgium, Slovenia).</li></ul>

<sup>12</sup> PDO - protected designations of origin, PGI - protected geographical indications

### 3.8. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)



In the EU, 50 GMOs are authorised for food and feed. The EU market for GM food products is small while for GM feed, the market is

substantial. The majority (19) of Member States opted out from cultivation of all authorised and pending GMOs under the 2015 amendment of Directive (EC) 2001/18. By 2017, Member States which cultivate GMOs must put in place coexistence measures along their borders with Member States which opted out.

### Controls of GMOs

<b>Objective</b>	To verify the implementation of Member States’ controls on GMOs in feed, food, seed and field trials; as well as the controls on the cultivation of genetically modified crops and the coexistence measures put in place.
<b>Project summary</b>	The project entails audits in selected Member States which have never been audited (or only been audited once) and Member States which cultivate GM crops.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 audits in 2017 (Cyprus, Finland).</li> </ul>

### 3.9. Feed safety, animal by-products and TSEs<sup>13</sup>



In the area of feed safety, the Commission will focus on the risk-based prioritisation of official controls. A series of fact-finding missions will be performed over the next two years

evaluating the overall systems for prioritisation and taking into account the findings from the series on interaction with private standards.

In addition, a short desk analysis looks at the recently amended rules on the removal of specified risk material.

13. Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

## Improving risk-based controls in the feed sector

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>The project follows on from the last series of audits in the feed sector. One result was that the risk prioritisation of official controls is still at an early stage in various Member States, which has to be seen against the general context of resources constraints administrations face. The project, therefore, aims at evaluating and improving the risk-based planning of official controls in the feed sector.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The project will start with a pilot mission to fine-tune the methodology for the series, followed by a series of 14 fact-finding missions in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>The outcome, including good practices identified, will be discussed with Member States experts.</p> <p>An overview report will summarize the results.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot mission to Belgium;</li> <li>• Series of 8 fact-finding missions in 2017 (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden);</li> <li>• Continuation of mission series and workshop (end 2018), overview report (2019).</li> </ul>

## Rules for the removal of specified risk materials (SRM)

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To gather information on the implementation and possible difficulties encountered by Member States in the implementation of the new rules on the removal and traceability of specified risk materials (SRM)' (Commission Regulations (EU) No 2015/728 and 2015/1162 amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001).</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>A questionnaire on the topic will be sent to all Member States. The replies will be used to decide whether fact-finding missions or audits on the topic are necessary.</p> <p>An overview report will summarise the results of the project.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaire to Member States;</li> <li>• Summary report.</li> </ul>

## 3.10. Import controls and import/export support systems



### Imports from non-EU countries

Import controls provide essential guarantees on food safety, protection of animal and plant health, and prevent

illegal trade. Regular audits of the import control systems of the Member States are crucial to maintain and improve the effectiveness of these controls and to provide confidence to the Member States and to non-EU countries that controls at all EU borders provide adequate protection.

The 2017 programme will focus on the most important element of import controls – initial checks on the validity of documentation and the subsequent decision on import/rejection. A small number of more comprehensive audits of Member States' import control systems as well as technical

evaluations of facilities at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) complement this work.

### Import/export support systems

In relation to imports from non-EU countries, the Commission manages the lists of approved non-EU country establishments for the production of food of animal origin, and evaluates replies to food safety/animal health questionnaires returned to the Commission prior to audits for the purpose of first listing of these countries.

New in 2017 are supporting activities in the areas of imports and exports. In relation to imports, an improved co-ordination system will be put in place for issuing questionnaires to non-EU countries wishing to export to the EU. By end of 2017, a comprehensive suite of such questionnaires will have been developed – improving the consistency of such questionnaires and thereafter reducing the resources needed. In relation to exports of food and animals from the EU, a similar approach will be taken to developing a library of responses to EU level questionnaires received from non-EU countries.

## Documentary checks and subsequent decisions at the Union borders

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>To evaluate the documentary checks at EU borders in order to detect deficiencies, to ensure their correction, to identify good practices and common difficulties experienced by the Member States and to contribute to an overall improvement in the effectiveness of documentary checks – leading to correct decisions made on consignments and better protection of EU food safety and animal health.</p>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>Documentary checks at the borders are the first element of import controls – they are a vital part of the process of the decision on whether import should be allowed or not by detecting non-eligible goods and preventing them from entering the Union market.</p> <p>Following a desk analysis to compile the information gathered in relation to documentary checks during recent years, the Commission will carry out a series of on-the-spot audits. The results will be summarised in an overview report and made available to different EU expert working groups. A guidance document may also be developed, as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 audits: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain;</li> <li>• Overview report and communication activities.</li> </ul>

## Targeted audits of import control systems

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to high levels of compliance and effectiveness of the import control systems in place, identifying possibilities for improvement and issuing subsequent recommendations to the competent authorities.
<b>Project summary</b>	The project is complementary to the one on documentary checks at the borders as for a number of countries it is appropriate to review the complete import control system (for products of animal origin and live animals including transits of non-EU goods, and controls on non-commercial pets, passengers' luggage) rather than restrict the audit scope to specific aspects of the system. This can be of particular value e.g. in Member States where certain aspects have not been audited recently.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 audits: Malta, Luxembourg, Switzerland.</li> </ul>

## Compliance of Border Inspection Post (BIP) facilities

<b>Objective</b>	To ensure that new and modified BIPs are constructed in compliance with legislative requirements and are able to perform checks efficiently and effectively.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>EU legislation places the responsibility for approval of BIPs on the Commission services and this includes a requirement for on-the-spot inspection of newly constructed or modified BIPs.</p> <p>Before the Commission can propose a BIP facility for listing in Commission Decision 2009/821/EC, the competent authorities consult the Commission who assesses the proposals for new BIPs or modification to existing facilities to ensure correctness, coherence and completeness. Once the proposal is confirmed satisfactory and the works are finished, the Commission visits the new BIPs to confirm the compliance with EU legislative requirements.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 25 assessments of files and approximately two visits of facilities (one already planned to Spain), based on submission of proposals by Member States.</li> </ul>

