



Conclusions

Conference «Combating Food-related Crime»

Better Training for Safer Food Initiative

Brussels – 27-28 February 2012

Raising awareness of all involved actors

To reach this objective, the following actions are considered:

1. Offering a forum for **regular exchange** of views and expertise at EU level;
2. Promoting the organisation of similar **transversal events** at national level;
3. Collecting reliable and comprehensive data on the extent of the problem at EU level and costs to the EU economy;
4. Increasing **contact and exchanges** between relevant competent authorities and different stakeholders in the food and drinks industry (primary production, processing, retail);
5. Organising **expert training** for different groups of official actors at EU and national levels;
6. Providing expert information on food safety rules and standards, tailored to the specific needs of national law enforcers;
7. Reporting on the conference conclusions to relevant groups of the European Council.

Improving existing mechanisms (1)

To reach this objective, the following actions are considered:

8. *Centralising data on the existing structures and procedures;*
9. *Promoting the **creation of specialised and multidisciplinary food crime units** at EU and national levels (“avoid silo approach”);*
10. *Promoting further development of coordinated Internet surveillance structures;*
11. *Organising **regular pan-European operations**, such as OPSON;*
12. *Promoting the organisation of joint operations between competent services at national level;*

Improving existing mechanisms (2)

13. Strengthening the role of **harmonised standards** in preventing food-related crime (food legislation, police and judicial investigations);
14. Promoting a more proactive approach as regards possible fraud, by identifying and evaluating the possibility of fraud that new legislation or decisions might provoke;
15. Building in scrutiny procedures and possibly fraud-checks in anticipation of possible problems;
16. Considering how to **adapt further the judicial systems and procedures to food disputes** across borders;
17. Optimising the **use of existing tools** (Interpol, Europol, Eurojust and OLAF) and of **existing mechanisms on judicial cooperation** (e.g. JITs).

Improving information flows

To reach this objective, the following actions are considered:

- 18. Developing **operational synergies** among services and administrations across Member States, at the most appropriate levels;*
- 19. Developing a **rapid information exchange system** between relevant competent authorities at EU level;*
- 20. Identifying **single contact points** responsible within the Member States for the coordination of the fight against food related crime (“single window” approach);*
- 21. Opening existing information network to other involved authorities via contact points, e.g. RASFF to police services at national level;*
- 22. Promoting **immediate information to the consumer** on the extent of a risk when a serious health risk has been detected.*