



Control of Imports of Food in the EU

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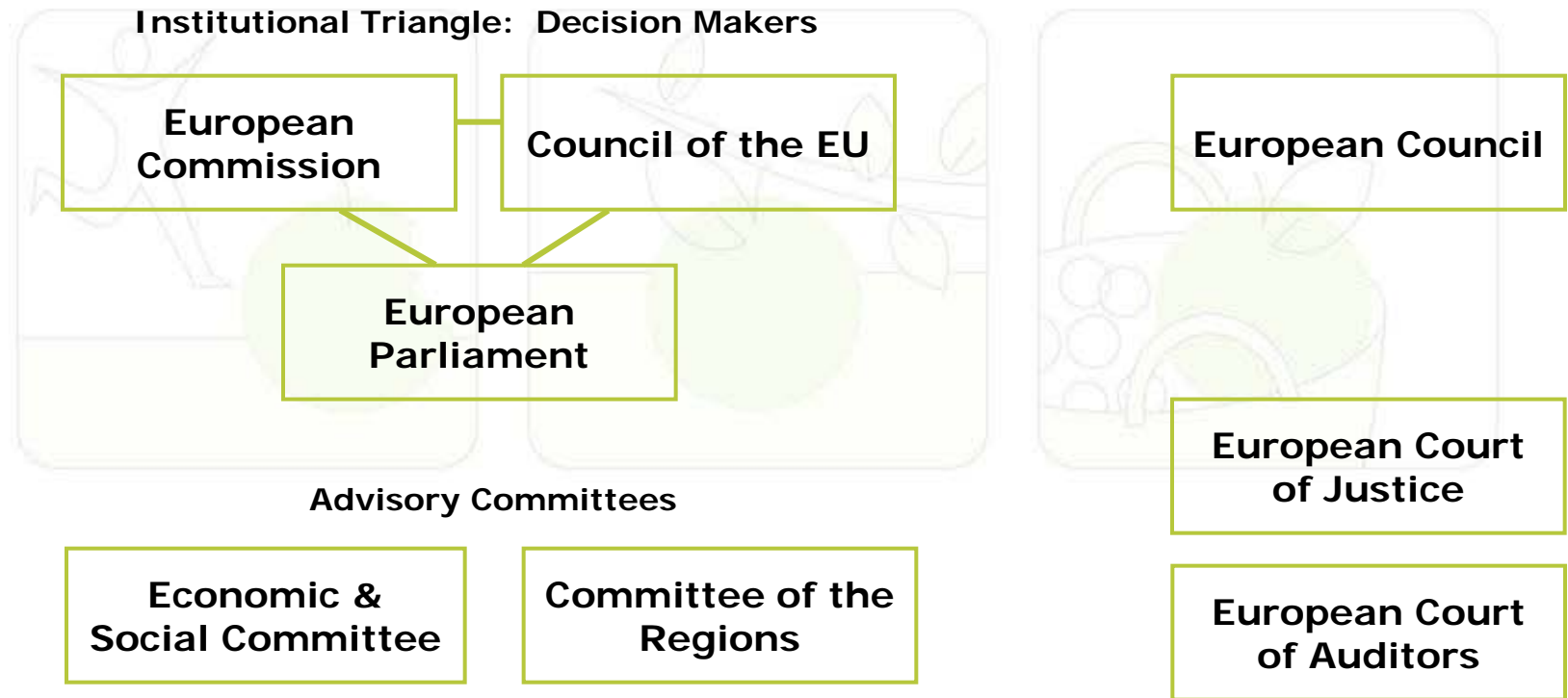
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27 Member States
5 candidate countries
500 Million people,
23 official languages



European Institutions



The Role of the Commission

- Initiate & negotiate draft legislation
- Ensure implementation of EU policies
- Apply European Union laws
- Represent the European Union on the world stage