## Support systems for imports/exports of food

<b>Objective</b>	To improve the efficiency of a range of activities supporting imports into and exports from the EU.
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<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compilation and issuing of questionnaires to non-EU countries seeking approval to export (initial application or addition of a commodity) to the EU; co-ordination of the evaluation of responses received.</li> <li>2. Co-ordination of selected questionnaires received from non-EU countries re. the authorisation of imports from the EU (where response is more appropriate or efficient at EU level); compilation of a question and answer library which will be made available to Member States – this will allow more rapid and consistent responses, whether provided at Commission or Member State level.</li> <li>3. Provision of information on the EU regulatory control systems to non-EU country authorities.</li> <li>4. The management of lists of approved establishments in non-EU countries for the production of food of animal origin (approximately 500 requests for amendments of these lists are received each year) is an essential prerequisite for EU import controls and entails validating requests, entry of requests into TRACES<sup>14</sup> and compilation of new lists.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Questionnaires to non-EU countries wishing to export to the EU. By end 2017, a comprehensive and standardised suite of such questionnaires covering all major commodities;</li> <li>2. Responses to selected questionnaires received from non-EU countries; comprehensive question and answer library by end of 2017;</li> <li>3. Development and delivery (as required) of presentations covering all aspects of the EU regulatory framework and control systems for food and animal health. Non-EU auditors will be accompanied as required.</li> <li>4. Up-to-date lists of approved non-EU establishments for existing commodities, and new lists for treated raw materials for gelatine and collagen production.</li> </ol>

### 3.11. Horizontal control issues, follow-up and BTSF training



DG Health and Food Safety’s general follow-up audits and administrative updates of country profiles<sup>15</sup> are intended to ensure that progress made by Member States in addressing recommendations of previous audits is

systematically followed up and to encourage Member States’ commitment to continuous improvement. The “country profiles” on each Member State summarise the state-of-play on their performance and provide very good country-specific knowledge,

which ensures that there is transparency of the state of enforcement in each and every Member State.

This chapter also describes projects dealing with “horizontal” elements of control systems and requirements, as set out in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004<sup>16</sup>, in particular national audit systems and risk-based planning of official controls. Another project aims at evaluating to what extent Member States take account of results of self-control systems and private sector certification schemes in organising their controls.

Finally, it describes how the Commission engages with Member States in network meetings and its training activities under the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) umbrella.

14. TRACES is the online management tool of the European Commission for health certification and control that tracks the movements of animals, plants, food and feed imported from outside the European Union and traded throughout the EU Member States.

15. [http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/country\\_profiles/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/country_profiles/index.cfm)

16. Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

## General follow-up audits

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide assurance to stakeholders, including Member States, consumers and trading partners, regarding the performance of Member States' official control systems and</li> <li>• To provide up-to-date information to stakeholders and the Commission on the structure and organisation of competent authority official control systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>Audit reports may make recommendations to assist the competent authorities in taking corrective measures. The Commission systematically follows up on the actions taken, either administratively or in general follow-up audits.</p> <p>Good country-specific knowledge to inform policy-making is important. DG Health and Food Safety maintains and publishes country profiles which include information on the structure and organisation of official control systems in each Member State as well as information on the state of progress with the implementation of actions to address audit recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 general follow-up audits (Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece and Romania);</li> <li>• 3 desk-based follow-ups (Austria, Belgium and Slovenia);</li> <li>• 8 updated country profiles.</li> </ul>

## Member States' audit systems

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess national audit systems in Member States with a view to identifying good practices and problematic areas and</li> <li>• To provide feed-back to the managers of the Commission and national competent authorities on the extent to which EU policy objectives are being achieved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project summary</b></p>	<p>The organisation and management of official control systems rely on a number of horizontal elements which are described in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. The effectiveness of these control systems in consistently delivering on their objectives is deeply influenced by how well these horizontal elements have been addressed.</p> <p>Article 4 (6) of the Regulation requires Member States to carry out internal audits or have external audits carried out, and to take appropriate measures in the light of their results, to ensure that they are achieving the objectives of the Regulation.</p> <p>The overall impact expected through the project is a contribution to continuous improvement in Member State organisations by enhancing the capacity of their audit systems.</p> <p>The project will result in an overview report and subsequent follow-up actions will be determined based on its outcome.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audits of 10 Member States: Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Sweden;</li> <li>• Interim overview report;</li> <li>• The results of the projects will feed into the prioritisation and planning process for future DG Health and Food Safety work programmes.</li> </ul>



## Arrangements in Member States for planning of risk-based controls

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to the enhancement of the capacity of Member States to optimise the use of (diminishing) control resources and thereby increase the effectiveness of their control systems.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The organisation and management of official control systems rely on a number of horizontal elements which are described in several of the articles of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. The effectiveness of these control systems in consistently delivering on their objectives is deeply influenced by how well these horizontal elements have been addressed.</p> <p>Article 3(1) of Regulation 882/2004 requires Member States to ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and taking account of: (a) identified risks (...), (b) (...) operators' past record as regards compliance (...), (c) the reliability of any own checks (...) and (d) any information that might indicate non-compliance.</p> <p>The project entails fact-finding missions and will result in an overview report.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 fact-finding missions to the Czech Republic, Denmark and Spain;</li> <li>• overview report.</li> </ul>

## Synergies of official controls with food business operators' self controls and private certification schemes

<b>Objective</b>	To contribute to more uniform and risk-based official controls, better integrating the results provided by (a) food business operators' self-controls and by (b) official controls and to a possible reduction of costs of inspection services.
<b>Project summary</b>	Four fact-finding missions in 2017 evaluating to what extent Member States take account of results of self-control systems and private sector certification schemes in organising official controls (covering food of animal and non-animal origin) to a representative sample of Member States. The results will be presented in an overview report; in addition, BTSF trainings and/or workshops with Member States and Commission experts will be organised to discuss any problems encountered and good practices identified.
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk analysis;</li> <li>• Fact-finding missions in 2017: Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, UK;</li> <li>• (Continuation in 2018, overview report, workshops/BTSF).</li> </ul>

