



COVID-19 - challenges for official controls

Advisory Group
8 May 2020

COVID-19 – situational analysis second half of March 2020

- *Problems at external borders and between MS, food supply (food security)*
- *Prevention of spread of the virus – limitation of movements of control staff, confinement measures*
- *Capacity of official laboratories*
- *Feasibility of on-the-spot checks*



Specific issues beyond general situation (addressed by Guidelines for border management, green lanes etc.)

Temporary solution available to Member States

- *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466 of 30 March 2020*
 - **Safeguard measure, time-limited (1 June)**
 - **Option for Member States for all areas under OCR (notification to COM and to other MS)**
 - **Specific provisions:**
 - Use of qualified natural persons other than control staff under certain conditions
 - Check of electronic documentation pending submission of original documents
 - Designation of other laboratories for analyses
 - Replacement of physical meetings by remote communication

Conclusion

- Time-limited specific tools for competent authorities in Member States
- Currently used across areas of OCR scope
- **Substantial EU legislation not modified by the measure**
- Discussion with MS on possible limited extension