



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:

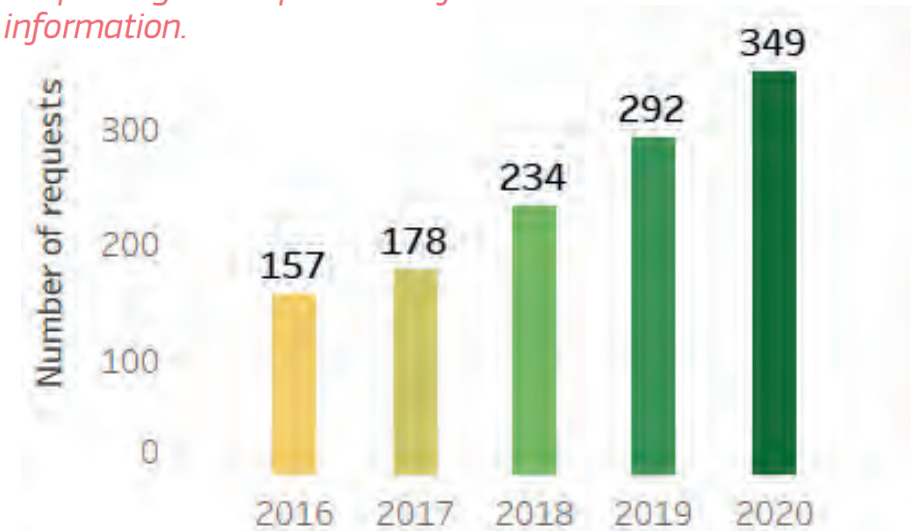
- ❑ sets the obligation for Member States to report **all agri-food fraud suspicions** of cross-border nature through the AAC-FF system;
- ❑ extends the scope of these notifications to all areas covered by the OCR (e.g. **animal or plant health, animal welfare, certain environmental aspects**).

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.



Illegal movement of pets

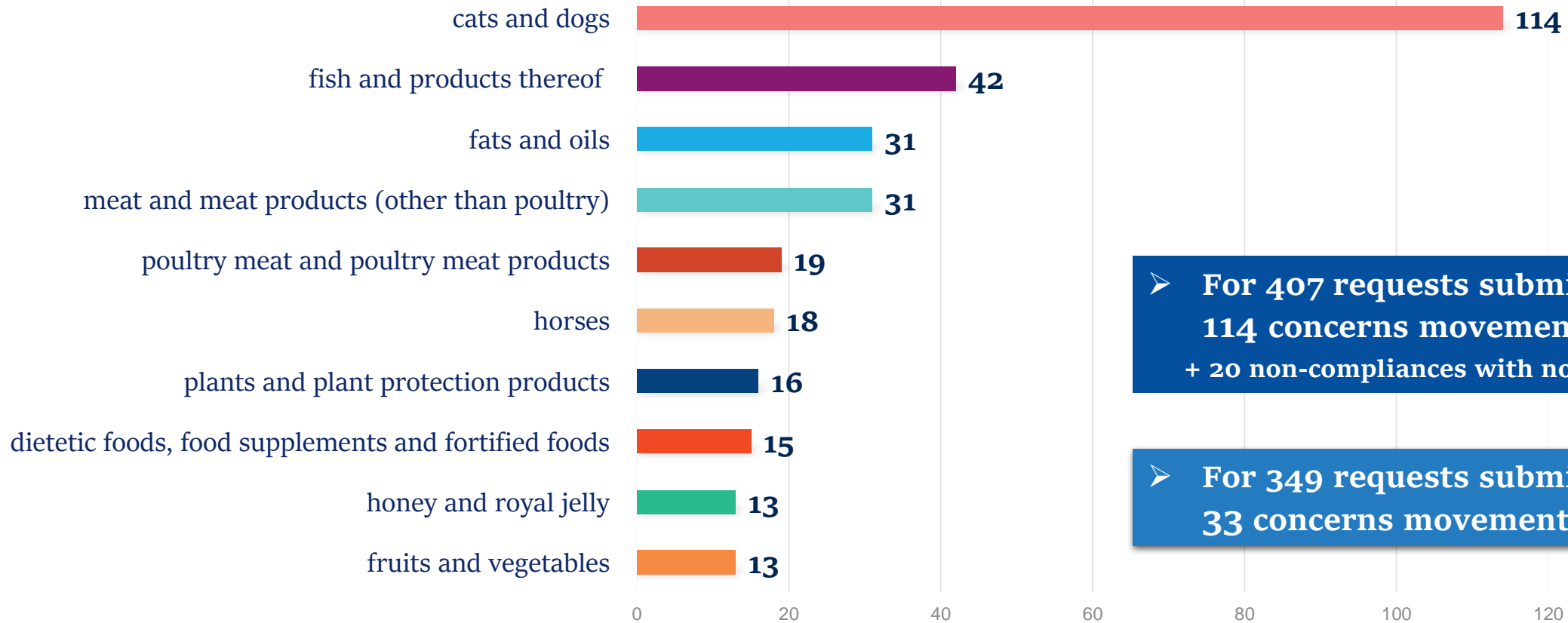
“The number of requests for assistance and cooperation shared between Member States tends to increase over the years, supporting the overall fight against food fraud in the EU and proving the importance of sharing information.”