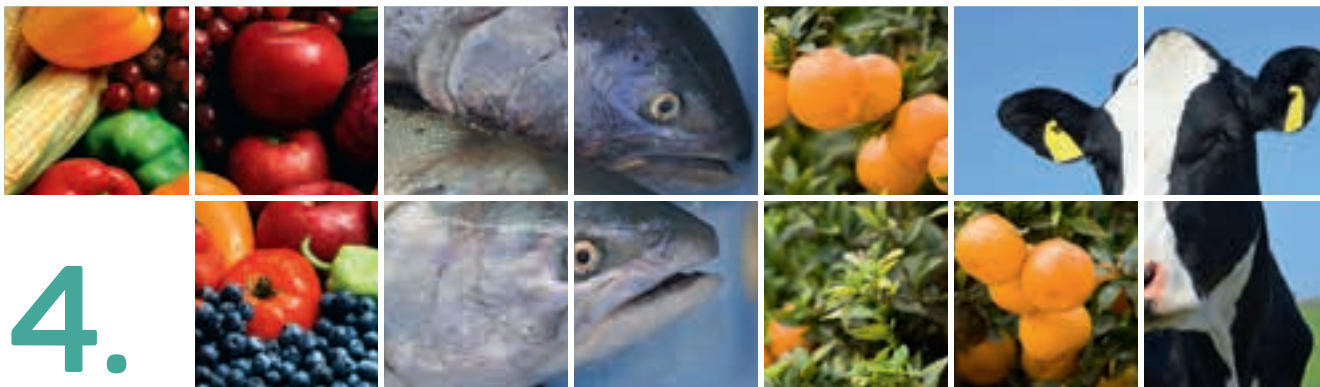
## Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) and National audit systems (NAS) Networks

<b>Objective</b>	To enhance Member States' official control systems in the areas of food and feed safety, plant health, animal health and welfare, thus contributing to maintain EU consumers' confidence in the EU's high standards.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The networks are comprised of Member States and EFTA (CH, NO, IS) experts from national competent authorities responsible for (a) the MANCPs and Annual Reports and (b) the performance of audits of official control systems. The networks meet regularly, under the chairmanship of DG Health and Food Safety, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exchange experiences in implementing MANCPs and national audit systems on official control activities;</li> <li>• discuss better ways to address common problem areas and on the identification of good principles and practices; and</li> <li>• to consolidate agreed principles and good practices into reference documents.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two plenary meetings for Audit and four for MANCPs networks (with meeting reports and supporting documents);</li> <li>• four subgroup meetings for each network (with meeting reports, reference document and supporting documents).</li> </ul> <p>The documents are shared by the Commission with the Network members via CIRCABC<sup>17</sup> dedicated interest groups.</p>

## Contribution to the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Programme

<b>Objective</b>	To optimise the use of the BTSF programme to address training requirements identified in the course of DG Health and Food Safety's audit and analysis activities and to disseminate and promote good practices for official controls with a view to enhancing official controls and other official activities by the Member State competent authorities.
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis provides input into the development of the BTSF programme (e.g. by identifying training requirements and good practices to be disseminated and promoted) and participates as tutors or quality controllers in the programme.</p> <p>It organises specific training activities (e.g. workshops) for Member States, to discuss common problems and best practice identified in audit series and projects.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals for BTSF training programmes (incl. evaluation of tenders and training materials);</li> <li>• Provision of training and quality assessments of training provided by independent contractors.</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> CIRCabc is a European Commission application to create collaborative workspaces where communities of users can work together over the web and share information and resources.



# 4.

## Report on the Audit Programme 2015

In 2015, the Commission carried out 209 audits, fact-finding missions and study visits in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health. In addition, it performed 26 joint assessments of Notified Bodies in the medical devices sector, together with Designating Authorities from Member States and EFTA countries.

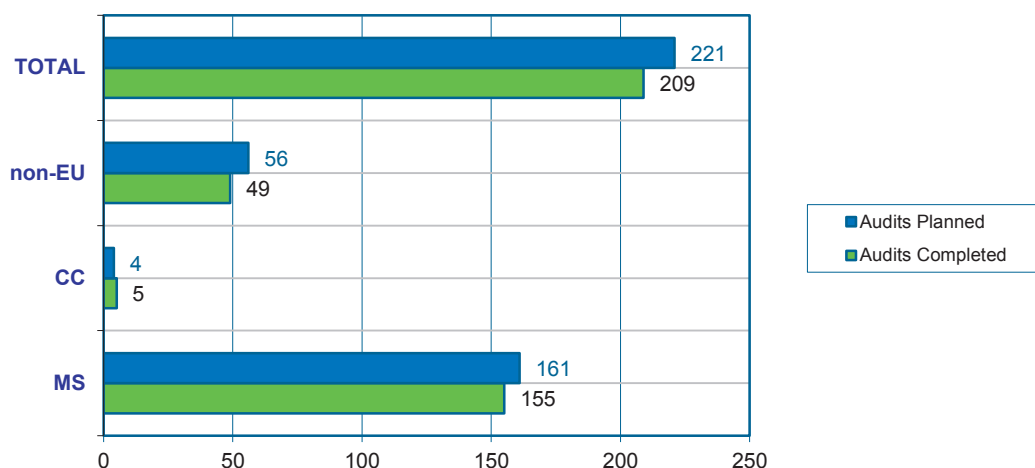
### 4.1. Audits in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health



