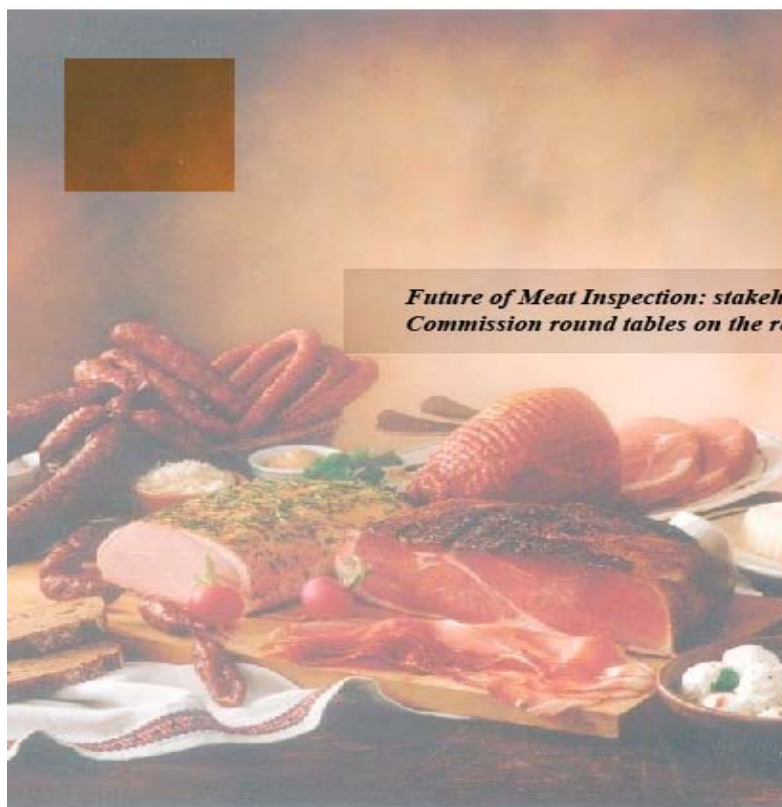


Food safety: a shared responsibility – Future of Meat Inspection



FVE/Copa-Cogeca/UECBV joint seminar

copa***cogeca**
european farmers european agri-cooperatives



CONCLUSIONS

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