



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
Unit G.4 Official controls

## Minutes

### **E-commerce subgroup of the Working Group**

### **"Official Controls Regulation (EU 2017/625)"**

Tuesday 19 November 2024, **10h00 – 12h30**  
via Webex

**Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit**

## WORKING GROUP

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	The Commission welcomed all participants and reminded them of the purpose and planned frequency of the meetings of the subgroup.
<b>2</b>	<b>Brief update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission Notice for the implementation of OCR, regarding official controls on e-commerce activities</b>	The Commission briefly presented the main points of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> OCR guidance, related to e-commerce official controls. These topics cover registration of e-commerce operators, sampling and analysis of products sold online, actions in the event of non-compliance and risk, digital service providers, e-commerce control strategies and best practices. The Commission presented the main topics to be discussed in this meeting which will be included in the next OCR guidance.
<b>3</b>	<b>Presentation by DG CNECT on enforcement actions related to e-commerce activities by food authorities</b>	DG CNECT presented the provisions of the Digital Services Act (DSA) related to enforcement actions on e-commerce activities. It explained the key principles of articles 9&10 of DSA and specific due diligence obligations for the marketplaces, with a focus on the compliance by design obligation under Article 31. It also referred to the DSA authorities and bodies and their competences, especially to the Commission's main supervision and enforcement activities under DSA.
<b>4</b>	<b>Presentation by DG FISMA on anonymous payments for e-commerce controls, use of cover identities and difficulties in accessing financial information</b>	DG FISMA provided an overview on its legislation related to the use of cover identities and cover payments, as well as access to beneficial ownership and bank account registries. The Commission informed that it is up to national authorities to grant powers to use cover identities to purchase products on online platforms, for example, so that checks can be anonymously conducted. AML legislation also allows Member States to exempt

		<p>certain low risk payment methods, thus allowing the use of these payment methods anonymously under certain conditions. As regards access to the two registries, access to beneficial ownership registers depends on either being an AML/CFT competent authority or on having a legitimate interest whereas for bank account registries, the AML framework does not envisage any possibility for authorities that are not under its scope to access them.</p>
5	<p><b>Presentation of web tools:</b>  - Proactive web crawler (DG GROW)  - eSurveillance web crawler (DG JUST)</p>	<p>DG GROW presented the IT tool ‘Proactive web crawler’ and its functionality. The tool scans user reviews and product descriptions on commercial online pages. It detects potential non-compliant products based on keywords inserted by the user in the search case. DG GROW also presented how product market surveillance operates in the EU and what the role of the Commission is as defined in the EU legislation on market surveillance.</p> <p>DG JUST presented the web tool “e-surveillance web crawler” and its functionality (how it works, how it looks, what are the benefits). It also presented the Safety Gate, which is a system for rapid exchange of information between EU/EEA Member States and the Commission about measures and actions taken at national level in relation to non-food products posing a health or safety risk.</p>
6	AOB	None raised