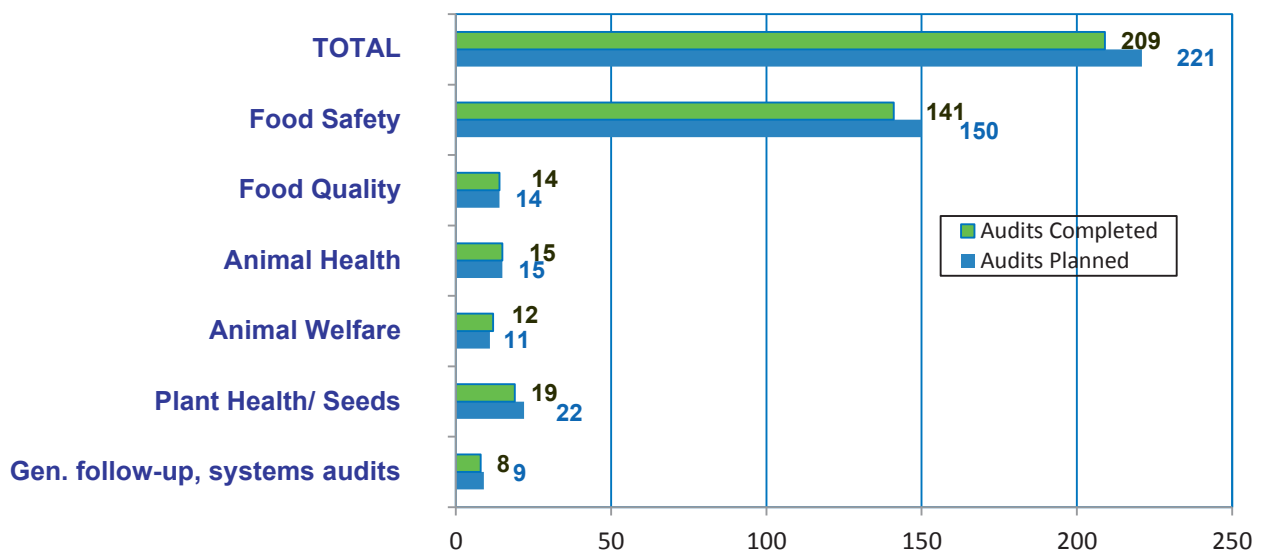
In 2015, the Commission carried out 209 audits, fact-finding missions and study visits in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health, compared to 215 audits in 2014. 155 audits took place in Member States and 54 in candidate countries and non-EU countries with 4,700 auditor days on the ground.

Chart 5 compares the number of planned and completed audits by region.

Chart 5: Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2015 by Region



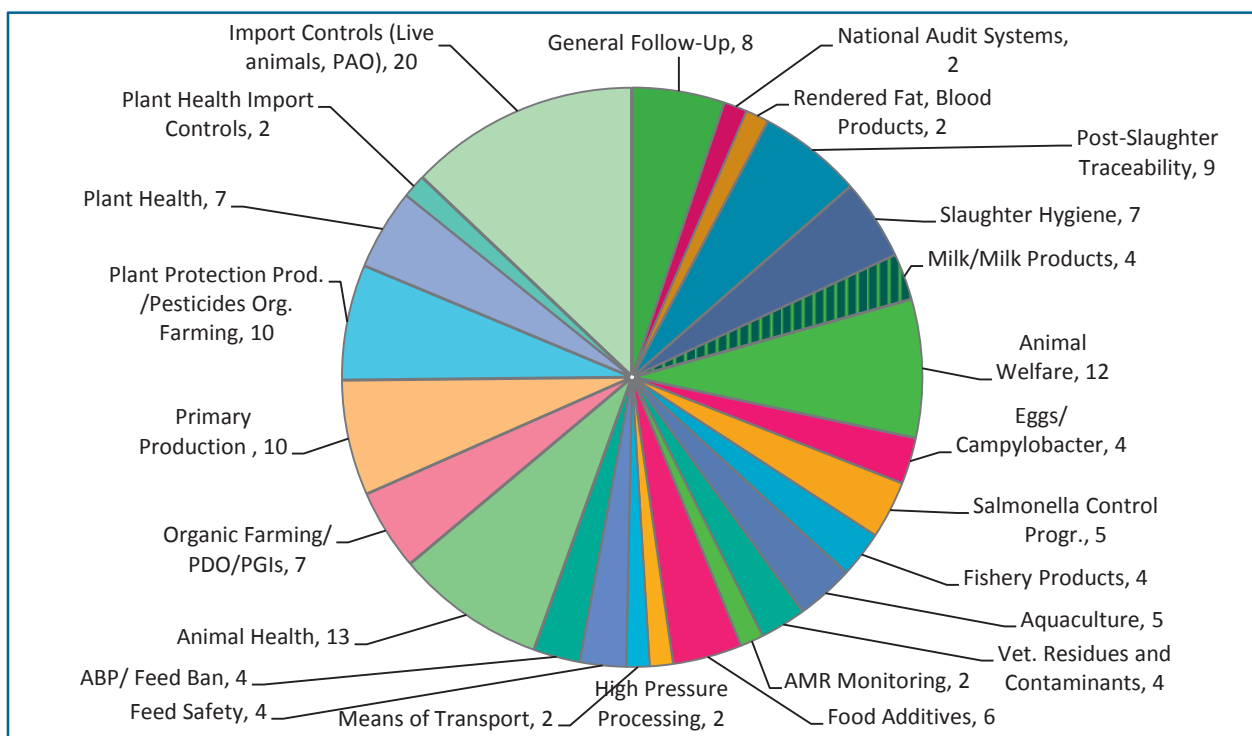
**Chart 6: Number of Planned and Completed Audits in 2015 by Main Area**



