



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL XXIV
CONSUMER POLICY AND CONSUMER HEALTH PROTECTION
Food and Veterinary Office

FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1998 – MARCH 1999

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the second Annual Report of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Directorate General XXIV, Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection. It covers the period 1 April 1998 – 30 March 1999.

The Office's principal missions are to monitor and control how Member States and third countries implement EU legislation on food safety, animal health, plant health and animal welfare, and to contribute towards the maintenance of confidence in the safety of food offered to the European consumer.

It fulfils these missions by carrying out a programme of inspections to monitor the performance of competent authorities, including on-the-spot inspections of individual establishments in both Member States and third countries.

During the period of this report, 196 inspection missions were undertaken. These covered a wide range of the FVO's responsibilities, as indicated in Annex I (this attributes missions to Units on the basis of responsibilities held at the time of the mission – see Section 2 below). Annex II provides a graphic illustration of the range of missions undertaken.

The last 12 months have been a time of considerable change for the FVO. The introduction of new operating practices, the expansion in staff numbers and the consequent need for an increased training effort, the reorganisation of the FVO (as described in more detail in section 2, below) and the continuing problems caused by the division of staff between Dublin and Brussels, have made it difficult to develop a settled, consistent, approach to its control and inspection activities. Nonetheless, the FVO has been, and will continue to be, driven by its commitment to the three principles of independence, transparency and excellence.

2. REORGANISATION

When the expansion in FVO staff numbers during 1998/99 was coupled with the need to introduce the major changes to working practices foreseen in the Commission's communications on consumer health protection, it became evident that there was a need for an in-depth review of the structure of the FVO. This process was undertaken during May and June 1998, with the new structure (Annex III) being introduced on 1 October 1998.

2.1. New Unit responsibilities

There are still three control and inspection Units within the FVO. However, their responsibilities have been reassigned along thematic rather than geographical lines, as follows:

Unit 1 Foods of Animal Origin (Mammals)

Unit 2 Foods of Animal Origin (Birds) and Plant Health

Unit 3 Foods of Animal Origin (Fish) and Foods of non-animal origin

Each Unit has been divided into a number of operational groups; each being led by a senior inspector. Some of these groups, ie. those that cover border inspection posts, TSEs and residues & laboratories, cover production sectors that cut across the above division of duties between the Units. These can therefore be called upon by any of the Units, either to form part of an inspection team, or to carry out a specific mission where the Unit lacks the necessary expertise. Arrangements are also in hand to

ensure that the FVO is able to respond satisfactorily to inquiries relating to the geographical organisation of its activities.

2.2. Quality issues

The FVO is fully committed to achieving the highest standards in the planning, performance and reporting of its control and inspection missions. A Quality and Planning Section was established, with the dual role of continuing the development and introduction of new working practices, and working with the Units to implement a quality control programme for the mission programme and reports.

2.3. Resident inspectors

As part of its commitment to consumer health protection, it was decided to place experienced FVO inspectors in the EC delegations in those areas of the world where there are particular trade or health interests. They will act as the eyes and ears of the FVO in the regions concerned, as well as carrying out certain targeted control and inspection missions within the FVO's mission programme.

One inspector is already established in the USA, and will be joined by a second inspector (to cover N. America). An inspector will be placed in Uruguay (to cover S. America) and one inspector in Thailand (to cover the Far East and Australasia).

3. MISSION PROGRAMME

Information on the missions undertaken during the period of this report is given in Annexes I and II.

3.1. Planning

The FVO operates on the basis of six monthly mission programmes (January – June and July – December). These are developed to take account both of obligations placed upon the Commission in Community legislation, and of priorities identified during the planning process for the programme.

A mission prioritisation system, that takes account of the level of hazards posed by particular products, as well as the potential risks associated with individual countries, plays a major part in the development of the programme. This is combined with consideration of trade, economic and policy issues, in the preparation of a first draft of the mission programme.

The priorities identified for the programme for the first half of 1999, together with the approved programme, are given in Annex IV.

This programme was discussed within the Commission to ensure that all elements that touched upon the FVO's responsibilities had been taken into account. In December 1998 it was presented to Member States and to the European Parliament. The programme has been kept constantly under review and has had to be adapted to meet unforeseen demands on a number of occasions.

Experts from Member States and the EFTA countries are frequently invited to participate in missions, both to make use of particular skills that may not be readily available within the FVO, and to encourage a broader understanding amongst Member States and EFTA countries of the working methods and goals of the FVO. During the last 12 months, 109 experts took part in missions with FVO inspectors.

3.2. Performance

Considerable attention has been paid to the completion and distribution of reports as soon as possible after the end of missions. Achievement of performance goals improved significantly during the year, helped by the introduction of an electronic system for the transfer of reports. The physical division of the FVO between Dublin and Brussels continued to pose significant problems, and further improvements will be constrained by this factor.

At the same time, a particular effort has been made to develop a more harmonised approach to the presentation of mission findings. This will make it easier for the reader to follow the reports, and will help to make the results of the FVO's work more transparent.

3.3. Monitoring

The effective monitoring of the mission programme is important if the FVO is to be confident of meeting its goals, as well as to allow effective planning of future programmes. A database which allows recording of mission activity has been developed during the last 12 months. All planned missions are entered into the database, as well as details of the missions as they are performed, and the reports prepared and processed.

3.4. Presentation of reports

Draft reports of missions are given to the other Commission services, and to the competent authority of the country visited as soon as possible after the end of the mission. This allows the report findings to be considered at an early stage, whilst ensuring that the FVO acts in a transparent manner as to the results of the mission.

After finalisation, reports are placed on the DG XXIV internet site (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg24/health/index_en.html), so that they are freely available to all interested parties.

3.5. General review reports

Particular attention has been paid to carrying out controls and inspections in those production sectors where a higher risk to consumer health is considered to exist. For certain of these sectors inspections are being carried out in all the Member States, with a view to presenting a general review report of the situation in the Community, in addition to the individual reports on each country visited. This general review report will be made available in the same way as the individual reports.

This approach has been, or will be, adopted in respect of bivalve mollusc production, red meat production, poultrymeat production, residue controls, and ovine/caprine brucellosis eradication programmes.

3.6. Main areas of interest in 1998-99

In Member States, the on-going monitoring of the BSE situation has absorbed considerable resources. It proved possible to recommend an easing of restrictions in N. Ireland, although the situation in Portugal deteriorated, leading to the imposition of additional controls over the movements of live cattle, beef and beef products. All Member States in which bivalve molluscs, eg. oysters, mussels etc, are processed were visited, and production conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

In third countries, a considerable effort was made to monitor production standards for fishery products. In a number of cases, emergency restrictions needed to be imposed on imports into the EU, whilst essential improvements were undertaken. This series of missions can be expected to continue to have a high priority during the next year (and beyond). Particular problems were found in relation to the controls over the production of red meat in Australia, and with controls over residues in red meat in the USA. In both cases, a major follow-up effort was required of the Food and Veterinary Office, and discussions are continuing to find a satisfactory solution.

4. INDIVIDUAL UNIT ACTIVITY REPORTS

4.1. Unit 1 – Food of animal origin (Mammals)

4.1.1. Production of food of animal (mammalian) origin

A. Mission priorities

In line with the FVO's control and inspection policy, a high priority was given to assessing the performance of competent authorities in maintaining acceptable levels of consumer health protection. Bearing in mind the potential health risks, particular attention was paid to red meat production standards in both Member States and third countries. Furthermore, in view of the trade and health implications, controls over milk production were given a high priority towards the end of the year, which will continue for at least the next 18 months.

B. Mission Programme

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. 21 missions were undertaken in the red meat sector. These included 12 in Member States (thereby completing the series of missions to all Member States) and 9 in third countries (including two where milk production controls were reviewed). In addition, 2 Member States and 1 third country were visited to assess milk production controls, and 2 third countries to check on game meat production. Missions were carried out in France and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, following an outbreak of trichinellosis amongst consumers of infected horse meat in France.

C. General findings

Following the series of missions in the Member States, a number of significant problems were identified. These included severe deficiencies in establishment approval procedures and standards of hygiene and welfare at slaughter. Widespread problems were also found with the inadequate implementation of EU legislation on animal identification and traceability of the meat, and insufficient controls over the disposal of animal waste (excluding Specified Risk Material). The general review report of this sector is currently being prepared.

Following investigations of a human trichinellosis outbreak in France, additional rules were recommended to ensure the safety of horse meat imported from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The disparate nature of both control and production systems in third countries makes it very difficult to draw general conclusions.

Routine inspections in Canada and Mexico endorsed the continued approval of most establishments. Inspections in the USA, whilst generally satisfactory, identified a number

of establishments where serious doubts were raised as to the effectiveness of the official controls in place. This led to a decision to undertake a more in-depth analysis (still ongoing) of the manner in which these controls operate.

