

EU Enforcement Action Illegal trade of cats and dogs

Directorate General For Health and Food Safety
Unit G5: Food hygiene, Feed and Fraud

16.06.2023

EU Agri-Food Fraud Network



Administrative authorities
OCR Competent Authorities and
Delegated Bodies



Judicial authorities



Law enforcement authorities
Police and customs services



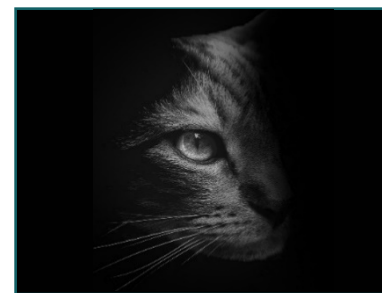
Coordinated control actions



Herbs and Spices
2019-2021



Honey
2021-2022



Trade of cats and dogs
2022-2023



COVID-19
Online offers and adverts on
food or supplements
2020-2021



Plastic “bamboo”
food contact materials
2021-2022



Sale/Use
of Plant Protection Products
2023-2024



Illegal trade of pets

Objectives of the action

- Protecting animal and public health (Rabies, Echinococcus, etc.) by:
 - ✓ detecting irregularities and falsification of the official documents (Passports, rabies test reports and health certificates);
- Deterring fraudsters involved (breeders, traders, transporters, veterinarians).



Unfair commercial practices



Tax evasion and undeclared revenues



Impact on the health and welfare of pet animals



Risk for public health



Timeframe

Activity	Time
Preparatory phase	January – June 2022
Start of the action	July 2022
End of the action	July 2023
Reporting and communication	Autumn 2023



- Monthly reporting on the activities – to SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu



Undertakings

- Research and data collection from existing databases
- Providing guidelines to the controlling authorities
- Building internal cooperation between different services involved
- Encouraging whistle-blowing and inviting NGOs to collaborate
- Checks of online shops, platforms and adds offering pets
- On-site inspections of the alleged points of sales or breeding
- Targeted controls at the borders and on the roads
- Cooperation with law enforcement under the EMPACT EnviCrime action
- Targeting organised crime networks



Main breaches reported in iRASFF

Requests for assistance and cooperation

Illegal entry into the EU and movements within the EU

1. Document forgery

- **Falsified passports** → request for authenticity and verification in national databases/with official veterinarians
- **Falsified official Health Certificates** → request for authenticity and verification with official veterinarians
- **Falsified rabies titration results** → to inform about the forged laboratory reports and request to the Commission to contact the non-EU countries involved

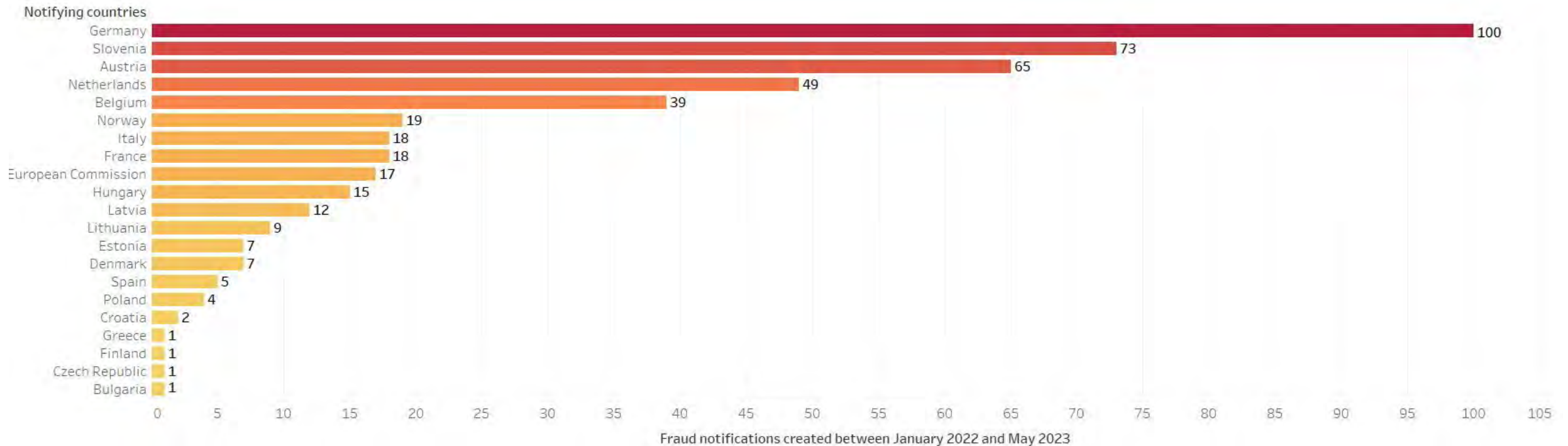
2. Grey market

- **Smuggling, absence of documents, misuse of TRACES documents** → request to investigate the traceability
- **Trafficking of material used for fraud:** veterinary stamps, vaccines, microchips, injectors and passports → to inform origin/transit/ destination countries and request to investigate traders involved

