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EU Coordinated Control Plan Illegal movement of pets

Directorate General For Health and Food Safety Unit G4: Food hygiene and Fraud

Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system

The new Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls:

- □ sets the obligation for Member States to report all agri-food fraud suspicions of cross-border nature through the AAC-FF system;
- extends the scope of these notifications to all areas covered by the OCR (e.g. animal or plant health, animal welfare, certain environmental aspects).

The number of requests for assistance and cooperation shared between Member States tends to increase over the years, supporting the overall fight against food fraud in the EU and proving the importance of sharing information.



407 Agri-food fraud requests in 2021

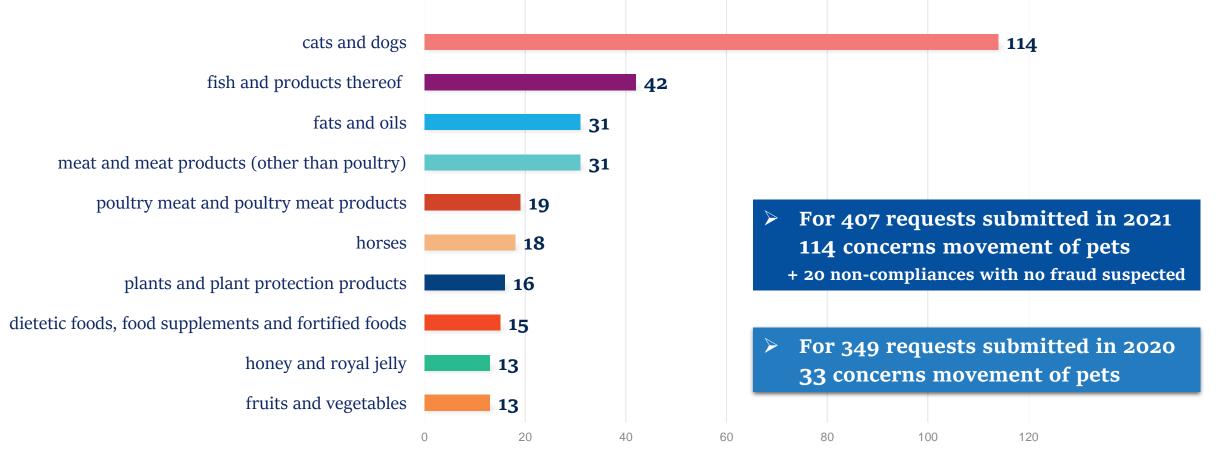


Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.



Administrative Assistance and Cooperation

Requests in the system by product categories notified in 2021







Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Notifications on dogs and cats with suspicion of fraud

The most reported origin			
Non-EU countries	EU countries		
Ukraine	RO		
Turkey	HU		
Serbia	HR		
Belarus	IT		
Russia	BG		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	ES		
Indonesia	SK		

Requests for cooperation were submitted in the system by:

E.

Slovenia – 44 Italy – 25 Netherlands – 15 France – 11 Hungary – 11







Modus operandi

Fraudsters are abusing the EU's pet movement legislation (Regulation (EU) No 576/2013), which allows "owners of animals" to travel with up to five animals under specific conditions, without having to record it in TRACES.



Main irregularities reported: Forged documents and/or falsified information in the documents introduced for controls

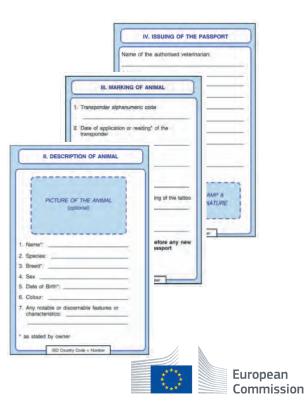
Health certificate

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Vaccination against rabies and rabies antibody titration

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EU Pet Passport



lllegal movement of pets

Multi-faceted problem





and

revenues





Unfair Tax evasion commercial practices undeclared

Impact on the health and welfare of pet animals

Risk for public health



Cooperation













Objectives of this EU coordinated action aims at:

- Protecting animal and public health (Rabies, Echinococcus, etc.) by:
 - ✓ detecting irregularities and falsification of the official documents (Passports, rabies test reports and health certificates);
 - \checkmark identifying animal trade disguised as non-commercial movement, both at borders and within the EU.

European Commission

> Deterring fraudsters involved (breeders, traders, transporters, veterinarians, laboratories).



Complementary actions at national level



Member States may complement the plan with enforcement of their national rules (such as i.a. aspects of animal welfare, raising and marketing standards) and establishing a good collaboration between different services.





Timeframe

Activity	Time	
Next Meeting with Member States competent authorities	17 February 2022	
Start of the action	March 2022	
online screening, border controls, on-the-spot inspections, investigations period		
End of the EU CCP action	June 2022	
Reporting	July 2022	
Conclusions/meeting, report and communication	September-October 2022	









EU Agri-Food Fraud Network National Contact Points















https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud_en

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Thank you!