It was noted that problems continued to exist in the organisation of, and resources available to, competent authorities in some E European and CIS countries. When combined with the low standards seen in individual establishments visited, it was not felt possible to recommend approval for imports from some of these countries. The situation was found to be noticeably more acceptable in countries and production sectors with experience in exporting products to the EU, where a clearer understanding of Community standards was evident.

4.1.2 Live Animals and their products

A. Mission priorities

Trade in live animals and the control and eradication of animal disease has significant implications both in financial and consumer health protection terms. Particular attention was paid to disease contingency and eradication programmes (notably those involving zoonotic diseases), and to outbreaks of important animal diseases in several Member States, which required emergency missions.

B. Mission Programme

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. Four emergency missions in response to disease outbreaks (bluetongue, classical swine fever and swine vesicular disease) were undertaken in Member States. Six disease eradication programmes were reviewed, and an initial assessment of the foot and mouth disease contingency plan in Belgium undertaken. Reviews of competent authority performance were carried out, often during controls over red meat and milk production, in a number of third countries. In addition, missions were undertaken in a small number of third countries to review the controls over movement of horses used for sporting and recreational purposes.

C. General findings

Member State responses to disease outbreaks were generally found to be very positive, with the action laid down in EU legislation being promptly taken. A need to improve certain aspects of the controls over the movement of animal products, eg semen, and the cleansing and disinfection of premises and transport vehicles was noted. Deficiencies were found in the operation of some eradication programmes. Action was taken to ensure that the necessary improvements were undertaken, or that continued EU funding of the programme be reviewed.

4.1.3 Animal Welfare

A. Mission priorities

Following previous experience, particular attention was paid to the transport of animals by road. In addition, animal welfare at slaughter was monitored during visits to slaughterhouses in both Member States and third countries. Contacts were maintained with European animal welfare groups, in order to keep abreast of particular concerns in this sector in developing the mission programme.

B. Mission Programme

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. 5 Member States and 1 third country were visited in respect of the transport of animals, whilst 12 missions to Member States and 14 to third countries to cover meat production allowed an assessment of welfare at slaughter to be performed.

C. General findings

In the road transport sector, despite improvements in some Member States, no major progress was found in Greece, Belgium or France in comparison to earlier missions in this sector. Deficiencies were found not only in the vehicles used to carry animals, but also in the quality of care provided, with inadequate unloading, watering, feeding and resting arrangements. Action was taken to require national authorities to improve the situation, whilst legal proceedings were recommended against these authorities in a number of cases.

Problems were also seen in relation to the conditions under which animals arriving from third countries at the Community's road borders were transported.

The welfare of animals at the time of slaughter was generally considered to have improved, although very serious failings were recorded at one slaughterhouse in Greece.

4.2. Unit 2 – Food of animal origin (Birds) and Plant Health

4.2.1. Production of food of animal (avian) origin

A. Mission priorities

Particular attention was paid to third countries where previous problems had been identified (China, Brazil), or where significant trade implications were involved (Mexico, Korea). In view of the consumer health implications, a start was made (with a mission to France) on a series of missions to Member States to assess poultrymeat production standards.

B. Mission programme

Five missions (one Member State, four third countries - Annex I) were undertaken. Following the expansion of the Group towards the end of 1998, a substantial increase in inspections during 1999 is anticipated.

C. General findings

The inspection in China found that progress in improving food safety and animal health control systems was insufficient to allow lifting of the ban on imports of poultrymeat imposed in 1996.

The mission in France was the first in a series of inspections to be carried out in all Member States, to assess compliance with the EU poultrymeat hygiene legislation. It identified the need for significant improvements in veterinary supervision in this sector.

4.2.2. Plant health

A. Mission priorities

Particular attention was paid to conditions in exporting third countries, to the controls applied to imports of plants and plant products, and to the operation of protected zones within Member States. Visits to investigate plant disease outbreaks

were given a high priority. In addition, a series of advisory visits to Member States, regarding the operation of a vade mecum providing guidelines for national plant health inspectors, was completed.

B. Mission programme

Details are provided in Annex I. 39 missions were undertaken in this sector.

In Member States they included missions relating to outbreaks of plant diseases; the operation of protected zones; the operation of the vade mecum and checks on derogations granted for local movements of certain plants.

In third countries, missions were undertaken to examine specific plant disease situations or guarantees regarding disease status. In addition, the operation of the POSEIDOM and POSEIMA schemes (structural funds programmes) was assessed.

C. General findings

Outbreaks of harmful organisms

In all Member States visited the Commission recommended that steps be taken by the authorities to improve inspection procedures and laboratory analysis procedures

Protected zones

In all Member States visited continuation of existing protected zone status was recommended, subject in some cases to time limits and to the authorities improving monitoring procedures. Approval was recommended in two of three Member States which had proposed buffer zones relating to exports of plants.

Vade mecum.

An overall report of the results to the 14 Member States visited will be prepared in the first half of 1999.

Local movement controls

In the five Member states visited, weaknesses in the application of the rules were identified and brought to the attention of the competent authorities.

Imports from third countries

Considerable attention was paid to problems linked to the isolation of the “brown rot” pathogen in imports of potatoes from Egypt. Missions concentrated upon the procedures for designating pest free areas in Egypt, and official monitoring inspection and recording systems.

A request from the Slovak Republic to be recognised as free from ring rot was not supported following the identification of important deficiencies in laboratory procedures

Europhyt

Europhyt is an electronic network and database, set up between member states and co-ordinated by the Commission, to enable the rapid dissemination of information on interceptions of contaminated consignments of plants or plant products. About 2000

interceptions were notified to the Commission. A new internet based technology has been introduced to facilitate a more efficient operation of the network.

4.2.3. *TSE¹, animal waste and feedingstuffs*

A. Mission priorities

Priority was given to monitoring the situation in UK, Ireland and Portugal, where the overall reported incidence of BSE was highest. In addition, a mission was undertaken to Switzerland to assess the BSE situation.

Other inspections in Member States concentrated mainly on the implementation of Commission Decisions 96/449/EC and 97/735/EC and the treatment of specified risk material.

B. Mission programme

19 missions to 13 Member States and one third country were undertaken in this sector. Details are provided in Annex I.

C. General findings

Conditions for the resumption of exports from Northern Ireland under the Export Certified Herds Scheme were considered to have been fulfilled. Approval to resume exports, under strict controls, was given with effect from 1 June 1998. A later mission to assess the possibility for a resumption of exports from the rest of the UK under the Date Based Export Scheme identified certain issues that needed to be resolved before a decision to approve the Scheme could be taken by the Commission.

The other inspections in the UK related to the handling of animal waste and the Over Thirty Month Scheme.

Missions to Portugal were undertaken in response to reports of a rapidly rising incidence of BSE. A broad range of measures necessary to manage risks related to BSE were recommended. A ban on exports of beef products and animals from Portugal came into effect on 18 November 1998.

Following a mission to Ireland to assess the overall BSE situation, the FVO recommended a series of measures to improve control procedures, especially in relation to rendering plants and the operation of surveillance systems.

In visits to other Member States, improvements were noted on the implementation of Decision 96/449/EEC. However, implementation of Decision 97/735 was, in general, late and often incomplete.

4.2.4. *Border inspection posts, import controls, fraud, inspection fees*

A. Mission priorities

Particular attention was paid to border inspection posts (BIPs) with high throughputs, and those where operational problems had been identified in the past. In

¹ TSE: transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie.

addition, visits were made as part of a rolling programme, intended to carry out regular checks on all such posts.

B. Mission programme

62 BIPs in 11 Member States were inspected, from a total of 261 such premises. 17 were large posts handling more than 2000 consignments per year.

C. General findings

While the situation varies within the Community, the overall picture can be summarised as follows:

- There has been good progress across the Union in putting in place the necessary infrastructure and equipment in BIPs, although some work remains to be done.
- Although staffing levels are improving, they are still inadequate in some cases. There is also need for a major training effort in most Member States.
- Serious procedural deficiencies still exist in the general management of certain BIPs.
- For a small number of posts, major deficiencies were identified which had already been drawn to the attention of the authorities in previous years.
- There are widespread breaches of EU regulations on inspection fees.

The Office recommended that 7 posts be removed from the approved list and a further 11 be reclassified as to the type of products they could handle.

The Commission has begun an overall review of the operation of the system of import controls in the light of the results of inspections carried out in recent years.

Fraud

In its first two years of operation, the Office has investigated some 20 suspected cases of fraud with potential consequences for public health or animal health.