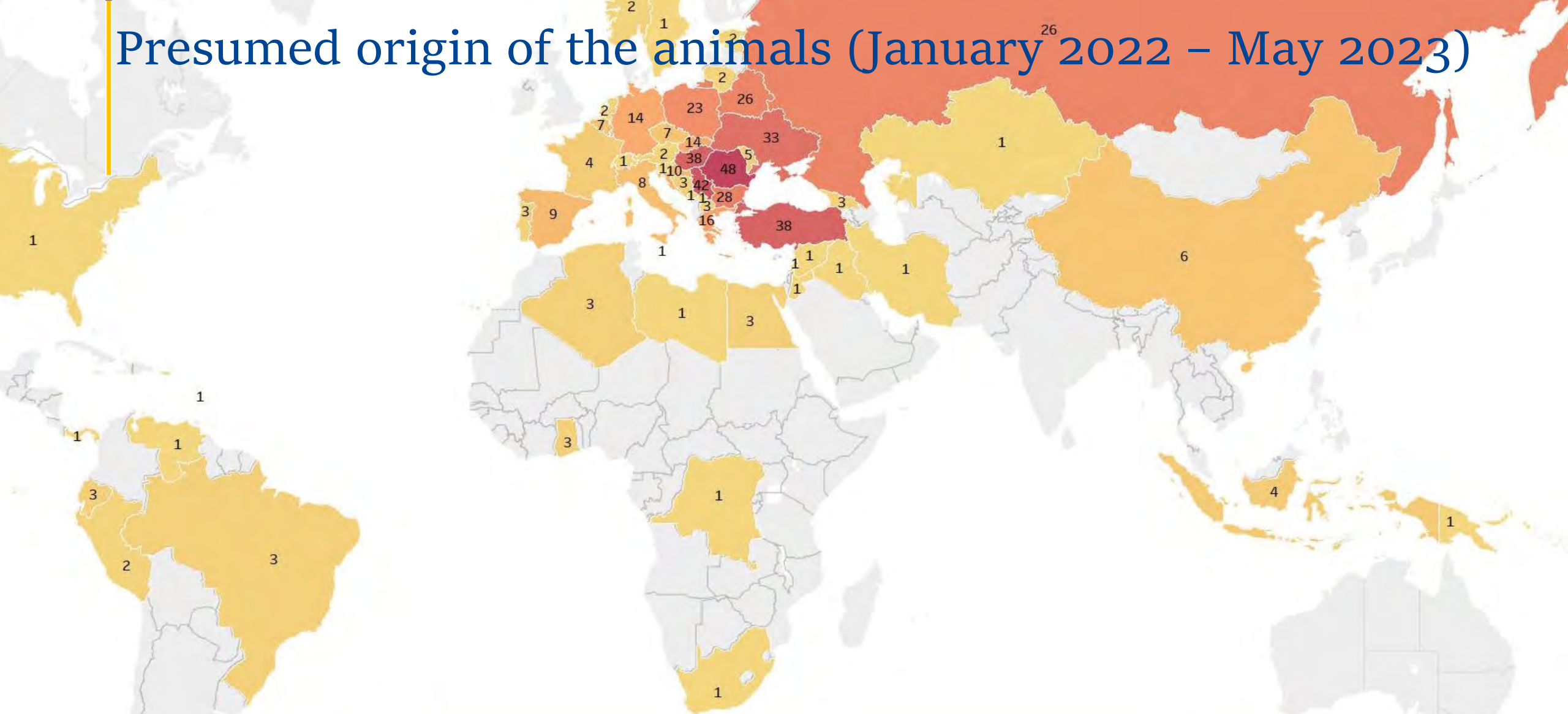


Illegal trade of pets

Notifying countries (January 2022 – May 2023)



Presumed origin of the animals (January 2022 – May 2023)