407 Agri-food fraud requests in 2021

Administrative Assistance and Cooperation

Requests in the system by product categories notified in 2021



➤ For 407 requests submitted in 2021
114 concerns movement of pets
+ 20 non-compliances with no fraud suspected

➤ For 349 requests submitted in 2020
33 concerns movement of pets



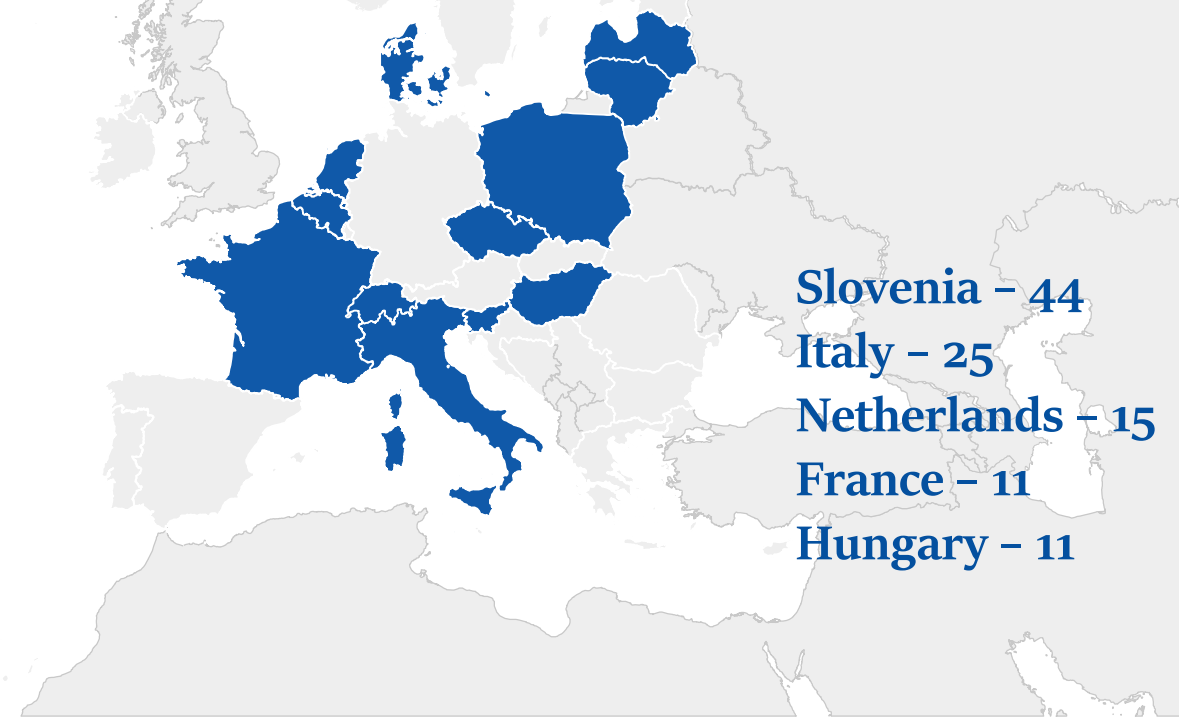
Illegal movement of pets

Administrative Assistance and Cooperation

Notifications on dogs and cats with suspicion of fraud

Requests for cooperation were submitted in the system by:

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



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.



Multi-faceted problem



Unfair
commercial
practices



Tax evasion
and
undeclared
revenues



Impact on the
health and
welfare of pet
animals



Risk for public
health

Cooperation





Violation of
EU rules



Deception of
customers



Economic
gain



Intention

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);
 - ✓ identifying animal trade disguised as non-commercial movement, both at borders and within the EU.
- Deterring fraudsters involved (breeders, traders, transporters, veterinarians, laboratories).



Illegal movement of pets

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



Illegal movement of pets



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



SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu

Alicja.MUZNIK@ec.europa.eu - Tel. +32 2 29 83 444

Thank you!



Illegal movement of pets