4.3. Unit 3 - Food of animal origin (Fish) and Food of non-animal origin

4.3.1. Production of food of animal (fish, crustacea, bivalve mollusc) origin

A. Mission priorities

High priority was given to the production of live bivalve mollusc (eg. oysters, mussels etc) in Member States, and to third countries in which health problems had previously been identified.

Priority was also given to third countries with a large volume of trade with EU Member States.

B. Mission programme

The audit activities carried out by the group can be divided into **missions** involving audits and on-the-spot checks in Member States and third countries, and **documentary audits** of files submitted by third countries.

Missions

35 missions (14 in Member States and 21 in Third Countries) were undertaken (see Annex I).

A complete cycle (13) of missions to evaluate the control systems in the Member States for the production of shellfish was completed.

17 missions in third countries concentrated upon fishery product controls, whilst 4 covered both fishery product and live bivalve mollusc production sectors.

Missions to third countries audited the competent authorities responsible for the safety of fishery products. Such missions were classed either as 'evaluation' (for first time FVO visits), or 'inspection' (for follow-up FVO visits). As a result of these missions, recommendations were made for authorisation including, where appropriate, specific conditions, for the import of these products.

Documentary audits

A total of 72 documentary audits on third countries were completed. These involved a desk analysis of information provided by the authorities on the institutional framework (legislation, organisation, inspection services) related to the control of the safety of fishery products, health conditions in the country and the products proposed for import. These allowed the temporary authorisation of 37 countries. The guarantees provided by the remaining 35 countries were considered to be insufficient, and further information and guarantees were sought.

C. General findings

MEMBER STATES

For live bivalve molluscs, the situation was found to be generally satisfactory, with hygiene standards considered acceptable. This series of missions demonstrated the need for existing EU legislation to be brought up-to-date, to reflect technological

developments. A general review report is being prepared and will be available by the end of April 1999.

THIRD COUNTRIES

The health situation in most of the countries visited did not raise significant concerns. However, in one case, the deficiencies observed were sufficiently serious to warrant a recommendation that the authorisation for importing fishery products be suspended.

In a large majority of the missions, problems regarding the health control of fishery products were identified. The most common deficiencies in establishments were related to the failure to implement own control systems, whilst competent authorities needed to increase staff resources and training of their inspection services, and to improve laboratory facilities and supervisory activities. Recommendations as to the corrective measures needed generally led to suitable measures being taken by the authorities, allowing permanent authorisation of imports to be extended to the countries concerned

In some countries, eg. Kenya, Uganda and Vietnam, conditions in individual establishments were sufficiently serious for their removal from the list of approved premises to be recommended.

4.3.2. Production of food of non-animal origin

A. Mission priorities

This is a new area of work for the FVO, and particular attention was paid to setting up the inspection group, and identifying the main areas of consumer health concern.

Organic farming controls concentrated upon the operation of import controls, including visits to certain third countries.

Pesticide controls examined the operation of national and co-ordinated monitoring programmes on pesticide residues in products of plant origin.

Controls over contaminants in foodstuffs focussed in particular on emergencies with direct implications for human health.

Controls over foodstuffs involved acting in support of the import controls programme of DG XXIV.

B. Mission programme

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. In addition, the group contributed to working groups and workshops in respect of organic farming, the sustainable use of plant protection products and pesticide residues. The group was also involved in Standing Committees on Plant Health, Organic Farming, Animal Nutrition, Radioactive Contamination of Foodstuffs, and Foodstuffs.

C. General findings

Organic farming: A lack of harmonisation between Member States in the implementation of Article 11.6, Commission Regulation 2092/91/EEC.

Pesticide residues: Sampling procedures need to be revised, accreditation of the laboratories is in hand, the spectrum of pesticides for which analysis is undertaken could be broader, Commission funding for proficiency tests was recommended.

Contaminants: The third countries visited had made significant efforts to comply with Community requirements by setting up control systems and improving laboratory facilities.

4.3.3. *Residues and laboratory controls*

A. Mission priorities

The group concentrated on the assessment of the Member States' monitoring system for residues of prohibited substances (such as hormones and growth promoters), veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants. The series of routine inspections within the European Union, which started in 1997, was completed.

In third countries, special emphasis was placed on the effectiveness of control systems and guarantees as regards the non-use of substances banned in the European Union, in countries with significant exports of red meat to the EU.

B. Number and type of missions

Details of the missions undertaken are available at Annex I. 8 Member States were visited in completing the series of control missions referred to in the preceding section. 8 third countries were visited, mainly in N and S America, but also China and the Czech Republic.

C. General findings

The implementation of the relevant EU legislation in Member States was found to be largely satisfactory. However, some shortcomings regarding equipment and staff numbers, and the control of the use of veterinary medicines on farm level, were noted.

Urgent missions were undertaken in Austria and Italy, following allegations (found to be unsubstantiated) of the presence of stilboestrol in Austrian beef.

Significant problems with the control of veterinary medicines were found in the USA, which raised doubts as to the acceptability of meat being exported to the EU. These have been the subject of protracted discussions with the US authorities, and a follow-up mission is anticipated.

5. QUALITY AND PLANNING SECTION

Initially, the Quality and Planning Section (QPS) paid particular attention to the development, launching and monitoring of the January – June 1999 mission programme, and the development and operation of a quality control system for mission reports. Action has also started on the development of the audit-based approach to the performance of controls and inspections.

The development of the mission database has been given a high priority. Work on the mission programme for the second half of 1999 started in February 1999, with a view to its presentation in June 1999.

A second Manual of Operations came into effect on 1 March 1999. This provides guidance for FVO staff on the planning, performance and reporting of control and inspection missions, and acts as the central reference point for these issues. The QPS provides advice on its application across the FVO, with a view to promoting a harmonised approach to these core elements of the FVO's responsibilities.

6. RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION

6.1.1. Personnel and recruitment

The period under review saw a considerable expansion in staff numbers in the FVO, from 78 on 1 April 1998 to 112 by the end of March 1999. This total was made up of 72 A grade staff, largely inspectors, and 40 support staff. The build up of staff followed an intensive recruitment drive which began towards the end of 1998. The recruitment of an additional 59 staff, comprising 38 A grade and 21 support staff, was well underway by the end of March 1999, with a view to bringing total staff numbers to 171 by Autumn 1999.

6.1.2. Training

Taking account of the high number of new recruits and the revision of procedures in relation to inspections and reports, staff training was given a high priority. In addition to in-house training on procedures, a number of inspectors also attended training courses on ISO 9000 audit and HACCP provided by external trainers. Furthermore the FVO agreed to involve officials of Member State administrations, where appropriate, in certain types of specialised technical training for its staff.

6.1.3. Buildings

Given the projected staff numbers and the limited space in the FVO's existing building, plans were well advanced for the acquisition of a larger temporary premises in Dublin by Autumn 1999 to accommodate the entire staff. In the meantime some of the new recruits have been temporarily based in Brussels. Work also continued on the longer term plan to move the FVO to a green-field site in Grange, Co Meath.

7. LIAISON SECTION

The liaison section has continued to develop and maintain links between the FVO, other parts of the Commission, other EU Institutions and outside organisations.

Good links have been developed with the concerned Directorate Generals within the Commission regarding the FVO's activities. The Section contributed to follow-up discussions with certain third countries, where FVO reports had identified particular consumer health protection problems, eg. residue controls in the USA and red meat production standards in Australia. The section has been actively involved in the enlargement exercise for veterinary and phytosanitary matters (screening of applicant countries), together with co-operation with TAIEX and PHARE at meetings and giving technical support when required.

The Section was involved in meetings with consequences for the FVO's control and inspection activities. These included Standing Committees, specific working groups at Commission and Council level, equivalency agreement discussions and Chief Veterinary and Phytosanitary Officers' meetings. It represented DG XXIV's position in international meetings (Codex).

The Section also took an active part in the discussions on the reorganisation of the FVO, as described above, as well as in the development of standardised working procedures, and the development of mission programmes.

The Section has continued to develop its more general role in the provision of advice on consumer health protection issues to DG XXIV.

8. FUTURE PLANNING

The FVO will continue to implement the changes to its responsibilities and working methods announced in the two Commission communications on consumer health protection in 1997 and 1998.

Recruitment should be completed by the end of 1999, allowing the initial training of new and existing personnel to be largely achieved within the next 12 months. As a result the FVO will be in a better position to assume its full responsibilities in relation to consumer health protection.

The new working practices, and the increasing emphasis that is being placed on the effective follow-up to mission recommendations, will lead to changes in the way in which the FVO works. These will be combined with the establishment of clear objectives for the FVO, supported, where possible, by longer term planning of mission programmes. The effect of these changes will be seen in a more targeted and efficient FVO, well placed to promote significant improvements in operational standards in the countries and sectors falling under its responsibilities. In this manner, the consumer will be able to feel confident that acceptable standards are being achieved, and that any problems will be swiftly detected and resolved.