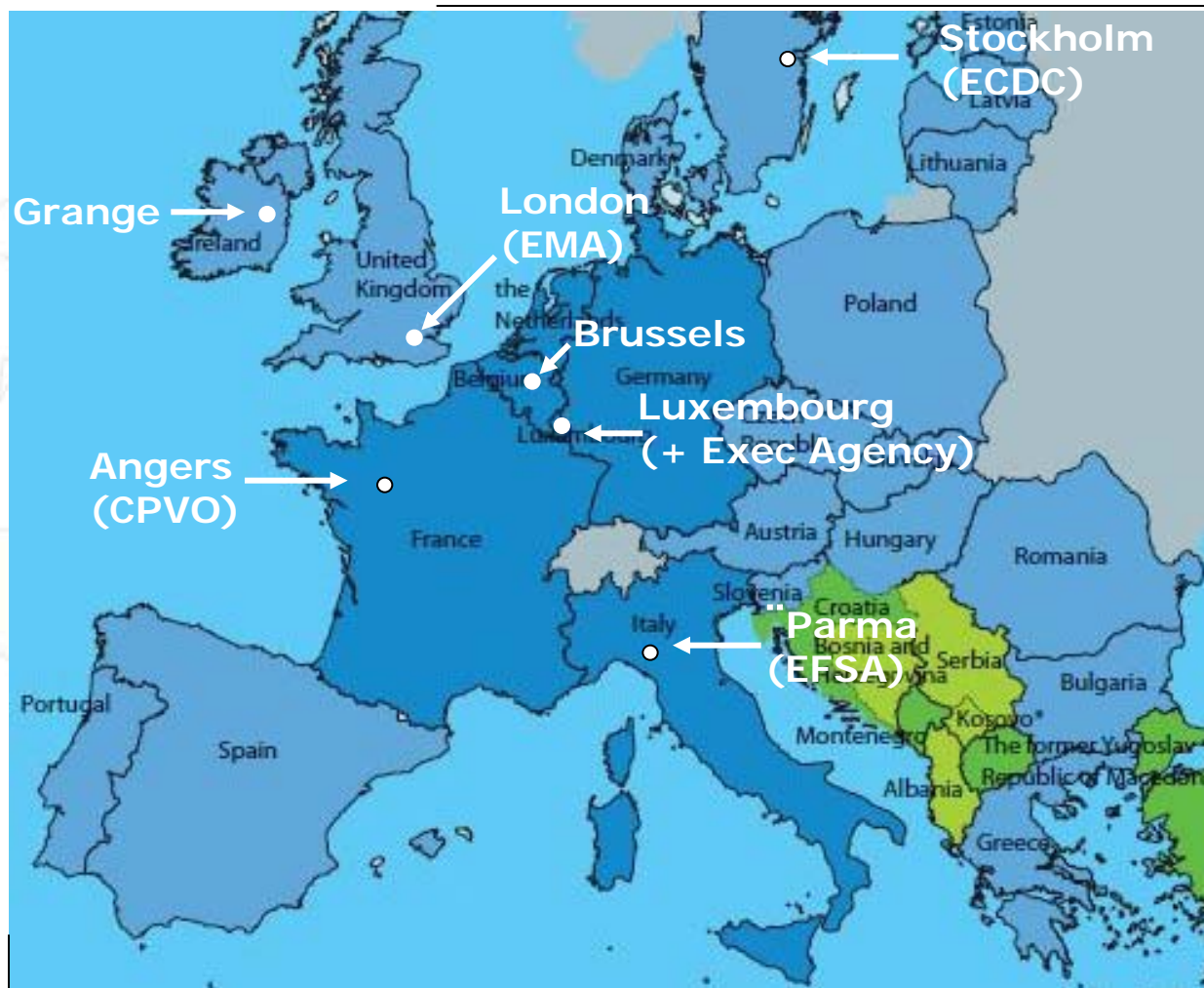
DG SANCO

- Over 1000 staff
- Core activities: Public Health, Food Safety, Animal health and welfare, Consumers

5 EU Agencies

- European Food Safety Authority
- European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control
- Community Plant Variety Office
- European Medicines Agency
- Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

