Food safety: a shared responsibility – Future of Meat Inspection

FVE/Copa-Cogeca/UECBV joint seminar

CONCLUSIONS

Future of Meat Inspection: stakeholders’ contribution to the Commission round tables on the review of Meat Inspection

Tuesday
14th September 2010
Brussels

Event labelled by the EU Belgian Presidency
Objectives

Goal: food safety, higher level of consumer protection and consumer confidence

Need to go forward to look for alternative but inter-related methods looking for non visual risks – to risk based revising of the conventional system

International recognitions and acceptance of equivalence
What kind of review? - Principles

- Holistic approach including animal health, animal welfare and public health (including biological and chemical hazards), improving the link between the different steps of the meat chain
- Main questions are, in this order:
  1. What?
  2. How?
  3. By Whom?
- Scientific based and risk oriented, effective and efficient
- For practical reasons abattoir fulfills a key role in gaining information on AH, AW and PH
- Legal basis: general food law (R EC/178/2002)
  - First responsibility of the FBOs and CA audit;
  - Approval procedure, auditing procedure, bonus/malus system;
  - Harmonisation of defined goals rather than the means (suppress the contradictions). It implies more flexibility and a targeted approach, though it should be recognized that legislation is not used to its full potential. Moreover, there are gaps in the implementation in all MSs.
Tools

- Categorisation of risk profiles (country, farms, slaughterhouses)
- Optimising the exchange of the Food Chain Information (in particular regarding the feedback to the farmers)
- Integrated Quality systems
- Human resources [well educated FBOs and companies’ staff, Competent Authorities (Official vets and auxiliaries)]
- Presence of CA is required permanently in slaughterhouses. The expertise and professional accountability of veterinarians is recognised and appreciated; however this does not mean that every detail should be covered by a vet.
- Optimisation of the resources available

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