ANNEX I
FVO MISSION PROGRAMME
APRIL 1998 – MARCH 1999

REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1360/98	1		France (La Reunion)	Border inspection posts	06-Apr-98	13-Apr-98
1367/98	1		Italy	Border inspection posts	13-Apr-98	15-Apr-98
1368/98	1		Sweden	Residues	13-Apr-98	17-Apr-98
1371/98	1		United Kingdom	TSEs	20-Apr-98	22-Apr-98
1387/98	1		Italy	Border inspection posts	20-Apr-98	24-Apr-98
1349/98	1		France	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	27-Apr-98	01-May-98
1357/98	1		Italy	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	04-May-98	08-May-98
1390/98	1		Slovenia	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	04-May-98	08-May-98
1400/98	1		Austria	Border inspection posts	04-May-98	08-May-98
1361/98	1		Italy	Food production - bivalve molluscs	11-May-98	15-May-98
1381/98	1		Portugal	TSEs	11-May-98	15-May-98
1399/98	1		Netherlands	TSEs	11-May-98	15-May-98
1393/98	1		France	Border inspection posts	02-Jun-98	05-Jun-98
1366/98	1		Bulgaria	Audit of competent authority	08-Jun-98	12-Jun-98
1405/98	1		Poland	Food production - milk/products	08-Jun-98	13-Jun-98
1419/98	1		Belgium	Border inspection posts	08-Jun-98	12-Jun-98
1392/98	1		Lithuania	Food production - red meat + milk	09-Jun-98	19-Jun-98
1412/98	1		Estonia	Food production - red meat + milk	09-Jun-98	19-Jun-98
1395/98	1		Austria	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	14-Jun-98	19-Jun-98
1414/98	1		United Kingdom	TSEs	15-Jun-98	19-Jun-98

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REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1404/98	1		Belgium	Border inspection posts	18-Jun-98	19-Jun-98
1416/98	1		France	Contaminants	22-Jun-98	22-Jun-98
1415/98	1		France	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	06-Jul-98	10-Jul-98
1420/98	1		Greece	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis	13-Jul-98	17-Jul-98
1432/98	1		Estonia	Food production - fish/fishery products	13-Jul-98	17-Jul-98
1431/98	1		United Kingdom	TSEs	20-Jul-98	24-Jul-98
1445/98	1		Austria	Residues	13-Aug-98	14-Aug-98
1443/98	1		Sweden	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	17-Aug-98	21-Aug-98
1436/98	1		Sweden	TSEs	24-Aug-98	27-Aug-98
1437/98	1		Italy	Border inspection posts	25-Aug-98	26-Aug-98
1466/98	1		Italy	Border inspection posts	27-Aug-98	28-Aug-98
1449/98	1		Sweden	Food production - bivalve molluscs	31-Aug-98	04-Sep-98
1444/98	1		Spain	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	07-Sep-98	10-Sep-98
1450/98	1		Denmark	Food production - bivalve molluscs	07-Sep-98	11-Sep-98
1454/98	1		United Kingdom	Border inspection posts	07-Sep-98	11-Sep-98
1455/98	1		Italy	Residues	10-Sep-98	11-Sep-98
1448/98	1		Belgium	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	14-Sep-98	18-Sep-98
1453/98	1		United Kingdom	Residues	14-Sep-98	18-Sep-98
1456/98	1		Italy	TSEs	14-Sep-98	18-Sep-98
1407/98	1		Germany	Border inspection posts	21-Sep-98	25-Sep-98
1463/98	1		Spain	TSEs	28-Sep-98	02-Oct-98
1471/98	1		Portugal	TSEs	28-Sep-98	02-Oct-98
1457/98	1	1.1	Iceland	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	04-Oct-98	10-Oct-98
1470/98	1	1.3	Greece	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	12-Oct-98	16-Oct-98

1472/98	1	1.1	Russia	Food production - farmed game meat/products/preparations	12-Oct-98	21-Oct-98
REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1479/98	1	1.1	France	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	18-Oct-98	23-Oct-98
1483/98	1	1.2	Germany	Disease outbreak - CSF	21-Oct-98	23-Oct-98
1488/98	1	1.2	Portugal	Erad/control programmes - CBPP	26-Oct-98	30-Oct-98
1489/98	1	1.1	Latvia	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	03-Nov-98	07-Nov-98
1484/98	1	1.2	Paraguay	audit of competent authority	10-Nov-98	20-Nov-98
1505/98	1	1.2	Italy	Disease outbreak - SVD	11-Nov-98	13-Nov-98
1500/98	1	1.2	Kazakstan	audit of competent authority	19-Nov-98	02-Dec-98
1499/98	1	1.1	Germany	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	23-Nov-98	27-Nov-98
1514/98	1	1.1	France	Disease outbreak - Other diseases	29-Nov-98	03-Dec-98
1512/98	1	1.1	Greece	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	14-Dec-98	18-Dec-98
1000/99	1	1.1	Yugoslavia	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	18-Jan-99	22-Jan-99
1012/99	1	1.2	France	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis	25-Jan-99	29-Jan-99
1009/99	1	1.2	Greece	Disease outbreak - Bluetongue	01-Feb-99	05-Feb-99
1094/99	1	1.1	USA	Food production - wild game meat/products/preparations	01-Feb-99	03-Feb-99
1013/99	1	1.2	Bulgaria	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH	08-Feb-99	12-Feb-99
1014/99	1	1.2	Portugal	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis	08-Feb-99	12-Feb-99
1037/99	1	1.1	Luxembourg	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	08-Feb-99	11-Feb-99
1110/99	1	1.1	Luxembourg	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	08-Feb-99	11-Feb-99
1491/98	1	1.3	Ireland	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	15-Feb-99	19-Feb-99
1105/99	1	1.1	Germany	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	17-Feb-99	18-Feb-99
1095/99	1	1.1	Mexico	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	21-Feb-99	04-Mar-99
1017/99	1	1.2	Macedonia	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99
1018/99	1	1.1	Denmark	Food production - milk/products	01-Mar-99	05-Mar-99
1020/99	1	1.2	Italy	Erad/control programmes - Br melitensis	08-Mar-99	12-Mar-99
1099/99	1	1.1	Italy	Food production - milk/products	14-Mar-99	19-Mar-99
1019/99	1	1.2	Belgium	Disease contingency plans	15-Mar-99	19-Mar-99

REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1023/99	1	1.1	Spain	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	15-Mar-99	19-Mar-99
1026/99	1	1.2	Ireland	Erad/control programmes - Br abortus	18-Mar-99	26-Mar-99
1015/99	1	1.3	Germany	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	21-Mar-99	28-Mar-99
1024/99	1	1.2	Romania	Import controls - animals/animal products - AH	21-Mar-99	28-Mar-99
1036/99	1	1.3	Poland	Animal welfare - Transport/markets	21-Mar-99	28-Mar-99
1115/99	1	1.2	Netherlands	Disease outbreak - SVD	24-Mar-99	25-Mar-99
1031/99	1	1.1	Macedonia	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	31-Mar-99	19-Apr-99
1364/98	2		Paraguay	Residues	19-Apr-98	04-May-98
1422/98	2		Uruguay	Residues	19-Apr-98	04-May-98
1365/98	2		Tunisia	Food production - fish/fishery products	20-Apr-98	29-Apr-98
1382/98	2		Tunisia	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	20-Apr-98	29-Apr-98
1333/98	2		Thailand	Food production - fish/fishery products	27-Apr-98	03-May-98
1369/98	2		Canada	Residues	04-May-98	15-May-98
1378/98	2		Kirghizstan	audit of competent authority	07-May-98	15-May-98
1394/98	2		Thailand	audit of competent authority	12-Jun-98	26-Jun-98
1408/98	2		Mongolia	audit of competent authority	12-Jun-98	19-Jun-98
1396/98	2		Argentina	audit of competent authority	20-Jun-98	04-Jul-98
1421/98	2		USA	Food production - red meat/products/preparations	21-Jun-98	01-Jul-98
1434/98	2		Mauritius	Food production - fish/fishery products	07-Jul-98	11-Aug-98
1430/98	2		Solomon Islands	Food production - fish/fishery products	16-Jul-98	25-Jul-98
1418/98	2		USA	Residues	19-Jul-98	01-Aug-98
1435/98	2		Korea	audit of competent authority	01-Aug-98	12-Aug-98
1439/98	2		Seychelles	Food production - fish/fishery products	03-Aug-98	07-Aug-98
1438/98	2		Saudi Arabia	Import controls - animals/animal products	27-Aug-98	13-Sep-98
1467/98	2		Dubai	Import controls - animals/animal products	27-Aug-98	13-Sep-98