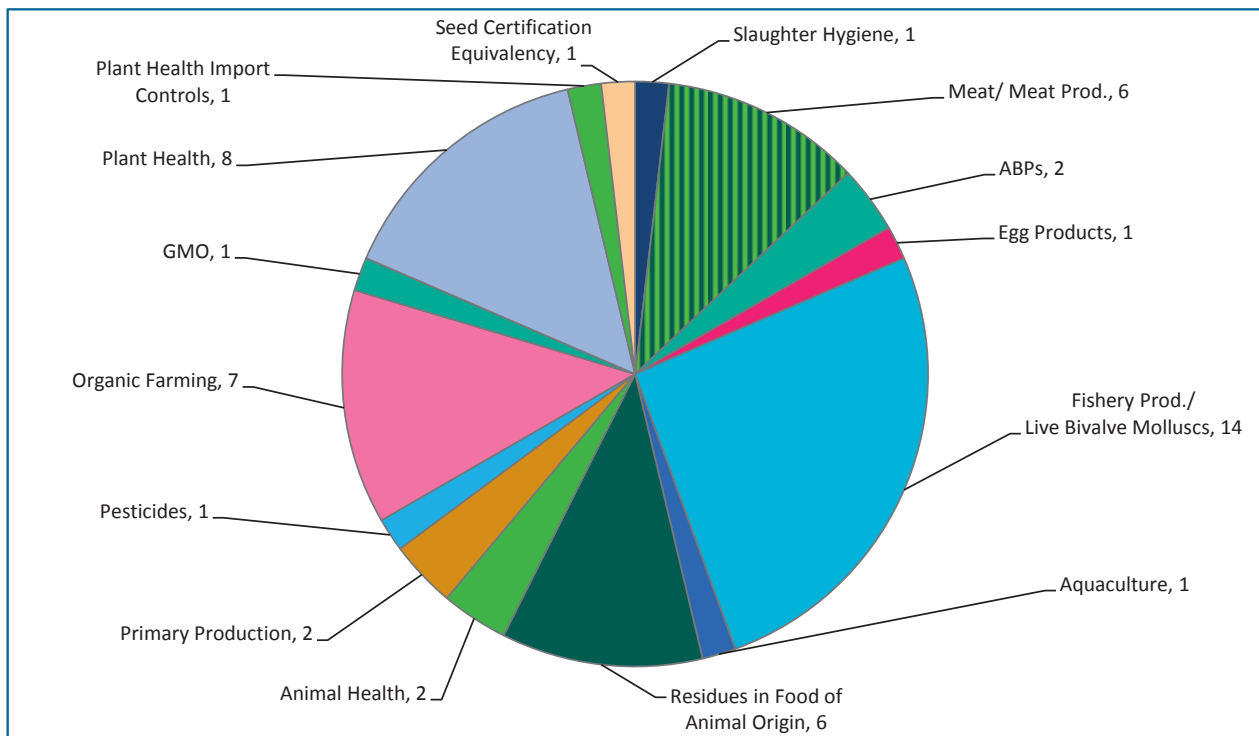
The breakdown by area of activity (chart 6) shows that 141 (or 67%) of audits were performed in the field of food safety while 27 (13%) dealt with animal health and welfare. 19 audits (9%) took place in the area of plant health and seeds, 14 (7%) related to food quality. Finally, 8 audits (4%) were general follow-up audits.

The following two charts provide overviews on sectors and commodities covered by the audit programme 2015 in Member States (chart 7) and candidate countries and non-EU countries (chart 8).

**Chart 7: Audits in Member States 2015 by Sector**



**Chart 8: Audits in Candidate Countries and non-EU Countries 2015 by Sector**



Apart from the audits specifically targeted at animal welfare, there were animal welfare components to audits in Member States and non-EU countries on meat or milk.

**• Auditor days on the ground and participation of National Experts**

Commission auditors, together with National Experts of the Member States, spent 4,720 auditor days on the ground (excluding travel time) in 2015, compared to 4,845 days in 2014. These figures do not include the preparation of audits, reporting and follow-up work. 121 National Experts participated in 98 audits.

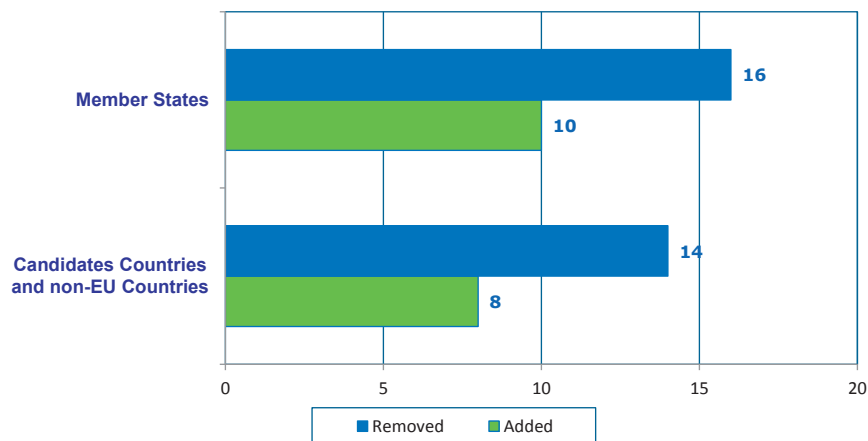
**• Indicator achievement and programme changes**

In 2015, 86% of all programmed audits were completed, surpassing the indicator target of performing 80% of all

programmed audits. The total number of audits completed (including audits added during the year) compared to the number of programmed audits was 95% exceeding the target of 90% for this indicator measuring use of audit capacity.

30 audits were postponed or removed from the programme. The reasons for this were, for example, security concerns or a lack of preparedness of competent authorities (action plans from previous audits not yet fully implemented or replies to pre-audit questionnaires not yet received by the Commission). Where possible, these audits were replaced by audits from the reserve list. Other audits had to be replaced by new priorities that emerged during the year, incl. outbreaks of plant pests (*Xylella fastidiosa*) or animal diseases (Lumpy Skin Disease). In total, 18 audits were added in 2015.

