EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Veterinary and International affairs
Multilateral International relations

Brussels,
SANTE G6/PL/BS/ise (2015) 6502027

FINAL NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: **Summary Report of the Expert Group on Import Veterinary Checks – 27.10.2015**

Present: **All Member States except Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Greece and Romania.**
Norway and Switzerland were present.

Commission Personnel (COM): DG SANTE: Patricia Langhammer, Bruno Saimour, Maria Giaprakis, Dominik Flikweert (all G6), Didier Carton and Hanne Hansen (both G2), Bibiána Janáčková (F5)

Introduction:

COM welcomed the MS to the meeting and presented the updated Agenda. The following points were added for discussion:

ES asked to distribute the presentation[1] provided in the ABP-working group of 01.10.2015 and to discuss the harmonisation of imports of bee pollen. COM replied that the issue had already been discussed intensively in that working group, which concluded that a new certificate for import of bee pollen for animal feed will be added to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

DK asked for clarification on composite products and how surimi is considered, which e.g. contains less than 50 % of fishery products and informed that some BIPs would treat such products as composite products and not carry out BIP controls. COM clarified that surimi needs to be considered as fishery product as it is produced from raw/unprocessed fish. It has to originate from approved establishments and to be accompanied by the EU health certificate for fishery products and checked by the BIP, independent from the percentage of fish included in the surimi. COM asked MS for their views and if they receive surimi or surimi based products. In case of surimi based products, would these be processed or raw and do MS consider them being composite products or fishery products?

[1] COM circulated the presentation on 28.10.2015 to MS.

DK reported that during import controls of fishery products, they have noticed that the vessels mentioned on the catch certificate were often not approved. While such vessels need only be registered by the competent authority in case of primary production, freezer or factory vessels need to be approved, as the derogation for primary production is not applicable for those. ES confirmed that often non-approved vessels are involved in transports of fishery products.

1. REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

COM informed that the work on the draft Official Control Regulation (OCR) in the Council's Joint Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Public Health) and Phytosanitary experts continued. The Luxembourg Presidency organised several Attaché meetings to achieve consensus on the controversial issues, which were mainly meat controls, controls in BCPs by the veterinarians and fees.

An agreement was found on all these issues and a revised draft representing the Councils' position has been prepared. It is available on http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13209-2015-INIT/en/pdf

The revised draft proposal will be on the agenda of the ENVI Council this week. The political trilogues with Council and Parliament will start on 9th November and they are planned to be finished this year.

2. RE-ENFORCED CONTROLS

COM gave a presentation of the re-enforced check regime (REC) in TRACES:

REC on allergen labelling

COM changed the REC procedure in case allergen indications are missing on the food labels. So far, the REC measure indicated the name of allergen as hazard, which wrongly suggested that laboratory analysis was required systematically. From now, the hazard area will clearly mentioned that the REC is focussed on "labelled particulars". According to the document distributed to the MS, the BIPs should start by checking the labelling and conclude satisfactorily if the allergen appears clearly on it. The laboratory test should be launched only in case the label is not correct. That way, REC exemption will not be necessary anymore where the label correctly mentions the presence of allergen.

In reply to a MS question, COM referred to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, which refers to compliance with such aspects of the feed or food law that Directive 97/78/EC does not cover. This includes aspects referred to in Title VI, Chapter II of that Regulation, which are in particular labelling, additives, traceability and irradiation of food and materials in contact with food. This provides the legal basis for BIPs to check labels.

NL pointed out that label checks are registered as laboratory results in TRACES, which is not consistent given that label checks are not laboratory tests but physical checks. COM answered that there is no other way to register this visual check in TRACES for

the time being, and it will possibly be considered in the future version of TRACES New Technology.

UK requested clarification on how to deal with consignments that have not correctly been labelled as regards allergens. COM clarified that the different options of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 for rejected consignments are available, including the "special treatment" of Article 20. In this last case, relabeling under the BIP control may be regarded as bringing the food into line with the EU requirements.