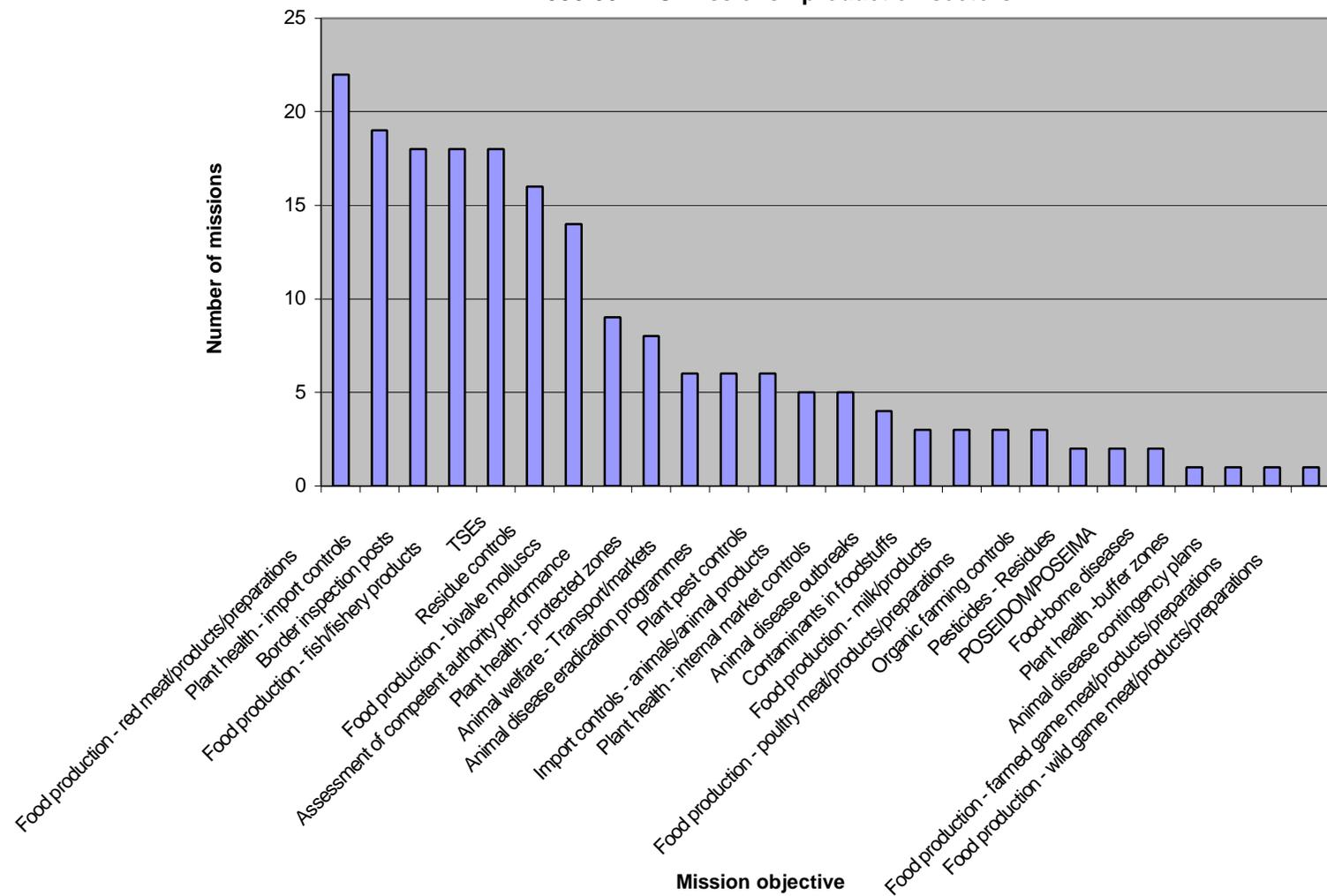
REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1452/98	2		China	poultry meat/rabbit meat/residues	19-Sep-98	01-Oct-98
1468/98	2	2.2	Sweden	Import from TCs - Vademecum	01-Oct-98	02-Oct-98
1461/98	2	2.B	Netherlands	Border inspection posts	05-Oct-98	09-Oct-98
1469/98	2	2.1	Italy	Import from TCs - Vademecum	19-Oct-98	21-Oct-98
1474/98	2	2.B	Italy	Border inspection posts	19-Oct-98	23-Oct-98
1480/98	2	2.A	Austria	TSEs	26-Oct-98	30-Oct-98
1481/98	2	2.A	Germany	TSEs	26-Oct-98	30-Oct-98
1496/98	2	2.2	Egypt	Plant pest outbreak -Potatoes	08-Nov-98	12-Nov-98
1501/98	2	2.B	Sweden	Border inspection posts	09-Nov-98	13-Nov-98
1502/98	2	2.A	United Kingdom	TSEs	23-Nov-98	27-Nov-98
1507/98	2	2.2	Hungary	Import from TCs - Derogations	29-Nov-98	04-Dec-98
1510/98	2	2.2	France (Guadeloupe)	POSEIDOM	29-Nov-98	07-Dec-98
1497/98	2	3.1	Spain	Border inspection posts	30-Nov-98	02-Dec-98
1498/98	2	2.B	Portugal	Border inspection posts	03-Dec-98	04-Dec-98
1506/98	2	2.A	Luxembourg	TSEs	08-Dec-98	10-Dec-98
1511/98	2	2.2	Belgium	Import from TCs - Vademecum	14-Dec-98	15-Dec-98
1515/98	2	2.A	Greece	TSEs	14-Dec-98	18-Dec-98
1002/99	2	2.2	Germany	Pest erad/control progs - Protected zones	11-Jan-99	15-Jan-99
1003/99	2	2.2	Germany	Import from TCs - Vademecum	11-Jan-99	15-Jan-99
1077/99	2	2.A	Ireland	TSEs	11-Jan-99	15-Jan-99
1043/99	2	2.A	Ireland	TSEs	18-Jan-99	20-Jan-99
1051/99	2	2.1	France	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations	31-Jan-99	05-Feb-99
1046/99	2	2.A	Switzerland	TSEs	08-Feb-99	12-Feb-99
1044/99	2	2.A	Portugal	TSEs	22-Feb-99	03-Mar-99
1045/99	2	2.B	Spain	Border inspection posts	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99
1047/99	2	2.2	Egypt	Import from TCs - Minimum conditions	26-Feb-99	05-Mar-99
1048/99	2	2.2	Greece	Import from TCs - Vademecum	02-Mar-99	05-Mar-99

REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1098/99	2	2.2	Greece	Protected zones -Citrus Tristeza Virus	02-Mar-99	05-Mar-99
1033/99	2	2.1	Brazil	Food production - poultry meat/products/preparations	15-Mar-99	25-Mar-99
1055/99	2	3.1	Greece	Border inspection posts	29-Mar-99	02-Apr-99
1325/98	3		Portugal	Internal market - Plant passport	06-Apr-98	08-Apr-98
1355/98	3		Austria	Imports from third countries - derogations	06-Apr-98	08-Apr-98
1356/98	3		Spain	Plant pest outbreak - potatoes	14-Apr-98	17-Apr-98
1362/98	3		Portugal	Import from TCs - Vademecum	27-Apr-98	29-Apr-98
1372/98	3		Luxembourg	Internal market - Plant passport	04-May-98	05-May-98
1374/98	3		Austria	Import from TCs - Vademecum	04-May-98	07-May-98
1385/98	3		Luxembourg	Import from TCs - Vademecum	14-May-98	14-May-98
1386/98	3		Italy	Internal market - Plant passport	18-May-98	21-May-98
1376/98	3		Netherlands	Buffer zones	19-May-98	20-May-98
1391/98	3		South Africa	Import from TCs - Derogations	06-Jun-98	13-Jun-98
1398/98	3		Italy	Plant pest outbreak -Ornamentals, incl. Bonsais	07-Jun-98	12-Jun-98
1383/98	3		South Africa	Import from TCs - Derogations	08-Jun-98	12-Jun-98
1451/98	3		Italy	Protected zones -Citrus Tristeza Virus	08-Jun-98	12-Jun-98
1350/98	3		Greece	Internal market - Local movement	22-Jun-98	26-Jun-98
1401/98	3		France	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora	22-Jun-98	26-Jun-98
1406/98	3		Czech Republic	audit of competent authority	22-Jun-98	26-Jun-98
1427/98	3		Greece	Import from TCs - Minimum conditions	22-Jun-98	26-Jun-98
1402/98	3		Austria	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora	30-Jun-98	02-Jul-98
1375/98	3		Germany	Internal market - Local movement	13-Jul-98	15-Jul-98
1441/98	3		Finland	Protected zones -Globodera pallida	20-Jul-98	23-Jul-98
1442/98	3		Portugal	POSEIMA	20-Jul-98	24-Jul-98
1429/98	3		Italy	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora	21-Jul-98	23-Jul-98
1447/98	3		Denmark	Import from TCs - Vademecum	23-Jul-98	24-Jul-98