## Chart 9: Overview on programme changes in 2015



### • Overview reports

In 2015, the Commission published 16 overview reports on its audit and non-audit activities in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health:

- Bivalve molluscs
- Genetically modified organisms
- Contaminants
- Biosecurity systems handling live FMD virus
- Mechanically separated meat
- Emergency preparedness
- Animal welfare during transport – study visits
- HACCP
- Critically important antimicrobials
- Pesticide controls
- Food supplements
- Animal welfare at slaughter and related operations
- Plant health: Potato ring rot and brown rot surveys in the EU – annual report 2013-2014
- Europhyt annual report
- Harmful organisms outbreaks – annual report
- Plant pest outbreaks - *Anoplophora*

## 4.2. Assessments and audits in the human health area



In 2015, the Commission carried out 26 joint assessments of Notified Bodies in the medical devices sector, together with Designating Authorities from Member States and EFTA countries. Overall, 41 National Experts were participating in these assessments.

The Commission also published one overview report on its work in this area: “Voluntary joint assessments. Notified Bodies designated under the medical devices directives (2013-2014)”.

The audit reports and overview reports are published on the DG Health and Food Safety’s website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit\\_reports/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/index.cfm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview\\_reports/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview_reports/index.cfm)

# Annex 1. Strategic Multi-Annual Outline 2016 - 2019

 Projects in both MS and non-EU countries  
 Projects in MS  
 Projects in Non-EU countries

The aim of the audit and analysis strategy for the 2016 to 2019 period is to achieve a high level of coverage of the priority areas identified by DG Health and Food Safety requiring scrutiny as to the level and effectiveness of control and enforcement measures. This in turn allows weaknesses and the corresponding corrective measures to be identified and taken up with the relevant authorities. - The multi-annual programme is reviewed annually to make sure it is up to date and focusses on the areas of highest risk.

AREA	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Health</b>		AMR monitoring (page 13)		
		AMR – prudent use of antimicrobials in animals (page 13)		
<b>Human Health</b>		Medical devices – joint assessments of notified bodies (page 14)		
		Active pharmaceutical ingredients (page 14)		
<b>Zoonoses</b>		Eradication programmes		
		Salmonella national control programmes (page 16)		
		Rabies eradication (page 16)		
	Animal Health – approved bodies under Dir. 92/65			
<b>Animal health</b>	Animal identification and movement registration		Animal health preparedness – Lumpy Skin Disease, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza (page 15)	
			Non-EU countries – listing requests (page 17)	
	Animal Health – contingency planning		Categorisation of non-EU countries exporting to the EU (page 17)	
			Aquatic animal diseases (page 18)	
<b>Animal welfare</b>	Animal welfare during transport		Animal welfare during export to non-EU countries (page 19)	
			Reducing the systematic tail docking of piglets (page 20)	
		Animal welfare – dairy farms (page 20)		

# Annex 1. Strategic Multi-Annual Outline 2016 - 2019

Projects in both MS and non-EU countries

Projects in MS

Projects in Non-EU countries

AREA	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Plant health</b>			Plant pest outbreaks ( <i>page 21</i> )	
	Seed certification equivalency		Plant health import controls ( <i>page 22</i> )	
			Plant health surveys ( <i>page 23</i> )	
			Europhyt ( <i>page 23</i> )	
<b>Cross-sectoral</b>			Plant health audits in non-EU countries (citrus, alert list, planting material) ( <i>page 22</i> )	
			Cross-sectoral emergency preparedness for disasters affecting food, animals and feed ( <i>page 18</i> )	
<b>Food quality</b>			Organic production and geographical indications ( <i>page 34</i> )	
			General follow-up audits and administrative update of country profiles ( <i>page 40</i> )	
<b>Horizontal - official controls</b>			Member States' audit systems ( <i>page 40</i> )	
			Multi-Annual National Control Plans and National Audit Systems Networks with Member States (MS) ( <i>page 42</i> )	
			Arrangements in MS for planning of risk based controls ( <i>page 41</i> )	Arrangements in MS for enforcement of non-compliances
			Synergies of official controls with Food Business Operator self-controls and private certification schemes ( <i>page 41</i> )	
			Contribution to Better Training for Safer Food programmes incl. specific training sessions in Grange ( <i>page 42</i> )	
<b>Food safety</b>			Food of animal origin (controls in Member States) ( <i>page 24</i> )	
			Food of animal origin (controls in non-EU countries - meat/meat products/dairy/poultry/eggs/fish) ( <i>page 25</i> )	
	Microbiological risks (Food of non-animal origin) - primary production/ seeds for sprouting		Microbiological risks (Food of non-animal origin) - primary production / seeds for sprouting ( <i>page 25</i> )	
			Small exporters (mammalian and poultry products) ( <i>page 25</i> )	
			Tuna imports from non-EU countries ( <i>page 26</i> )	
			Traceability and labelling of fish and fishery products ( <i>page 26</i> )	
		Small exporters (fishery products) ( <i>page 26</i> )		
		Small exporters (fishery products) ( <i>page 26</i> )		
		Flexibility and derogations in SMEs ( <i>page 27</i> )		
		Slaughter hygiene		



# Annex 1. Strategic Multi-Annual Outline 2016 - 2019



AREA	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Food safety</b>	Composite products	Controls of internet sales of food (page 27)		
	High pressure processing		Ready-to-eat food (page 28)	
	Campylobacter	Food-borne outbreaks (page 28)		
	Eggs and egg products	Import of scallops (page 28)		
	Food Improvement Agents Package (FIAP) - food additives	Labelling of food in Member States (page 29)		
		Nutrition and health claims (page 29)		
		Food contact materials (page 29)		
		Controls of contaminants in food (page 30)		
		Assessments of annual residue monitoring plans (page 30)		Residue audits
		Residue audits in non-EU countries (page 31)		
<b>Sustainable food production</b>	Authorisation of Plant Protection Products (PPP) (page 31)			
	Pesticide residue testing in organic farming	Controls of pesticide residues (page 32)		
	Marketing and use of PPPs	Sustainable use of pesticides Directive (page 32)		
	Sustainable use of pesticides	Biocides (page 33)		
<b>Animal by-prod./TSEs</b>		GMOs (page 35)		
	Removal rules for specified risk material (page 36)			
<b>Feed safety</b>	Private certification schemes for feed			
	Feed additives and pre-mixtures			
	Feed importers		Feed - risk based controls (page 36)	

# Annex 1. Strategic Multi-Annual Outline 2016 - 2019



AREA	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Import controls</b>	Import controls - enhanced checks	Documentary checks and subsequent decisions at the borders <i>(page 37)</i>		
	Import controls - prevent the introduction of African Swine Fever from non-EU countries	Import control systems - targeted audits <i>(page 38)</i>		
		Compliance of the Border Inspection Posts facilities <i>(page 38)</i>		
		Support systems for EU imports / exports <i>(page 38)</i>		

The following three annexes list audits and fact-finding missions planned in Member States, candidate countries and non-EU countries in the areas of food safety and quality, animal health and welfare, and plant health.