Top origin countries



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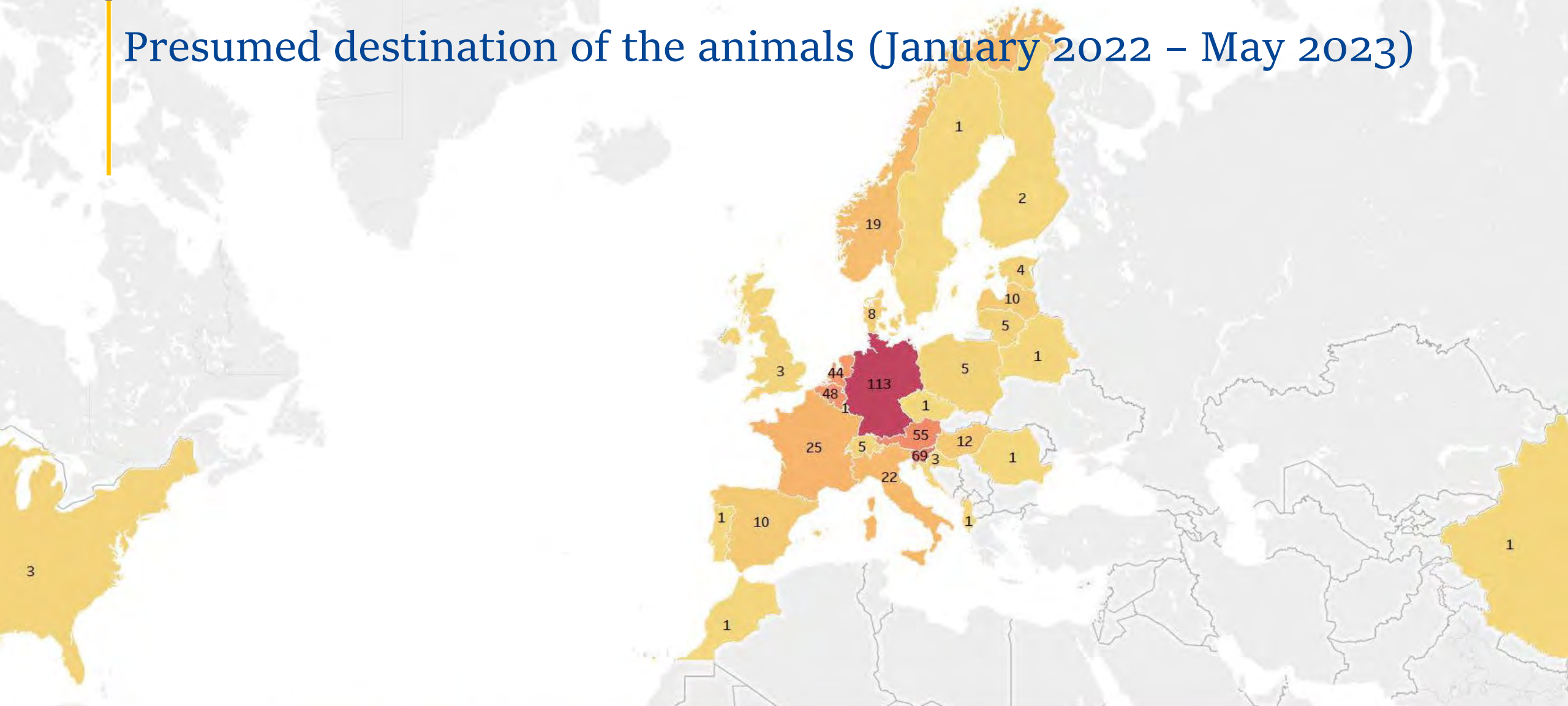
Fraud notifications created between January 2022 and May 2023



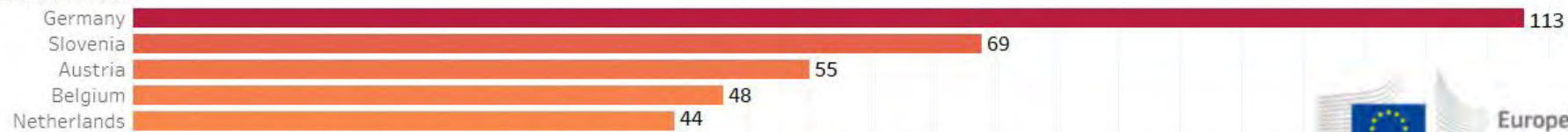
Illegal trade of pets



Presumed destination of the animals (January 2022 – May 2023)



Top destination countries



Fraud notifications created between January 2022 and May 2023



Illegal trade of pets

Expected outcomes:

- identifying illegal operators involved in illicit practices to stop their activities on the EU market;
- strengthening the cooperation and administrative assistance at national and at EU level between different services in Member States
- increasing cross-border cooperation and communication to the appropriate networks (RASFF, AAC/FF) and to the Commission;
- raising awareness among importers, breeders, veterinarians and customs of applicable rules;
- raising awareness among European consumers on dangers related to purchasing animals from unverified sources, particularly online





Thank you!



SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu



https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/agri-food-fraud/eu-coordinated-actions/coordinated-control-plans/illegal-movement-pets_en#eu-enforcement-action



Illegal trade of pets