REF No.	UNIT	Group	COUNTRY	Objective	Start date	Finish date
1428/98	3		Ireland	Protected zones -Erwinia amylovora	27-Jul-98	29-Jul-98
1440/98	3		Italy	Plant pest situation - Arable crops	04-Aug-98	07-Aug-98
1446/98	3		Austria	Pesticides - Residues	24-Aug-98	26-Aug-98
1410/98	3		Netherlands	Import from TCs - Vademecum	15-Sep-98	16-Sep-98
1475/98	3		Netherlands	Plant pest outbreak -Potatoes	17-Sep-98	18-Sep-98
1458/98	3		Ireland	Import from TCs - Vademecum	24-Sep-98	24-Sep-98
1409/98	3		Finland	Import from TCs - Vademecum	28-Sep-98	30-Sep-98
1460/98	3		Egypt	Plant pest outbreak -Potatoes	28-Sep-98	02-Oct-98
1464/98	3	3.1	Vietnam	Food production - bivalve molluscs	05-Oct-98	15-Oct-98
1473/98	3	3.C	Finland	Residues	12-Oct-98	16-Oct-98
1492/98	3	3.2	Iran	Contaminants/ aflatoxins	12-Oct-98	19-Oct-98
1476/98	3	3.2	Ireland	Pesticides - Residues	21-Oct-98	23-Oct-98
1482/98	3	3.1	Netherlands	Food production - bivalve molluscs	26-Oct-98	30-Oct-98
1485/98	3	3.C	Netherlands	Residues	26-Oct-98	30-Oct-98
1508/98	3	3.1	Belgium	Food production - bivalve molluscs	09-Nov-98	10-Nov-98
1513/98	3	3.1	Panama	Food production - fish/fishery products	09-Nov-98	13-Nov-98
1509/98	3	3.1	Ireland	Food production - bivalve molluscs	16-Nov-98	19-Nov-98
1516/98	3	3.C	Belgium	Residues	16-Nov-98	20-Nov-98
1519/98	3	3.1	Yemen	Food production - fish/fishery products	16-Nov-98	22-Nov-98
1524/98	3	3.1	Uganda	Food production - fish/fishery products	16-Nov-98	20-Nov-98
1522/98	3	3.1	Somalia	Food production - fish/fishery products	18-Nov-98	18-Nov-98
1520/98	3	3.1	Oman	Food production - fish/fishery products	23-Nov-98	27-Nov-98
1525/98	3	3.1	Kenya	Food production - fish/fishery products	23-Nov-98	27-Nov-98
1526/98	3	3.1	Mozambique	Food production - fish/fishery products	30-Nov-98	04-Dec-98
1523/98	3	3.2	France	Residues	06-Dec-98	11-Dec-98

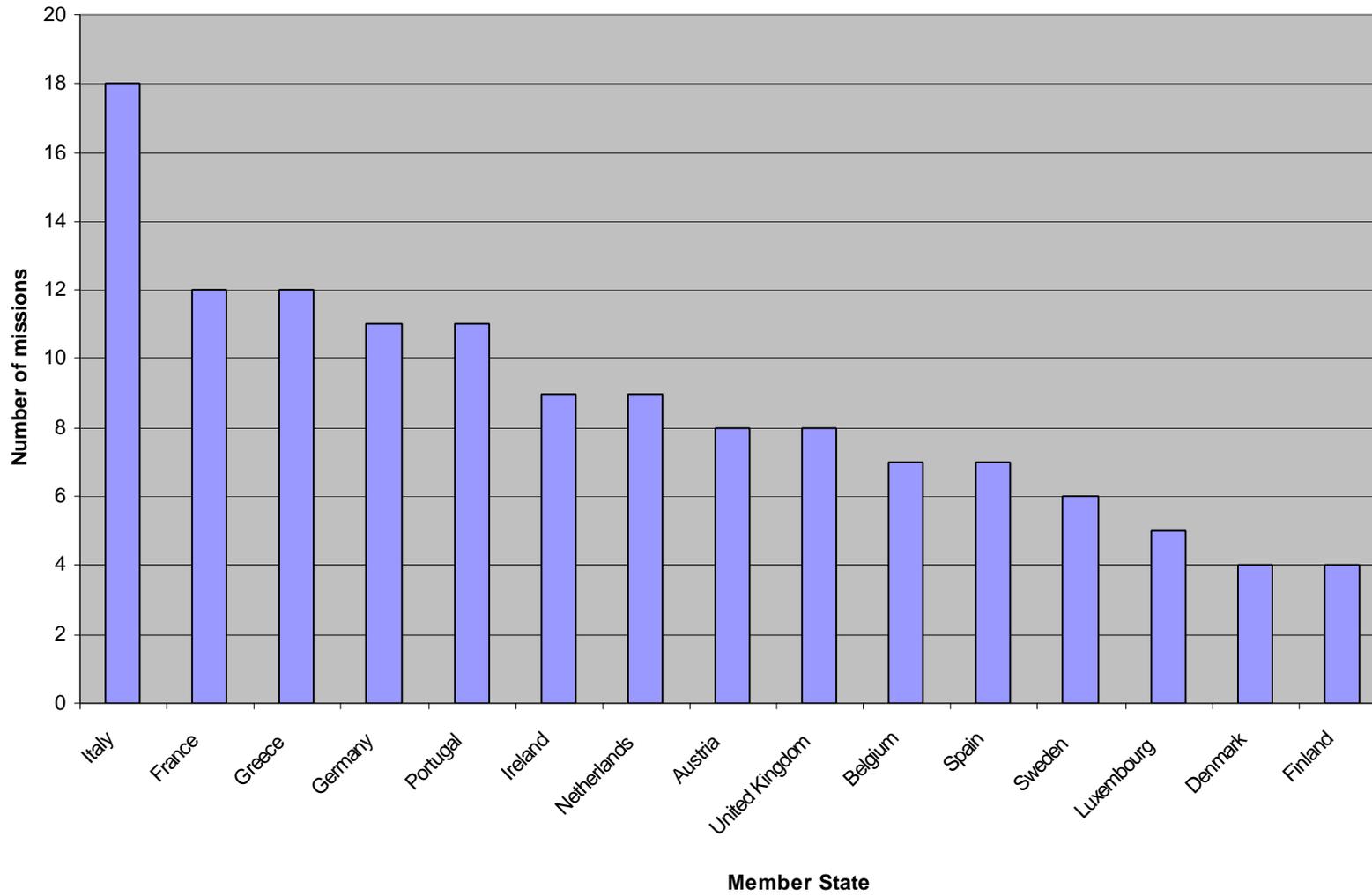
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1521/98	3	3.2	Netherlands	Organic farming controls	08-Dec-98	11-Dec-98
1005/99	3	3.C	Brazil	Contaminants	11-Jan-99	15-Jan-99
1001/99	3	3.2	United Kingdom	Organic farming controls	18-Jan-99	22-Jan-99
1079/99	3	3.1	Ireland	Food production - bivalve molluscs	22-Jan-99	22-Jan-99
1004/99	3	3.C	Denmark	Residues	25-Jan-99	29-Jan-99
1006/99	3	3.C	Portugal	Residues	01-Feb-99	05-Feb-99
1038/99	3	3.1	Portugal	Food production - bivalve molluscs	15-Feb-99	19-Feb-99
1039/99	3	3.1	Germany	Food production - bivalve molluscs	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99
1041/99	3	3.1	Spain	Food production - bivalve molluscs	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99
1042/99	3	3.1	United Kingdom	Food production - bivalve molluscs	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99
1069/99	3	3.1	Pakistan	Food production - fish/fishery products	28-Feb-99	04-Mar-99
1093/99	3	3.2	Australia	Organic farming controls	04-Mar-99	19-Mar-99
1070/99	3	3.1	India	Food production - fish/fishery products	08-Mar-99	12-Mar-99
1083/99	3	3.1	Netherlands Antilles	Food production - fish/fishery products	08-Mar-99	12-Mar-99
1111/99	3	3.C	Greece	Import controls - plants/plant products	13-Mar-99	21-Mar-99
1034/99	3	3.C	Brazil	Residues	15-Mar-99	25-Mar-99
1091/99	3	3.1	Saint Lucia	Food production - fish/fishery products	15-Mar-99	19-Mar-99
1071/99	3	3.1	Venezuela	Food production - fish/fishery products	19-Mar-99	03-Apr-99
1008/99	3	3.C	Czech Republic	Residues	22-Mar-99	26-Mar-99
1107/99	3	3.1	Finland	Food production - bivalve molluscs	22-Mar-99	22-Mar-99
1113/99	3	3.2	Germany	Food-borne diseases	22-Mar-99	24-Mar-99
1040/99	3	3.1	Greece	Food production - bivalve molluscs	28-Mar-99	01-Apr-99