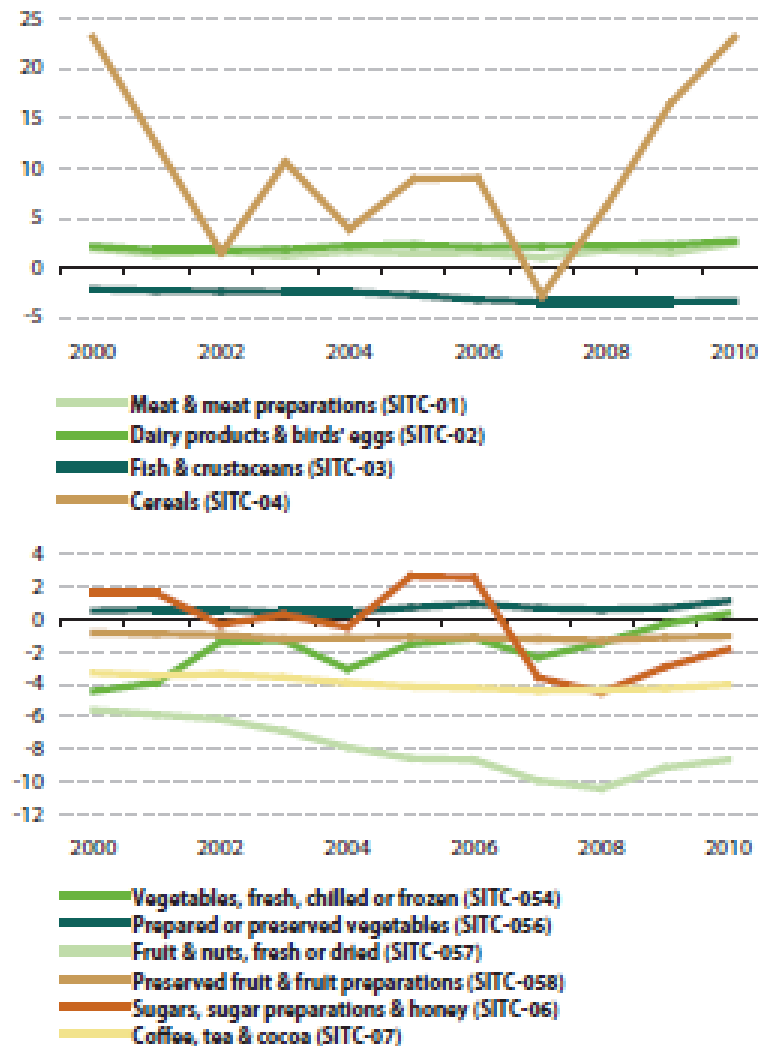
Where we are



Imports

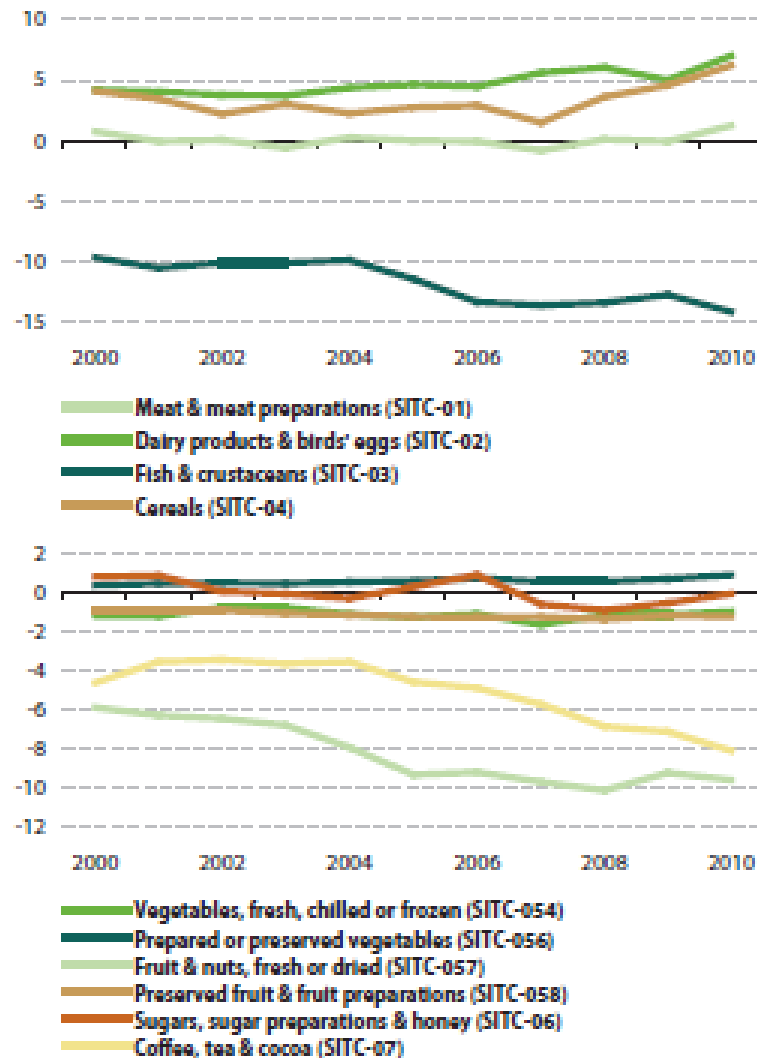
- EU the largest importer of food and feed
 - Not produced in the EU (tea, coffee, spices,...)
 - Short of demand (fish, animal feed)
- Harmonized, risk-based control system
- Consistent with international standards

