



DG SANTE Missions on bees

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Information on trade and import rules

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Context

- **Commission activities on Bee Health**

- Limited legislative framework (EU trade, import conditions)
- Support to surveillance studies on bee losses
- Financial Support of National Apiculture programmes (DG AGRI) – including "combating beehive invaders and diseases, particularly varroasis"
- Restriction of use of certain pesticides

Need to observe state of play

- **Fact-finding missions**

- Gather information of implementation of EU legislation and application of national legislation
- Better understand the monitoring surveillance and control systems for bee health
- Determine possible gaps and difficult areas in existing EU legislation, and scope for possible improvement for better protection of bee health

SANTE F missions

Missions:

- **Austria (2012)**
- **Chile (2013) – import of live animals and animal products**
- **Spain (2014)**
- **Romania (2015) - joint mission with Plant Protection Products**
- **Italy (2016) - including control on SHB - June 2016**

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/index.cfm

Registration operators - movements

- **Registration of bee-keepers**
 - **BEES:**
 - All bee-keepers (IT, ES) – support of associations
 - Certain categories (selling honey, selling animals, family farms) (RO)
 - No national legislation (AT)
 - **BUMBLE BEES:** no legal basis
(production / transit / confined-open pollination sites)
- **Database: identification bee-keepers / apiaries**
 - Access and responsibilities for update: CA vs associations
 - Single code for bee-keepers (not per site): IT, RO, ES
 - Location of apiaries recorded (IT) – only if in various regions (ES)
 - Annual census: AT (farmers), ES, IT
 - Geographical coordinates – mapping service (IT)
- **Identification hives:**
 - RO, ES
 - IT: electronic identification?

Registration operators - movements

- **Report of movements:**
 - Any change: within 5 days (RO)
 - Sales (IT)
 - New apiary (IT, RO)
 - Movement between registered sites of a same bee-keeper: ?
 - Pollination (bumble bees, swarms)
- **Pre-notification**
 - Transhumance (ES, between regions), IT, AT: regional laws
 - Declared zones for AH reason
- **Holding register**
 - Record all movements (ES, RO)
 - Holding: linked to beekeeper – how to make it available in all apiaries?
- **Enforcement**
 - Collaboration with forestry services (RO, IT, ES): access to information and awareness

Conclusion: need to have traceability system recognised – complex to organise and have it operational

American foulbrood

- *National legislation*
 - **Power to destroy and dispose**
 - AT, ES (not RO)
 - **Movement restriction**
 - Outbreak (ES, RO, IT), 3 km (AT)
 - **Surveillance / control programmes programme**
 - RO, IT: 3 km
 - AT (Regional - spores: movement restriction)
 - ES (Regional - movement restriction of infected colonies)
 - IT: accreditation project - "low risk areas"
- *Case/outbreak definition*
 - Spores: high level (AT)
 - Clinical signs

American foulbrood

- *Outbreak*
 - **Alternative to destruction: artificial swarm, sterilisation equipment (gamma rays)**
- *Declaration suspicion / confirmation*
 - **Impact of movement restriction (nourishment for bees)**
 - **Access to private laboratories / declarations**
 - **Compensation (risk)**
 - **Benefit of control programme for beekeepers?**
 - **Professional keepers: destruction of affected colonies without laboratory confirmation**

Conclusions: case definition not clear – restriction and surveillance subject to presence knowledge – support of beekeepers uncertain

EU trade certification

- ***Who is performing visual inspection***
 - Official veterinarians – training ?
 - Technicians / private veterinarians
 - Annual programme –
- *Underlying information for AFB*
 - All hives in 3 km radius checked
- *Bumble bees:*
 - Clinical signs for AFB?
 - Alternative to inspection: surveillance programme in isolated structures (laboratory analyses, annual visit)
 - Other options than "breeding" and "transhumance"
- *Transhumance*
 - Certification on way back
- *Restriction on zootechnical grounds*

AFB control not regulated at EU level

Need to align system delivering guarantees and requirements – and specificities



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Imports:

- *Limited quantities*
- *Complaints from FR – Varroa (AR/CL)*
 - **2013-6802 CL: No standard, instruction, training – no detailed examination – inspector does not know how to differentiate tropilaelaps vs varroa.**
 - ***"inspected Immediately and show no clinical signs or suspicion of disease, including infestations"***
- *Post-import controls - bees:*
 - **Instructions developed (ES, IT)**
 - **Separation of queen from attendants**
 - Needs expertise
 - Acceptability importer (risk queen)
 - Modified procedure: IT: in the laboratory (from BIP to laboratory)
 - **pre-notification LCA**
 - Entry from BIP in another MS
 - Flagging of action required
 - **Method at laboratory**
 - (not harmonised at EU level - ES)

**Infestations (varroa): Common
EU position
Post-import: practical
improvements possible –**



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Thank you