



Food safety and veterinary policies in Arab-EU trade

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The EU Market

The EU is a Success Story

- **50 years peace, shared values, compromise**
- **Single Market with 500 Million citizens**
- **Harmonisation of rules and standards**

The EU is a nightmare

- **By far the biggest importer of food worldwide**
- **27 countries, 21 Languages**
- **High expectations, no tolerance for risks**

In SANCO, our mission is to protect consumers.

How does it work?

- **Harmonised legal framework**
- **Efficient risk management**
- **Transparency, information exchange**
- **Constant scrutiny and peer pressure**

Food and Feed Law, Farm to fork

General Food Law

Liability

Traceability

Consistent rules for domestic production and trade

Self-controls of businesses

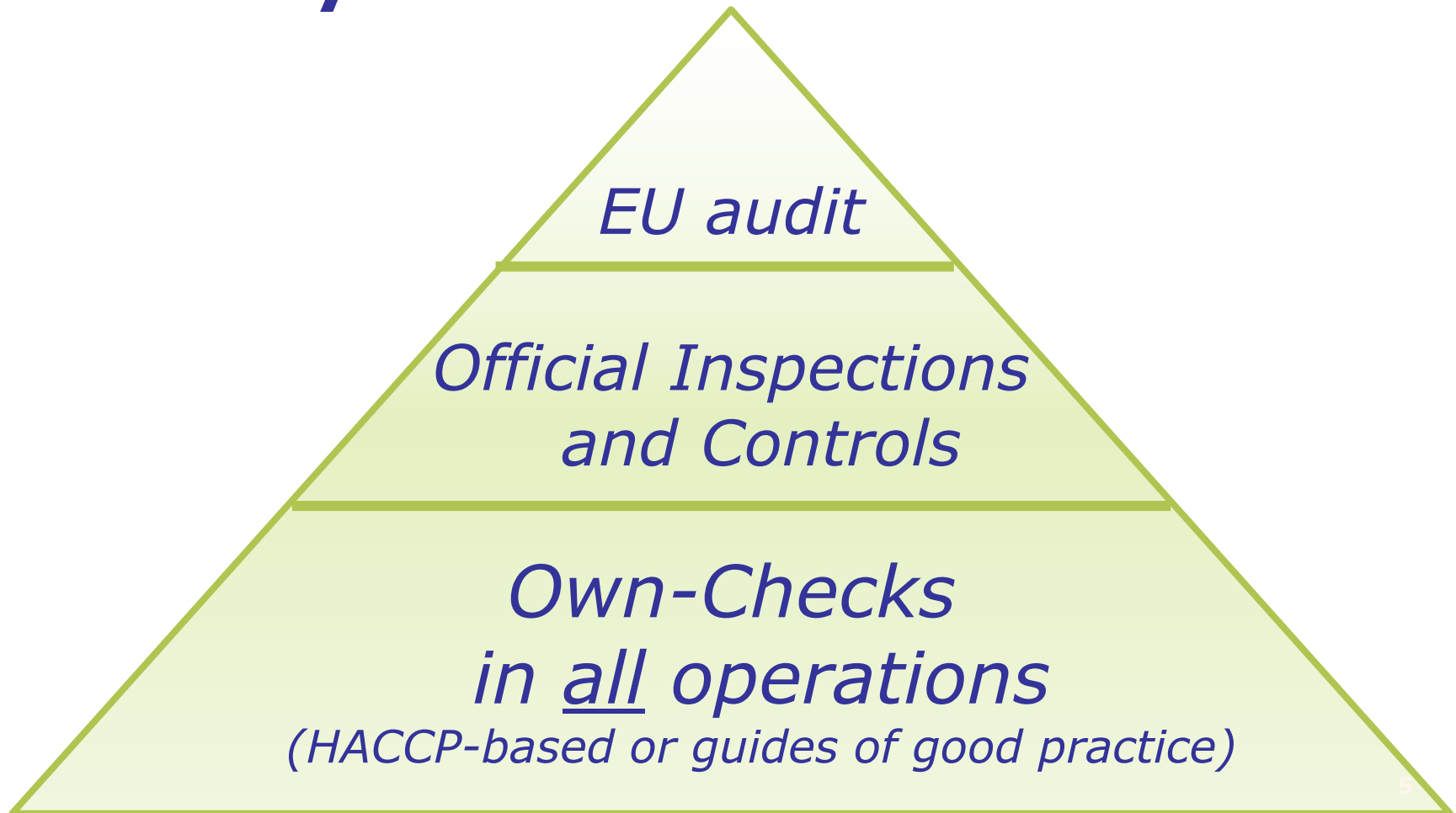
Official Inspections and Controls

Coherent Principles for all authorities

Transparency: Control plans and inspection reports

Union audits of control systems

Three layers of controls



Transparency is key

All risk assessments published;

All FVO inspection reports published;

All Rapid Alert Notifications published;

Multi-annual control programs published;

Yearly Member State reports on controls;

Yearly EFSA reports on zoonoses, food borne illness, PPPs;

***Agenda and minutes of Standing Committee published,
Committee is web-streamed;***

***Transparency creates peer pressure for constant
improvement.***

Summary: EU food law in a nutshell

All Member States:

- **Credible inspection and control system.**

All food and feed operators:

- **Liability, Traceability, Reporting.**
- **HACCP-based self controls.**
- **Risk based controls.**

Specific requirements:

- **General and specific hygiene rules.**
- **Animal and Plant health management.**
- **Monitoring for residues and contaminants.**

It does not matter whether or not a territory is part of the EU

No discrimination:

- **The food law either applies, or must be complied with.**

No short cuts:

- **There cannot be a compromise on safety standards.**

But there is flexibility:

- **Objectives must be met, not the letter.**

And there is technical assistance:

- **Several funds, policies and mechanisms.**

Technical assistance

Indirect assistance:

- Funding of other donors (UNIDO, FAO, OIE ...)

European Neighbourhood Instrument:

- Specific programmes for Mediterranean countries:
Bilateral programmes,
Twinning,
ENPARD.

Small programmes:

- Activities implemented through other Directorates
General of the EU Commission: Aid for Trade, BTSF.

SANCO perspective

- **We respect our mission:**
We must work through all issues
This takes time and scarce resources on both sides
- **Not all products pose the same risk:**
Fruit, vegetables, flowers
Products for technical use
Heat-treated products
- **Market access is not the end:**
Trade must be commercially viable

Negotiations should be based on long term strategy.
Other markets besides EU may be attractive.

SANCO perspective (II)

- **Animal health poses the biggest challenge**
*Avian influenza,
Glanders, African Horse Sickness,
Peste des Petits Ruminants, Bluetongue,
FMD, brucellosis, tuberculosis.*
- **There is no easy or quick solution**
*Long term control strategies,
Infrastructure, animal ID, movement controls,
Significant cost.*
- **Political commitment and regional collaboration are indispensable.**

Documentation on the web

General Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm

Rapid Alert System

http://ec.europa.eu/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

Food and Veterinary Office:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.html

European Food Safety Authority

<http://efsa.europa.eu>

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