Example of REC cheating

COM presented an example of REC cheating used by the third countries. This one concerned fishery products and the competent authority of the third country issued several replacement certificates for one consignment, which was on the sea when the REC was launched. According to the replacements, the consignment was split into four new consignments with the attempt to count four laboratory results in the REC instead of one. COM asked MS to be vigilant towards such attempts to manipulate the calculation of a REC and to respond in requesting exemption for the additional consignments so that only one would be counted in the series.

Good practice for exemption from REC

COM explained that the procedure of request for REC exemptions could be improved. Sometimes, the communication from the MS is not clear on what was done exactly in the BIP to ensure that the request is justified. Therefore, COM reminded that the following procedure should be respected:

1. Before sending any request of exemption, the documentary, identity and physical checks must have been done. It is important at this stage to have a precise knowledge of the product – e.g. nature, treatment or information on the label - according the objective of the REC.

2. The CVED must be in TRACES in status "in progress".

3. An email request must be sent to sante-traces@ec.europa.eu with a comprehensive justification for the exemption.

3. OVERVIEW ON FVO AUDITS

COM informed that the FVO is in the middle of the audit series for re-enforced controls and for transit and the FVO presented the first conclusions of the series.

a) Series on re-enforced controls

COM presented the first conclusions from the audits on re-enforced controls, planning and implementation of national monitoring plans and highlighted the areas for which improvement is needed.

A discussion arose and COM clarified that in case no EU criteria have been laid down for a certain risk, the MS concerned has to do the risk assessment. Close co-ordination

with the scientific authorities would be necessary in order to apply Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. On request COM clarified that in case of additional laboratory checks based on suspicion, Article 20 of Directive 97/8/EC and Article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 provide the legal basis to charge the food business operator for the control costs. While COM raised the attention of MS to the use of iRASFF for unfavourable market controls and that there is the possibility to propose a REC, some MS replied that they would prefer to use TRACES also in case of non-compliances detected during market controls.

b) Series on transit

COM presented the first conclusions from the audits on transit controls and highlighted the areas for which improvement is needed, in particular in relation to the external transit, to which COM provided further clarification:

It is the obligation of the food business operator to declare all consignments of animals and their products from third countries to the BIPs, this includes re-imports as well as EU consignments being transported through non-EU countries to the BIP when they re-enter the EU and fishery consignments caught by EU vessels, which are unloaded in a third country and arriving on container vessels in an EU port. For this reason it is important to have other information available at BIPs, e.g. cargo manifests, to verify that all consignments relevant for border controls have been pre-notified to the BIPs.

The FVO has found out during their transit series that controls of EU consignments being transported through non-EU countries is not under the radar of the competent authorities. Therefore it is of outmost importance to increase the co-ordination with customs to ensure that they do not release automatically consignments of animal products of EU origin which come from a third country. Each national customs office has the possibility to set risk criteria to such consignments to be sure that the presence of a CVED is being checked.

In relation to the non-compliances found for controls on transit exiting the EU, COM asked MS details for transit consignments transported by road and leaving through a port and reminded MS to ensure that in such cases the container number needs to be added in addition to the plate number of the truck in the first part of the CVED and the number of the customs document should be entered in box 43 of the CVED.

On request, COM confirmed that during these audits also the use of TRACES is checked. IT asked for the introduction of CN code 9930 for transit consignments stored in customs warehouses and leaving to US bases. COM explained that due to the customs description this code cannot be used for such consignments, but only for consignments arriving at the border and leaving directly to ship supply. It is planned to include in TRACES NT the certificate foreseen in the Annex to Decision 2000/571/EC for non-conforming consignments leaving customs warehouses to ensure that traceability and quantity management are recorded and can be controlled.

4. TRACES ISSUES

COM informed that the FVO has finished their audit series on TRACES (7 MS in 2013 and 9 MS in 2014) and is preparing an overview report with the general findings and conclusions of the use of TRACES in the MS visited.

