



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Unit G.3 Official controls

Minutes

"Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625"
Monday, 19 April 2021, **9H30 – 10H30 Brussels time**
Skype for Business
Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit G3

Expert Group of Member States on Official Controls

1	9:30 – 9:35	Welcome by the Commission and information on general state of play	The Commission provided an update on ongoing preparations of tertiary legislation (delegated acts on food samples/Brexit posters and on accreditation of laboratories about to be finalised).
2	9:35 – 10:15	Article 48: Exemption of organic products from BCP Checks – with participation of DG AGRI	<p>The Commission presented the Draft Delegated Act, which is part of the package establishing the system of import controls on organic and in-conversion products applicable as of 1st of January 2022. The package further comprehends two draft acts prepared by DG AGRI (sent for information to the members of the Expert Group).</p> <p>In response to a comment about the lack of legal base for the draft, the Commission clarified that its Legal Service had confirmed the availability of the legal base (Art. 48(h) OCR). The Commission also clarified that this initiative does not affect the possibility for MSs to designate distinct competent authorities responsible respectively for organic checks and for sanitary and phytosanitary checks, nor the possibility that distinct authorities carry out those checks at BCPs, as long as Art. 49(2) and 55 OCR are complied with. The Commission also clarified in relation to the connection between CHED and certificate of inspection (COI) in TRACES that it is planned to allow the competent authority at the BCP which finalises the CHED to rely on what is mentioned in the COI, via access to the content of the COI in TRACES.</p> <p><u>Follow-up:</u> The Commission asked Member States to send comments on the draft Delegated Act as soon as possible in view of the preparation of a revised draft to be discussed in the next Expert Group on 5th May 2021. On that date, the Commission will also provide a mock presentation of adjustments that will be made in TRACES to accommodate the new package, including in relation to the link between the CHED and the COI. The two aforementioned draft acts prepared by DG AGRI will be re-discussed in the Expert Group on Organic Production (GREX) and Committee on Organic Production (COP) on meetings from 4 to 6 May 2021.</p>

3	10:15-10:30	Article 48: Exemptions of certain composite products from BCP Checks	The Commission presented an update with regards to composite products, including publication of a Q&A document on the Commission's website, and publication in the Official Journal of Regulations 2021/630, 2021/632 and 2021/573. A further update was provided in relation to the Commission's intentions regarding future amendments Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and an Information Note sent to Member States on 16 April 2021 in that context.
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