## Annex 2. Audits in Member States 2017, by country in alphabetical order

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
Belgique/België (Belgium)	Synergies with self-controls	audit	2017-6064
	Organic farming	audit	2017-6073
	Feed – risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6026
	AMR – prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding	2017-6198
България (Bulgaria)	Animal welfare – transport	audit	2017-6109
	Classical swine fever	audit	2017-6113
	Lumpy skin disease	audit	2017-6117
	Salmonella control programmes – poultry	audit	2017-6180
	Plant health - Import controls	audit	2017-6143
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6044
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6192
Česká republika (Czech Republic)	Animal welfare - transport	audit	2017-6217
	Feed – risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6042
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6022
	Member States - risk-based controls	fact-finding	2017-6034
Danmark (Denmark)	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6094
	Animal welfare - tail docking of pigs	audit	2017-6123
	Sustainable use of Pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6007
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6051
	Member States - risk-based controls	fact-finding	2017-6035
	General follow-up	follow-Up	2017-6038

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
Deutschland (Germany)	Synergies with self-controls	fact-finding	2017-6072
	Food contact materials	fact-finding	2017-6090
	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6096
	Animal welfare – transport	audit	2017-6107
	Animal welfare - tail docking of pigs	audit	2017-6124
	Aquatic animal diseases	fact-finding	2017-6139
	Sustainable use of pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6013
	Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG)	audit	2017-6077
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6046
Eesti (Estonia)	General follow-up	follow-up	2017-6039
Éire/Ireland	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6095
	Import controls – documentary checks	audit	2017-6041
Ελλάδα (Greece)	Nutrition and health claims	audit	2017-6057
	Food labelling	audit	2017-6061
	Rabies	audit	2017-6111
	Lumpy skin disease	audit	2017-6120
	Aquatic animal diseases	fact-finding	2017-6137
	Plant health - Import controls	audit	2017-6145
	General follow-up	follow-up	2017-6055
España (Spain)	Flexibility and derogations in SMEs	fact-finding	2017-6104
	Labelling of fishery products	fact-finding	2017-6162
	Animal welfare - tail docking of pigs	audit	2017-6126
	Avian influenza	fact-finding	2017-6131
	Plant Protection Products - Authorisation	audit	2017-6005
	Plant pest outbreaks ( <i>Epitrix</i> )	audit	2017-6169
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6045
	Import controls - border inspection posts	audit	2017-6222
	Member States - risk-based controls	fact-finding	2017-6036

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
France	Nutrition and health claims	audit	2017-6056
	Food labelling	audit	2017-6060
	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6093
	Flexibility and derogations in SMEs	fact-finding	2017-6105
	Animal welfare - transport	audit	2017-6108
	Avian influenza	fact-finding	2017-6132
	Plant pest outbreaks ( <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> )	audit	2017-6141
	Plant health - Import controls	audit	2017-6144
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6196
	AMR - prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding	2017-6200
Hrvatska (Croatia)	Pesticides	audit	2017-6016
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6021
Italia (Italy)	Avian influenza	fact-finding	2017-6130
	Aquatic animal diseases	fact-finding	2017-6138
	Sustainable Use of Pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6006
	Plant pest outbreaks ( <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> )	audit	2017-6157
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6048
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6191
Κύπρος (Kypros)/Kıbrıs (Cyprus)	Genetically modified organisms	audit	2017-6177
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6018
	General follow-up	follow-up	2017-6037
Latvija (Latvia)	AMR - prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding	2017-6202
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6024
Lietuva (Lithuania)	Nutrition and health claims	audit	2017-6059
	Food labelling	audit	2017-6063
	African swine fever	audit	2017-6116
	Plant pest outbreaks (Potato ring rot)	audit	2017-6163
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6197
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6025
Luxembourg	Import controls – border inspection posts	audit	2017-6043
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6023

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
Magyarország (Hungary)	Food contact materials	fact-finding	2017-6089
	Flexibility and derogations in SMEs	fact-finding	2017-6103
	Animal welfare - transport	audit	2017-6099
	African swine fever	audit	2017-6115
	Biocides	fact-finding	2017-6014
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6020
Malta	Import controls - border inspection posts	audit	2017-6049
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6195
Nederland (Netherlands)	Synergies with self-controls	fact-finding	2017-6071
	Food contact materials	fact-finding	2017-6088
	Animal welfare - transport	audit	2017-6106
	Animal welfare - tail docking of pigs	audit	2017-6125
	Avian influenza	fact-finding	2017-6240
	Sustainable Use of Pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6012
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6052
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6054
Österreich (Austria)	Flexibility and derogations in SMEs	fact-finding	2017-6102
	Salmonella control programmes - poultry	audit	2017-6179
	Organic farming	audit	2017-6075
	Plant health - Import controls	audit	2017-6140
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6053
Polska (Poland)	Animal welfare - transport	audit	2017-6100
	Rabies	audit	2017-6112
	African swine fever	audit	2017-6114
	Sustainable Use of Pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6015
	Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG)	audit	2017-6076
	Plant pest outbreaks (Potato ring rot)	audit	2017-6164
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6050
Portugal	Nutrition and health claims	audit	2017-6058
	Food labelling	audit	2017-6062
	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6097