The audits were focusing on documents in TRACES for imports and for intra-community movements and the following general conclusions were drawn:

- For **imports**, the system is correctly used in the majority of activities, but when problems appeared they were common to many MS (use of generic accounts, bad management of organisations lists, introduction of test results, incomplete information in channelling).
- For **intra-community movements**, follow-up was often not recorded (ABPs, animals sent for slaughter). The LVUs were not aware or do not know how to use the system for their controls.
- The tools provided for in TRACES (QlikView, DWH) are rarely used **for supervision** or verification of the activity of the BIPs

a) National monitoring plan results recorded in TRACES

In the previous meetings of the Expert Group, some MS asked if it would be possible to stop sending to COM the monthly results of samples collected under the national monitoring plans. This requirement, requested by Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 is considered to be burdensome as the results are already available in TRACES. COM answered that a change could be considered for the future legislation, when it will be sure that all such results are recorded in TRACES.

In order to verify if these results are comprehensively recorded, COM queried the TRACES database and presented the figures to MS. Concerning the consignments selected for monitoring plans from 1 January to 30 June 2015 in all BIPs of the EU, for 24 % of these consignments laboratory results are incompletely recorded in TRACES and 6 % of the consignments have no laboratory results recorded in TRACES.

COM clarified that for traceability and data quality consideration, the following data of laboratory test should be completed in TRACES: number of samples, released date, laboratory test method, results and conclusion.

COM reminded MS that QlikView allows now the MS to prepare their monthly report of laboratory results from TRACES. But this tool can be used only if the laboratory results are correctly registered in TRACES. In addition, the data quality of the laboratory results is very important for the future risk assessment for reduced physical checks under the Official Control Regulation.

UK complained about the absence of notifications sent to BIPs or CCAs for outstanding laboratory results and this might be the reason why they are forgotten and not entered in TRACES. COM promised to check this with the IT team[2].

[2] During these checks it was discovered that the automatic notification was not correctly functioning in TRACES. The IT experts are currently working on it and the module will be repaired very soon.

On national monitoring plans, FR wondered how to monitor emerging risks if there is uncertainty on the right decision to make in case of unfavourable test result. COM clarified that, with monitoring plans, a distinction should be made between the analyses carried out to know if the product is compliant with the EU legislation and those analyses made to collect information on emerging risks. By definition, there are no EU-harmonised criteria on emerging risks and MS should work in cooperation with their national scientific authorities to make a risk assessment and apply Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 where necessary.

b) Presentations cloning and transhipment

COM gave a presentation on the use of the cloning option in TRACES, which overall is used with 82 %. Although there is no legal requirement for MS to use this option, COM invited MS with a lower cloning percentage to make use of it as it facilitates work in the BIPs and reduces the administrative burden.

The presentation on the use of the transhipment module in TRACES showed that there are around 800 transhipments per year, however, only 40 % of the CVEDs are used correctly.

On request, COM clarified that TRACES NT is planned to be launched for the Certificate of Organic Inspection (COI) at the beginning of 2016. In the middle of that year, a practical workshop is planned for testing and comments on TRACES NT and its other modules. COM clarified as well that web services will be further developed for those MS which want to continue to use their national systems.

5. MODIFICATIONS TO CVEDS AND IMPORT CERTIFICATE IN TRACES

COM has received feedback to the three draft documents after the meeting of the Experts Group on 7 July 2015 from several MS. This information provided is currently under consideration for the preparation of the draft legislative proposals. These proposals will be processed through the usual legislative procedures and will be presented to MS again after their internal clearance in the framework of a Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

6. TAXUD ISSUES

a) Factsheets developed by PARCS expert group of DG TAXUD

COM informed that the Customs Project Group to coordinate activities on the protection of health, cultural heritage, the environment and nature – the Prohibition and Restrictions Customs Controls Strategy Group (PARCS) – has initiated the development of several guidance documents for customs (factsheets), in which the legal basis and requirements for import controls on all SANTE-regulated animals and goods are included. The first versions of the factsheets were drafted by MS and then revised by the relevant experts in DG TAXUD and SANTE for the animals/goods concerned.

The factsheets dealing with live animals and animal products, general 882-controls and controls on pet animals were finalised and have been agreed by DG TAXUD and their

MS representatives. They were circulated to MS on 01.09.2015 for information. As these documents are addressed to customs and MS authorities, they will only be published on the collaborative platform of DG TAXUD accessible to customs experts.