Annex II
1998-99 FVO missions - production sectors

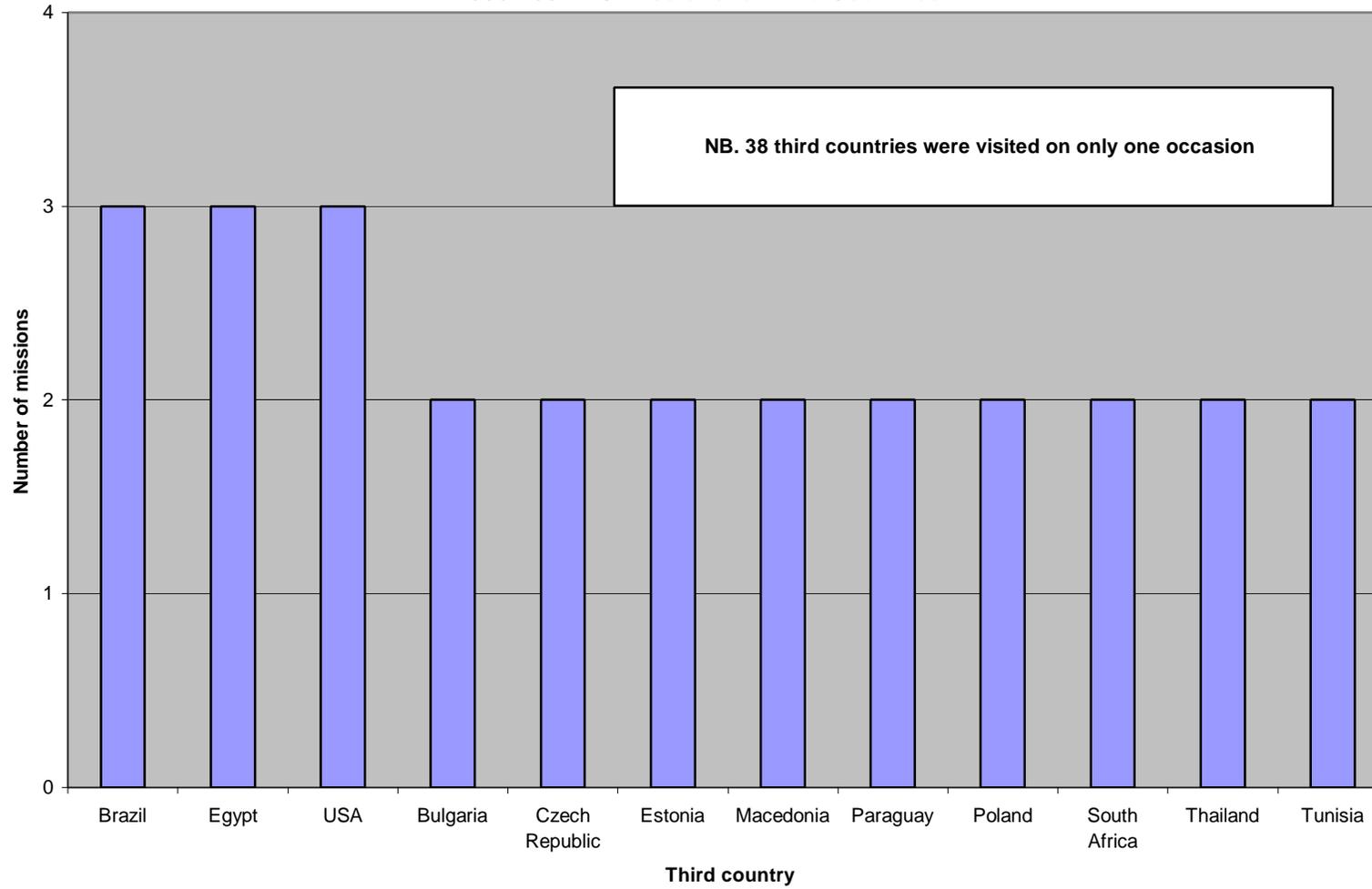


Annex II

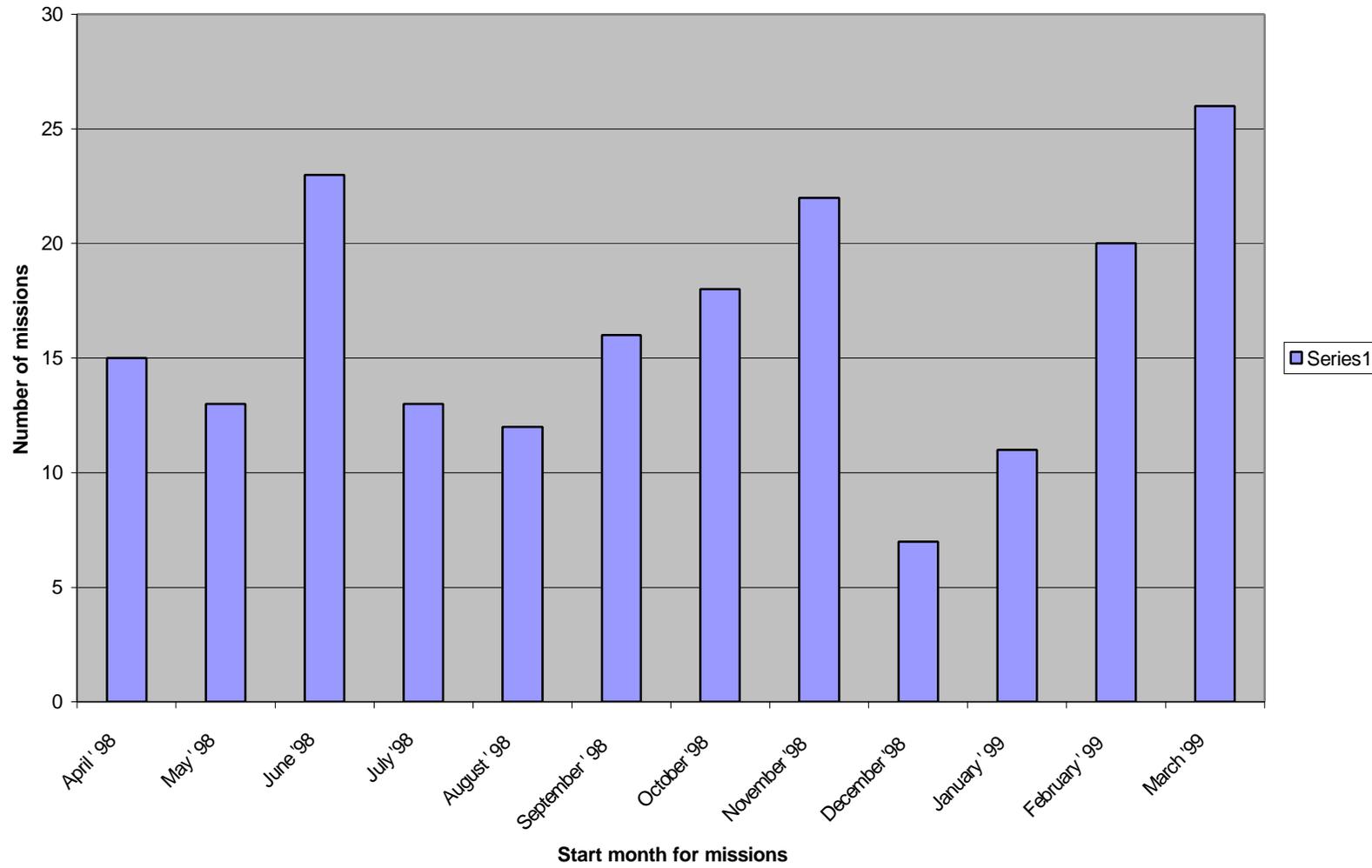
1998 - 99 FVO missions to Member States



Annex II
1998 - 99 FVO missions to Third Countries



Annex II
1998 - 99 FVO missions - monthly distribution



ANNEX III

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL XXIV
(FOOD and VETERINARY OFFICE)**

Director General Horst REICHENBACH
Office: 8/116 - Phone 299.43.96 - Fax 299.62.98

LIAISON Section
FVO representation
Geographical contact point - CEECs

ADMINISTRATION Antenna
Head - James CONNELL
Budgetary matters.
Resources management.
General administrative support.
Welcome Office.