Figure 4.22: Extra-EU trade balance in quantity, food and beverage products, EU
(million tonnes)



Source: Eurostat (Comext)

Figure 4.23: Extra-EU trade balance in value, food and beverage products, EU
(EUR 1 000 million)



Source: Eurostat (Comext)



EU legal framework

■ R. 178/2002 (General Food Law)

- Compliance/equivalence
- Traceability
- Non compliance → withdrawal/inform authorities

■ R. 882/2004 (Official Controls)

■ Sectoral legislation

■ Bilateral agreements

■ Food of animal origin vs. Food of non-animal origin

■ Regulation vs. Directives

Food of animal origin - Requirements

■ Food Hygiene requirements

■ General requirements (R. 852/2004)

- Monitor food safety, hygiene primary production, after primary production, microbiological requirements, procedures based on HACCP principles...

■ Specific requirements (R. 853/2004)

■ Other health requirements

- Contaminants and residues, hormones, additives, radioactivity, materials in contact...

- Product specific (dietetic foods, GMOs)

■ Animal welfare requirements

- Slaughtering conditions

Food of animal origin - Requirements

■ Obligation of importers

- Country on a Community list, listed establishment, Health or identification mark, Health certificate, Available for control at BIP, comply with animal health requirements

■ Obligation of competent authorities

- Guarantees of compliance or equivalence
 - Official controls, updated list of establishments, certification requirements

Food of animal origin - Procedures

- Presented at Border Inspection Post
- Veterinary Checks (*20-50% physical checks*)
- Prior notice of arrival
- Accompanied by health certificates
- Approved countries, regions, establishments
- Other controls (additives, materials in contact, irradiation...)
- Safeguard measures
 - Currently 9 commodities from 9 countries (mainly residues of vet. Drugs)
 - Pre-export testing + certificates + testing at entry

Food of non-animal origin - Requirements

■ Food Hygiene requirements

- Monitor food safety, hygiene primary production, after primary production, microbiological requirements, procedures based on HACCP principles...

■ Other health requirements

- Contaminants, MRLs for pesticides, additives, materials in contact, radioactivity, novel foods...
- Product specific (dietetic foods, GMOs)

■ Plant health requirements

Food of non-animal origin – Procedures

■ Food Safety

- Importer is responsible
- No certification / no pre-notification
- Controls by Member States
 - Control plans based on risk
 - Appropriate place (point of entry, importer premises, retail...)

■ Plant health requirements

- Phytosanitary certificate
- Compulsory checks (entry point or destination)
- Advance notice

Food of non-animal origin – Procedures

■ Food subject to increased controls (R. 669/2009)

- List of selected products (known or emerging risk)
- Prior notification – common entry document
- Designated points of entry
- Increased checks
 - Documentary
 - Identity and physical (10 – 50%)
- Currently 21 groups (commodity/country)
 - Groundnuts / aflatoxins
 - Fruits and vegetables / pesticides
 - Chilli / Sudan dyes
 - Herbs and spices / Salmonella...
- Quarterly review

Food of non-animal origin – Procedures

■ Special conditions aflatoxins (R. 1152/2009)

- Safeguard measures
- 7 Foods & countries
- Health certificates + results of analysis
- Prior notification
- Designated points of entry
- Physical checks (10 – 100%)

■ Other safeguard measures

■ Pre-export checks

- Peanuts/aflatoxins/US

Effectiveness of controls

■ FVO audits

- Performance of the competent authorities
- Import control systems in MS
- Third countries
 - Pre-listing audits (food of animal origin)
 - To verify compliance or equivalence (of legislation and systems)
 - Frequency criteria (risk)
 - Bilateral agreements

■ Annual reports from Member States (MS)

■ EFSA, RASFF, EUROPHYT, TRACES, BTSF

Future

- Risk and evidence-based system but complex
- Streamlining and improving consistency and efficiency and assessment of risk
- Legislative Improvements
 - Review of R. 882/2004
 - New animal health law and review of plant health regime
- Non-legislative improvements
 - TRACES (expansion, e-certification)
 - RASFF and EUROPHYT
 - Coordination animal health and public health
 - Optimal use of resources