The factsheet for enforced controls (according to Regulation (EC) No 669/2009) was presented yesterday in the Art. 15-Working Group and MS were asked for comments. Therefore, COM agreed on request of one MS to a period of 4 weeks to allow the Expert Group to comment to the factsheets.

b) Progress with the EU Single Window CVED pilot project

COM reported progress in the pilot project for the automated exchange of CVED-information with customs authorities through the TAXUD platform SPEED2. CZ, IE, SI and LV are now benefitting from the automated data exchange. PL will move to the automated exchange in November, BG and LT have finalised the conformance tests and BG plans to join the project by the end of October, while LT will join later this year. CY is delayed and will start the conformance tests in the first quarter of 2016. AT and NL have outlined their intention to join the project. In mid-October, there was a joint meeting of representatives from DG TAXUD and DG SANTE with the French customs and FR plans to join the project in 2016.

On COM level, regular meetings are taking place to discuss the experiences and problems arising from the automated data exchange and some technical adjustments had to be considered for the platform SPEED2. In addition, a joint fact finding mission of DG TAXUD and DG SANTE to IE was carried out, during which some problems specific to the Irish import control procedures were discussed. A joint report has been issued to IE detailing the problems discussed and looking for possible solutions.

Further joint fact finding missions are planned to the other MS participating in the project, the next one is planned to CZ on 9th of November. COM invited the MS involved in the project to co-ordinated closely with their customs authorities to ensure that the automated exchange of CVED-information is in line with the technical specifications prepared by the EU Single Window Project Group.

DG TAXUD is planning a meeting for next year to discuss with MS the benefits of the EU SW CVED project and to exchange the experiences learnt. It is also planned to draft a guidance document that could provide support to MS on the integration and use of the EU SW CVED in the national IT customs systems.

CZ commented that they have some problems with the correct CVED number, if the consignments are checked in BIPs in another MS and COM clarified that the precondition for the functioning of the automated data exchange is the use of the TRACES CVED number on each CVED.

c) Joint WG DG TAXUD/SANTE

COM explained that DG TAXUD agreed to organise early in March 2016 a joint expert meeting focussing on veterinary-customs issues. The meeting would be held in Brussels and should gather customs experts of PARCS and veterinary experts of this group, for a 1-day discussion. The possible topics to be addressed are:

- Impact of the UCC, e.g. temporary storage
- Customs transport, NCTS, operators designated as "authorised consignor" and "authorised consignee" and their responsibility/authority to seal and unseal containers
- Classification issues
- Single Window
- Controls on pets
- Import of composite products

DG TAXUD consulted their experts in the PARCS group, which was also meeting on 27.10.2015, for the topics they would like to address in such meeting. COM asked MS to provide any additional points within 1 week.

7. UPDATE OF POSITIVE LIST

COM informed that after the last meeting, they received quite some comments to the amendment of the positive list of Decision 2007/275/EC detailing animals and their products which have to be presented for veterinary checks to BIPs.

Based on the comments provided, COM reminded MS that classification of goods into their relevant CN code is based entirely on customs rules and depending on the objective characteristics and properties of the goods. The intended use of the goods, e.g. for human consumption or for animal feed, etc. is a veterinary classification, which is currently not properly reflected in the classification of the Combined Nomenclature. COM gave the example of pig ears used as animal feed (Regulation (EC) No 1125/2006), which are classified under CN heading 0210, which is covering mainly edible meat and edible meat offals.

Regarding the positive list, COM had considered the comments provided and co-ordinated as well with the experts for classification of DG TAXUD. An updated version of the amendment to the positive list was circulated and it is planned to launch the legislative procedure and to adopt the draft in an upcoming Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

The UK requested clarification on CN 0506 as bones for dog chews have been added. COM said that this had been discussed with the ABP experts and DG TAXUD, but if there were problems with that, they could re-consider that proposal.

IT wished to know why only products with less than 20% of animal product are taken into account for codes Ex 1901, Ex 1904 and Ex 1905. COM answered that Chapter 19 only refers to food preparations containing less than 20% of product of animal origin, which is also reflected in the current Decision (see Note to Chapter 19 in Annex I to Decision 2007/275/EC).

FR pointed out that the Ex 2930 on cysteine was added. In FR, there are major production factories which use cysteine and they complain that the exact origin is not checked. FR wonders which conditions need to be checked. COM replied that such amino acids are included in the draft amendment to Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005, in

which import requirements for highly refined products are laid down (SANTE/10224/2015).

