



Consumers demand sufficient and high-quality food controls

Members

Albania
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Montenegro
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Observers

Armenia
Russia
Turkey
Ukraine

Sections

UEVP
Practitioners

EASVO
State Officers

UEVH
Hygienists

EVERI
Veterinarians in
Education, Research
and Industry

12 December 2019 - On 14 December 2019 the revised Official Controls Regulation (2017/625) will be applicable in all EU Member States.

FVE welcomes the new Official Controls Regulation, its risk-based approach and the openness and stakeholders' involvement in the consultation process.

However, FVE remains concerned about its implementation and enforcement at Member State level. This piece of legislation may be used as an opportunity to save money rather than as a tool to strengthen the quality of the food chain controls. Such an approach could easily undermine food safety, public health, animal health and welfare and will negatively impact the EU economy.

Already last year, 2018, several Member States reported an **increase of Listeria, Campylobacter and VTEC cases**. What concerns FVE even more, arises from the report by the EU Commission on the overall operation of official controls performed in Member States (2014-2016)¹. The report points out that *'Member States staff resources for controls are increasingly limited and that a potential further reduction risks negatively affecting the levels and quality of controls and the capacity to respond to emergencies. This is likely to be an increasingly important issue in the future development of official controls.'*

Also, the Commission staff document accompanying the above mentioned report highlights that there are *"important general weaknesses with regard to emergency vaccination and preparedness for rapid depopulation of farms and significant differences in the capacity to early detect diseases and to respond to large-scale outbreaks"* as well as several **serious problems related to animal welfare** around the transport of live animals and in slaughterhouses.

Also, the recent report published in October by the European Consumer Organisation² *'Keeping food in check'*, highlights that *"there is a declining trend in resources and in the overall number of inspections carried out by Member States"*. Competent authorities from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK, have clearly signalled that the **resources available for controls are increasingly limited**. And, as for the number of checks carried out, the report shows that in the case of Belgium, France, Greece, Poland, Ireland and UK, the number of official controls undertaken in food establishments *"has been cut dramatically on the past years"*.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits_analysis/annual_reports_en

² <https://www.beuc.eu/publications/worrying-decline-food-controls-europe-new-beuc-report-reveals/html>

President

Rens van Dobbenburgh

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- **FVE calls on Member States** to ensure enough human and financial resources for the performance of official controls. National governments must put in place all the necessary resources to allow Competent Authorities and official veterinarians to fulfil their responsibilities (audit, inspection, enforcement).
- **FVE calls on the EU Commission** to assist Member States in setting up adequate and satisfactory official controls and to monitor this closely with Directorate F. We also call to keep courses through the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Program.

Table 2: Reported hospitalisation and case fatalities due to zoonoses in confirmed human cases in the EU, 2017

Disease	Number of confirmed ^(a)		Hospitalisation			Deaths			
	Human cases	Status available (%)	Number of reporting MS ^(b)	Reported hospitalised cases	Proportion hospitalised (%)	Outcome available (%)	Number of reporting MS ^(b)	Reported Deaths	Case Fatality (%)
Campylobacteriosis	246,158	27.6	17	20,810	30.5	72.8	16	45	0.04
Salmonellosis	91,662	43.1	14	16,796	42.5	67.8	17	156	0.25
Yersiniosis	6,823	27.1	14	616	33.4	65.5	15	3	0.07
STEC infections	6,073	41.0	18	933	37.5	66.1	21	20	0.50
Listeriosis	2,480	40.4	16	988	98.6	65.8	18	225	13.8
Q-fever	928	NA ^(c)	NA	NA	NA	56.0	10	7	1.35
Echinococcosis	827	31.2	14	140	54.3	30.1	14	1	0.40
Brucellosis	378	45.8	10	104	60.1	33.9	10	1	0.78
Tularaemia	321	38.3	9	76	61.8	51.1	9	1	0.6
West Nile fever^(a)	212	72.2	8	134	87.6	98.6	9	25	12.0
Trichinellosis	168	44.6	9	56	74.7	40.5	9	0	0.0
Congenital toxoplasmosis	40	57.9	3	18	NA	63.2	3	0	0.0
Rabies	1	NA ^(c)	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0	NA	NA

(a): Exception: West Nile fever where total number of cases were included.
 (b): Not all countries observed cases for all diseases.
 (c): NA: Not applicable as the information is not collected for this disease.

Janvier 2019

Surveillance des toxi-infections alimentaires collectives - Données de la déclaration obligatoire, 2017

En 2017, 1 310 toxi-infections alimentaires collectives (TIAC) ont été déclarées en France, affectant 13 010 personnes, dont 646 (5%) se sont présentées à l'hôpital (hospitalisation ou passage aux urgences) et 6 (0,05%) sont décédées.

Andalucía ha notificado al sistema de vigilancia un nuevo caso confirmado en las últimas 24 horas. El número total en la comunidad es de **207 casos** relacionados con el brote. La mayoría de los casos se han registrado en Sevilla (170), pero se han encontrado en casi todas las provincias de la Comunidad: Cádiz (10), Granada (5), Huelva (17) y Málaga (5).

Zusammenfassung

Im Jahr 2018 wurden insgesamt 416 lebensmittelbedingte Krankheitsausbrüche an das RKI bzw. an das BVL übermittelt. Mindestens 2.476 Erkrankungen, 324 Hospitalisierungen und 11 Todesfälle standen mit den Ausbrüchen in Zusammenhang. Den größten Anteil (41 %) nahmen Ausbrüche durch den Erreger *Campylobacter* ein. Weitere Erreger und Agenzien, die fünf oder mehr Ausbrüche verursachten, waren *Salmonella* (31 %), Norovirus (5 %), *Bacillus cereus* (2 %), Verotoxin-bildende *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) (2 %), Hepatitis A-Virus (2 %), *Giardia lamblia* (2 %), *Shigella* (2 %) und *Cryptosporidium* (2 %). Bei 35 Ausbrüchen blieb der Erreger bzw. das Agens unbekannt.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of veterinary organisations from 40 European countries, representing a total of around 300 000 veterinarians. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health across Europe.

For further information, consult the FVE website www.fve.org
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