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
	Plant health - Import controls	audit	2017-6146
	Plant pest outbreaks ( <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> )	audit	2017-6167
	Import controls - documentary checks	audit	2017-6019
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6027
România (Romania)	Food contact materials	fact-finding	2017-6091
	African swine fever	audit	2017-6118
	Lumpy skin disease	audit	2017-6122
	Geographical indications (PDO, PGI, TSG)	audit	2017-6078
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6134
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6028
	General follow-up	follow-up	2017-6040
Slovenija (Slovenia)	Organic farming	audit	2017-6074
Slovensko (Slovakia)	African swine fever	audit	2017-6119
Suomi/Finland	Ready-to-eat food	audit	2017-6101
	Genetically modified organisms	audit	2017-6178
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6017
Sverige (Sweden)	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6098
	Sustainable Use of Pesticides	fact-finding	2017-6011
	Feed - risk based controls	fact-finding	2017-6135
	AMR - prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding	2017-6201
	National audit systems	audit	2017-6029
United Kingdom	Synergies with self-controls	fact-finding	2017-6069
	Internet sales of food	fact-finding	2017-6092
	Avian influenza	fact-finding	2017-6133
	AMR monitoring	audit	2017-6194
	AMR - prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding	2017-6203

In addition, two further audits are planned on plant pest outbreaks (Member States to be confirmed). Some audits will be combined into one visit.

## Annex 3. Audits in Candidate Countries 2017, by country in alphabetical order

Audits in countries negotiating to join the EU will be targeted at exports of products in 2017.

CANDIDATE COUNTRY	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
поранешна југословенска Република Македонија (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	Lumpy skin disease	audit	2017-6121
Shqipëria (Albania)	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6187
Србија (Serbia)	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6186
Türkiye (Turkey)	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	audit	2017-6087
	Animal welfare - transport	fact-finding	2017-6110



## Annex 4. Audits in non-EU Countries 2017<sup>1</sup>, by country in alphabetical order

The readiness of application files (such as timely replies by competent authorities to pre-audit questionnaires) and also certain specific regional circumstances (e.g. security considerations) are always major conditions for the completion of the audit programme. Therefore, a number of non-EU country audits can only be programmed provisionally.

NON-EU COUNTRY	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
AM – Armenia	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6184
BA – Bosnia and Herzegovina	Poultry meat and related products	audit	2017-6225
BR – Brazil	Plant health – Citrus	audit	2017-6176
CM – Cameroon	Plant health – Alert list	audit	2017-6170
CA – Canada	Microbiological contamination – Primary production Fishery products	audit audit	2017-6086 2017-6160
CH – Switzerland	Import controls – border inspection posts AMR monitoring AMR – prudent use of antimicrobials	audit audit fact-finding	2017-6047 2017-6193 2017-6204
CL – Chile	Fishery products	audit	2017-6147
CN – China	Food of animal origin Contaminants	audit audit	2017-6230 2017-6079
CV – Cape Verde	Fishery products	audit	2017-6149
CW – Curaçao	Fishery products	audit	2017-6152
ET – Ethiopia	Plant health – Planting material	audit	2017-6142
GL – Greenland	Food of animal origin	audit	2017-6229
ID – Indonesia	Fishery products	audit	2017-6151
IN – India	Fishery products Pesticides Contaminants	audit audit audit	2017-6161 2017-6009 2017-6081
JP – Japan	Fishery products Food of animal origin Animal health – poultry Residues in food of animal origin	audit audit audit audit	2017-6150 2017-6226 2017-6129 2017-6183
KE – Kenya	Plant health – Planting material	audit	2017-6174
MA – Morocco	Fishery products Poultry meat Animal health – poultry Animal by-products Residues in food of animal origin	audit audit audit audit audit	2017-6168 2017-6227 2017-6128 2017-6220 2017-6190

1. Including EEA/EFTA countries

MEMBER STATE	THEME	TYPE OF VISIT	REFERENCE NUMBER
ML – Mali	Plant health – alert list	audit	2017-6171
MM – Myanmar	Microbiological contamination – Primary production	audit	2017-6084
MY – Malaysia	Food of animal origin	audit	2017-6232
	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6189
NO – Norway	AMR – prudent use of antimicrobials	fact-finding <sup>1</sup>	2017-6199
PE – Peru	Fishery products	audit	2017-6156
PH – Philippines	Fishery products	audit	2017-6154
RU – Russian Federation	Poultry meat	audit	2017-6223
	Fresh meat	audit	2017-6136
SC – Seychelles	Fishery products	audit	2017-6003
SG – Singapore	Food of animal origin	audit	2017-6231
	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6188
TH – Thailand	Plant health – Alert list	audit	2017-6172
TZ – Tanzania, United Republic of	Plant health – Planting material	audit	2017-6175
UG – Uganda	Pesticides	audit	2017-6010
	Plant health - Alert list	audit	2017-6173
US – United States	Microbiological contamination - Primary production	audit	2017-6085
	Poultry meat	audit	2017-6224
	Contaminants	audit	2017-6080
VN – Viet Nam	Fishery products	audit	2017-6158
	Pesticides	audit	2017-6008
	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6185
ZA – South Africa	Food of animal origin	audit	2017-6228
	Foot-and-mouth disease	audit	2017-6127
	Residues audits in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6181
ZW – Zimbabwe	Fishery products	audit	2017-6148
	Residues in food of animal origin	audit	2017-6182

N.B. In addition, seven audits are planned of recognised control bodies operating in non-EU countries in the area of organic farming. Four audits will be performed of non-EU countries exporting small amounts of fishery products and products of mammalian/poultry origin (the countries will be decided following the desk analysis). Some audits will be combined into one visit.

<sup>1</sup> Joint fact-finding mission with the EFTA Surveillance Authority

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