FR and UK questioned the reason for having catering waste (CN code 3825 10 00) checked at the BIP as it is practically not possible. COM replied that it is included in the current version of the positive list as it is under the BIP responsibility to ensure international catering waste is destroyed in accordance with the ABP-Regulation.

AT questioned the risk for unworked cultured pearls under CN 7101 21 00 and COM explained that these products are under import controls according to the ABP legislation. If unworked cultured pearls are not completely cleaned from flesh or tissues, they have to comply with requirements set out in section 2 of Chapter IV of Annex XIV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and have to be checked *[unless they comply with Article 2 (2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009]*.

As regards empty gelatine capsules for human consumption, IT supported by ES, believed that these should be removed from Annex II. Indeed, IT experienced problems for such capsules of pig origin from CN and explained that they had to be accompanied by a declaration document. If empty gelatine capsules for human consumption are not checked at a BIP, IT wondered where the checks are carried out. COM stated that DE and IT were the only ones to request the inclusion of gelatine capsules for food in Annex I. After discussing with the SANTE experts, it was concluded that they were not to be checked as there is no health certificate for such products. It is up to the customs authorities to check these declaration documents as they should be aware of the import conditions.

ES suggested including a reference note to Annex II stating that the products listed in the table cannot contain more than 50% of dairy product or egg products. COM will check with DG TAXUD colleagues if such a reference note can be included. In addition, ES and UK suggested to remove meat extract and concentrate from soup stocks from Annex II, as they believe every product containing meat in any form should be checked in a BIP.

COM asked MS for their views, in particular on some CN codes (3105, 3926, 2918 19 30) and for confirmation of the application date of the amendment. Although most MS agreed March 2016 for the application, several MS indicated that they would still have comments. COM concluded and asked for written comments within 2 weeks.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

a) Update on controls on NATO consignments

COM informed that following the last Expert Group the Guidance document on transit and transhipment with the updated Annex II listing the designated US military bases has been published on the website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/guidelines_en.htm

USEUCOM has asked COM how to deal with temporary US bases, as there may be exercises conducted as sites, which are currently not listed in Annex II. For example

there will be two or three deliveries to two sites in Spain (Zaragoza and Chinchilla) and to add these addresses for a limited amount of time to Annex II might be confusing. COM proposed to lists such sites in TRACES as designated bases and to inform the MS, through which the consignments will be introduced by e-mail. MS agreed to the proposal, however, one MS outlined that they have problems with the arrival confirmation from the US bases. COM explained that they send monthly reports to USEUCOM to enable them to verify their controls and improve their performance, if necessary.

COM explained that there are still some problems with the organisations in TRACES for consignments arriving in Germany and destined to the customs warehouse in Bulgaria and that their IT service is trying to solve the problem. The two MS should liaise closely to ensure that non-EU conforming US consignments are entered correctly in TRACES to enable that they are followed up accordingly at their destination.

COM informed that US authorities and USEUCOM have asked for a derogation from veterinary controls at BIPs for dry Meals Ready to Eat (MREs). These are ready to eat menus, which are normally arriving at borders in containers, filled with 18 different menus, e.g. chili with beans, chicken Fajita, beef taco, chicken noodles etc. US authorities have difficulties in filling in the composite certificate for such consignments containing various composite products and claim that the meat or poultry packed in a flexible retortable pouch and autoclaved is considered as "canned" product. They are dry, sterile, F_o at least 6,0 and retorted at temperatures between (115 – 121^{O}C in the centre of the pouch for approximately 30 minutes) and COM asked MS for their views for exemption from controls.

b) Update of BIP list

COM informed that the last update to the BIP list was published on 16 June 2015 as Decision 2015/919/EU. COM has drafted a new amendment Decision with changes to the BIP list for Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and with changes to the TRACES units for Italy. The draft (SANTE/10930/2015) was voted in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on 07.10.2015 and is now in the internal adoption procedure. It is expected to be published in November[3].