Director Peter PRENDERGAST
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206-4740

Unit 1 - FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (1) - MAMMALS
Head of Unit - Carlo BERLINGIERI
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206.47.11
Deputy Head of Unit - _____

**Unit 2 - FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (2) - BIRDS
PLANT HEALTH**
- Saara REINIUS
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206.47.11
- Hugh QUIGLEY
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206.47.11

**Unit 3 - FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (3) - FISH
FOOD OF NON-ANIMAL ORIGIN**
Head of Unit - Willem PENNING
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206.47.11
Deputy Head of Unit - _____

QUALITY and PLANNING SECTION
Head of Section - Stephen HUTCHINS
Office: FVO Dublin - Phone +353-1-206.47.11

GROUP 1/1 - André EVERS
All aspects of production of food of animal (mammalian) origin.
Welfare.
Emergencies.
Zoonoses

GROUP 1/2 - _____
Animals and their products - not for human consumption.
Live animal trade.
OIE list A & B diseases.
Emergencies.
Eradication programmes (MSs).
Breeding & Zootechnics.

GROUP 2/1 - Paul VEROEVEREN
All aspects of production of food of animal (avian) origin.
OIE list A & B diseases.
Welfare.
Emergencies.
Apiculture products.

GROUP 2/2 - Michael FLÜH
Plant Health.
Emergencies.

HORIZONTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Group A: Jean-Charles CAVITTE
TSEs, animal waste, animal feedstuffs

Group B: _____
BIPs, import controls, fraud, inspection fees

GROUP 3/1 - _____
All aspects of production of food of animal (fish, crustacea, bivalve molluscs) origin.
Trade in live fish, etc.
Welfare.
Emergencies.
Notifiable diseases.

GROUP 3/2 - Bernard BERGER
All aspects of production of food of non-animal origin.
Emergencies (with Unit A3).
GMOs.
Organic farming.

HORIZONTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Group C: Jérôme LEPEINTRE
Residues & laboratories.

Group 1 - _____
Internal Audit.

Group 2 - Franciscus ANDRIESEN
Development and Planning

LEGAL ADVISERS

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTACT POINT

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTACT POINT

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTACT POINT

Annex III

Control and inspection priorities identified for the FVO mission programme

January – June 1999

1. **Approvals of third countries and processing establishments covered by the pre-listings Decision (Decision 95/408/EC).** In this context, controls over fishery products will have particular importance. In other areas, a balance is sought between Member State and third country inspections.
2. **TSE controls**, notably in Member States, and including animal feedstuff controls. In particular, missions to Portugal and the United Kingdom are foreseen. In relation to third countries, Switzerland is a priority. On a related issue, a mission in the USA will be foreseen concerning processed animal proteins and products containing these.
3. **Disease eradication programmes** in Member States especially where zoonotic diseases are concerned; the programme will mainly concentrate on the sheep and goat brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) programmes, as well as bovine brucellosis. One initial mission is foreseen for the purpose development of controls on **FMD-contingency** plans, and training. In third countries, **animal disease control procedures** will be subject to inspections in relation to fresh meat and live animals.
4. **Bivalve mollusc production** The series of missions to all Member States, started in 1998, will be completed, and certain third countries will be visited in the framework of Decision 95/408/EC.
5. **Controls over residue programmes** The series of missions in the Member States, started in 1998, will be completed; third country inspections will mainly form an integrated part of other missions (red meat, poultry meat).
6. **Poultry-meat production** These will concentrate on controls over the whole production chain, including on-farm disease controls, as well as conditions in meat processing premises. Both Member State and third country missions in the framework of Decision 95/408/EC are foreseen.
7. Visits to **milk processing establishments** in Member States will start, in conjunction with third country missions under the pre-listing Decision 95/408/EC.
8. The on-going review of **production standards in red meat** slaughterhouses in the Member States will be completed. Visits to this type of establishment in third countries will be included, forming part of wider controls over the whole production chain, and checks on competent authority performance.
9. The programme for **Border Inspection Posts** will concentrate on larger throughput posts, those which have not been inspected in the recent past, and those where earlier missions identified significant shortfalls.
10. **Animal welfare** issues will be addressed, particularly in relation to the transport of animals and concerning minimum conditions for laying hens, whilst checks on the conditions for slaughter will continue to be included in visits to slaughterhouses
11. **In the plant health sector**, activities in the Member States will mainly concentrate on potato crops and protected zones. Within the mission programme, the series of missions concerning the Vademecum will be completed. Two-three missions in third countries are envisaged.
12. Missions concerning **organic farming** are foreseen in some Member States and in third countries within the framework of the equivalency agreements.

13. Missions concerning **pesticides/contaminants** will be carried out in some Member States, which have agreed to receive a mission, and certain third countries where problems were identified.

MISSION PROGRAMME JANUARY – JUNE 1999

MEMBER STATES

BELGIUM:	FMD-contingency plan and reference laboratory
DENMARK:	Residue monitoring Poultry and poultrymeat Milk/Milk products Pesticide controls
GERMANY	Bivalve Molluscs CSF eradication Animal Welfare (transport) Plant Health : Protected zones + Vademecum BIP's Organic Farming
GREECE:	Bivalve Molluscs Blue Tongue B. Melitensis BIP's Plant Health: Protected zones + Vademecum Plant Health: Potatoes Pesticide controls
SPAIN	Residue Monitoring Bivalve Molluscs Red Meat Hygiene B. Melitensis BIP's Plant Health: Potatoes Plant Health: Protected zones
FRANCE	TSE surveillance + Scrapie B. Melitensis Poultry and poultrymeat
IRELAND:	TSE surveillance TSE: Waste (knackereries) Bovine Brucellosis
ITALY:	B. Melitensis Bovine Brucellosis/Tuberculosis/Leucosis BIP's Plant Health: Potatoes
LUXEMBOURG:	Red Meat Hygiene Residue Monitoring

NETHERLANDS:	Poultry and poultrymeat Ornamental plants (T. Palmi)
AUSTRIA:	Residue monitoring
PORTUGAL:	Residue Monitoring Bivalve Molluscs Red Meat Hygiene B. Melitensis Animal Welfare (transport) BSE - measures BSE - measures Potatoes Pesticide controls
FINLAND:	Rabies Eradication
SWEDEN:	Animal Welfare (transport)
UNITED KINGDOM:	Residue Monitoring Bivalve Molluscs BSE : OTM Scheme BSE : DBE Scheme Plant health: Protected zones Organic Farming

THIRD COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA:	Organic Farming
AUSTRALIA:	Fresh Meat (Public Health)
BRAZIL:	Poultry Meat (Animal/Public Health) Residue Monitoring Contaminants
BULGARIA:	Live Animals Fresh Meat (Animal/Public Health) Milk/Milk Products
CANADA:	Fresh Meat (res. Inspector)
CARRIBEAN (3-4 countries):	Fishery Products Bivalve molluscs
CHINA:	Poultry Meat (Animal/Public Health) ⁽²⁾ Residue Monitoring Fishery Products Bivalve Molluscs
CROATIA:	Fishery Products Bivalve molluscs
CZECH REPUBLIC⁽³⁾:	Residue monitoring Fishery Products Organic Farming
EGYPT:	Plant Health : potatoes
FYROM:	Fresh Meat (Animal/Public Health)
Guinea (KONAKRI):	Fishery Products
HUNGARY:	Fishery Products
INDIA:	Fishery Products
ISRAEL:	Organic Farming
LATVIA:	Fishery Products
LITHUANIA:	Fishery Products

⁽²⁾ Certain guarantees to be received

⁽³⁾ The Equivalency Agreement will be taken into account during the missions, where applicable

MADAGASCAR:	Fishery Products
MEXICO:	Fresh Meat (res. Inspector)
NIGERIA:	Fishery Products
PAKISTAN:	Fishery Products
POLAND:	Animal Welfare (transport) Fishery Products Contaminants
ROMANIA:	Live Animals Fresh Meat (Animal Health) Plant Health: Fruit Plants
FED. REP. YUGOSLAVIA:	Live animals (horses – T. Spiralis)
SIERRA LEONE:	Fishery Products
SLOVENIA:	Fishery Products Potatoes
SWITZERLAND:	TSE-controls
THAILAND:	Poultry Meat (Animal/Public Health)
TURKEY:	Fishery Products Bivalve Molluscs
USA:	Bivalve Molluscs Fishery Products Fresh Meat (res. Inspector) Residue Monitoring Processed Animal Proteins
VENEZUELA:	Fishery Products Bivalve Molluscs