COM invited MS to provide any change as soon as possible to enable the preparation of the next amendment, which is planned to be adopted in the first quarter of 2016. COM warned MS to come with last minute changes on the day before the drafts are presented in the above Committee as it cannot be ensure that such changes can be accommodated.

COM reminded MS as usual, for future updates, to use the attached template to assist in transferring correctly any changes to the list of BIPs/TRACES units, which should be sent to the following e-mail addresses:

sante-consult-G6@ec.europa.eu or sante-G6-imports@ec.europa.eu

[3] It was published on 07.11.2015 in OJ L 291, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1997


template for changes.doc

c) Certification issues

COM drew the MS' attention to communication provided to Australia regarding non-applicable statements on health certificates. In that communication, COM referred to the conclusions sent on 24 March 2009 to MS concerning attestations which are not relevant for a consignment and may be completely deleted (meaning that they are not printed in the certificate) or crossed or struck out, by drawing a line through the text. This issue was discussed at the Standing Committee for Food Chain and Animal Health on 03 and 04.03.2009 and it was agreed that both alternatives should be accepted.

As there were problems with some consignments, a letter was sent recently to Australia (Ares(2015)4434576 - 20/10/2015) promising to raise MS attention to the above conclusions and to explain that crossing out and deleting are at present not mutually exclusive in the same certificate. COM will explore possibilities for health certificates to indicate more clearly, which statement may also be deleted and which statement must be printed and crossed out. However, it needs to be borne in mind that the finished health certificate must provide a complete set of requested health guarantees. This means that deletions or cross-outs can only be made where foreseen in the EU import health certificate (e.g. when accompanied by footnotes with the text "keep as appropriate" in the relevant model import certificate.

COM distributed a document, in which recent problems with health certificates are detailed and asked MS to distribute the document to their BIPs. Some MS commented on requirements for certificates from Australia and US, in particular for the use of electronic signatures, which are not yet reflected in Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.

d) Controls on Nile perch

FR explained that, since June 2014, Roissy airport lost all consignments of Nile perch from Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. This is possibly because the BIP of Roissy started to reject consignments arriving at -2.5/-1°C whereas they were declared to be "chilled". It looks to be a trade practice known as "super chilling" which consists of freezing the products at -20°C and then letting them slowly defrost during the transportation.

COM clarified that this practice is not allowed. According to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, the products must be frozen or chilled and stay at either of the temperature ranges during the transportation time. Moreover, the above practice is dangerous, especially as defrosting is carried out without any control of temperature. This rule was reminded to the MS in a Standing Committee of June 2013.

COM checked in TRACES that the BIP of Roissy lost the trade in June 2014. At the same time, some other BIPs increased their volumes of Nile perches from the above third countries. It does not mean that the flow was diverted from Roissy to these airports, as the trade flows are not always easy to follow. However, it would be interesting if the MS

involved check if this issue of temperature non-compliance occurs as well in their airports.

e) Personal belongings in containers

PL raised the question, if animal goods, which are transported in a container together with other goods, such as furniture or other removal goods, could be considered as personal imports under Regulation (EC) No 206/2009 or if they should be considered as commercial consignments for which import controls in BIPs are applicable.

COM replied that the provisions for personal imports are applicable in such cases.

f) Transit of NZ consignments through Singapore

To shorten times and costs for the transport of fresh meat from NZ to the Union, NZ has arranged with Singapore to fly such consignments to Singapore airport and then to continue the travel to the Union with container vessels. Singapore requested therefore to be listed in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as being eligible to export fresh meat from NZ transiting through Singapore to the Union. COM had discussions on the procedures and controls for the meat transiting through Singapore and decided each consignment needs to be accompanied by the health certificate issued in NZ and by a specific certificate issued in Singapore for the transit of the consignment from the airport to the port. The consignments would be unloaded from the air planes, then import controls would be carried out, the consignments would then be loaded into a container, which will be closed and sealed by customs and veterinary authorities. The container would be transported from the airport to the port in Singapore and then being shipped to the Union.

Following an FVO visit to Singapore to verify, if the procedures and controls agreed can be implemented, COM prepared a working document regarding the inclusion of Singapore to the list of eligible third countries and a model health certificate to be issued in Singapore. The working document will be sent to NZ and Singapore for agreement and then presented to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed for agreement by MS.

A short discussion rose and COM clarified that the frequency of checks as laid down in the NZ Agreement may be applied and that at import into the EU, two health certificates need to be presented to the relevant BIP.

g) Ciguatera in fishery products from the Maldives

Following an audit mission in the Maldives in 2013, FVO reported that ciguatera is missing in the sampling programme for fishery products (reef fish) exported to the EU. They issued a recommendation in their report (DG(SANCO) 2013-6712) to the competent authorities (CA) in the Maldives. In their action plan to the report, the CA ensured that ciguatera sensitive species would be allowed for export to the EU only if they were analysed for the absence of ciguatera.

In parallel, COM was informed that the CA of the Maldives is contacting MS to know if they apply any systematic test for ciguatoxin in imported fishery products. COM asked

MS to be very careful in their answers they might send to the Maldives, considering that they could be trying to find a way to bypass the FVO recommendation. It should be clear in any possible reply that it is the responsibility of the Maldives to avoid any exportation of ciguatera sensitive species if they have not been analysed for ciguatera. COM ensured that they are in contact with the Maldives and following, how the action plan will be met.

On request of several MS, COM agreed to provide some web links where more information on the risk of ciguatera in tropical fishes can be found:

- http://www.searo.who.int/entity/emergencies/documents/guidelines_for_health_emergency_ciguatera_qa.pdf
- http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5486e/y5486e0q.htm

(signed)
G6 – Import Controls

Encl: Agenda
List of distributed documents

Cc: Experts in 28 MS, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Faroe Islands + ESA, B. Van Goethem, M. Flueh, M. Scannell, B. Gautrais, C. Garau, L. Terzi, K. Van Dyck, K. De Smet, P. Caricato, E. Strickland, R. Tascon, C. Laso Sanz, B. Carol Galceran, S. Perucho Martinez, G. Maréchal, N. Guth, A. Dionisi, J. Bloemendal, S. Andre, D. Carton, K. Kroon, P. Bernorio, H. Hansen, H. Klein, A.E. Füssel, B. Logar, M. Klemencic, R. Span, J. Baele, G. Balkamos, L. Battistini, I. El Busto Saenz, M. Cronin, T. Theoharis, J. Maciulyte, B. Janackova, O. Prunaux, K. Bar-Yaacov, V. Enjolras, M. Wils, G. Jennes, Unit G6.

EXPERT GROUP ON VETERINARY IMPORT CONTROLS LEGISLATION
"VETERINARY CHECKS"
27 October 2015

– AGENDA –

1) Review of legislation
2) Re-enforced controls
3) Overview on FVO audits
    a) Series on re-enforced controls
    b) Series on transit
4) TRACES issues
5) Modifications to CVEDs and import certificate in TRACES
6) TAXUD issues
7) Update of positive list
8) Miscellaneous
    a) Update on controls on NATO consignments
    b) Update of BIP list
    c) Certification issues
    d) Controls on Nile perch
    e) Personal belongings in containers
    f) Transit of NZ consignments through Singapore
    g) Ciguatera in fishery products from the Maldives

15.12.2015

VETERINARY LEGISLATION
"VETERINARY CHECKS" EXPERT GROUP

27 October 2015

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DM = distributed **d**uring the **m**eeting	FM = to be distributed at the **f**orthcoming **m**eeting
	AM = distributed **a**fter the **m**eeting

Agenda Item	E	DM	AM	PM	FM	Subject	Document Reference
2	28.10.2015					Re-enforced checks	D/5187057
3a	28.10.2015					FVO audits on re-enforced checks regime	D/5187057
3b	28.10.2015					Overview on FVO series of audits on transit controls	D/5187057
4	28.10.2015					TRACES – cloning and transhipments	D/5187057
4	22.10.2015					TRACES - re-enforced checks on allergen labelling	D/5005219
7	22.10.2015					Draft update of the positive list	D/5005219
8c	28.10.2015					Certification issues	D/5187057
8f	22.10.2015					Commission working document for a new certificate (NZ-TRANSIT-SG) for transit of fresh meat from New Zealand through Singapore	D/5005219
	28.10.2015					Importation of bee-collected pollen	D/5187057