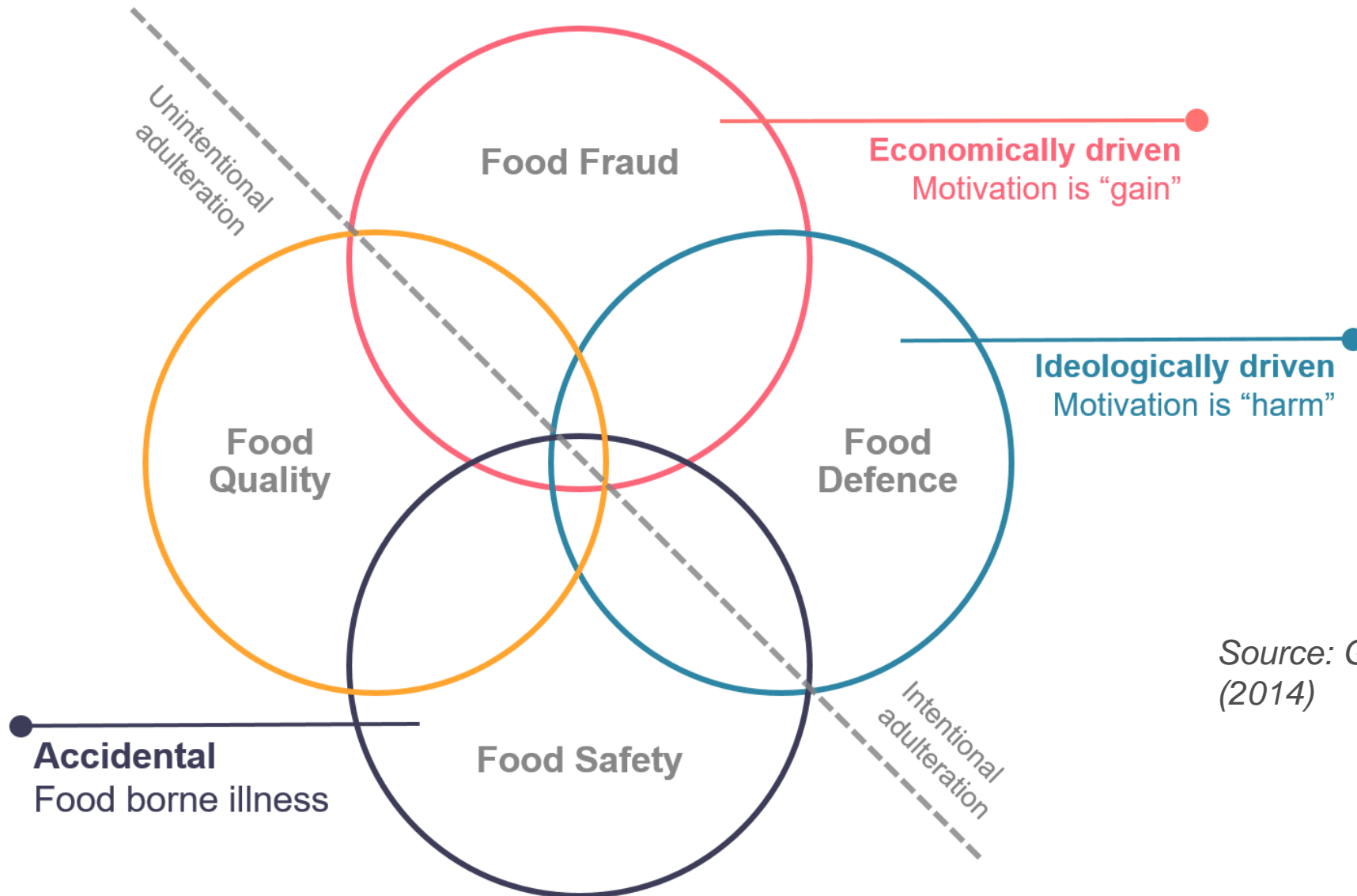


# The EU Agri-Food Fraud Network

Webinar on Food Fraud – GForSS – May 2022

- **Directorate General For Health and Food Safety**
  - Unit SANTE G4: Food Hygiene and Fraud

# Food integrity | four categories



Source: Global Food Safety Initiative (2014)



Intention



Deception of  
customers



Economic  
gain



Violation of  
EU rules

## EU Agri-food fraud criteria

**Suspicion of intentional actions taken by businesses or individuals for the purpose of deceiving purchasers and gaining an undue advantage therefrom, in violation of the rules** referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625

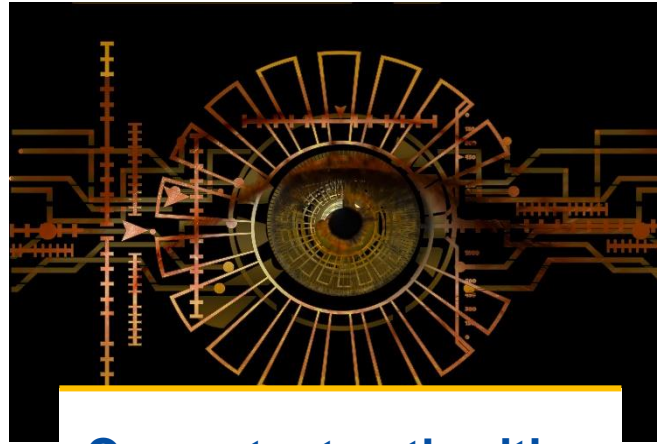
# Principles and Legislation



## Operators

“Ensuring compliance”

Food and feed business operators shall ensure that foods or feeds satisfy the requirements of food law which are relevant to their activities and shall verify that such requirements are met.



## Competent authorities

“Assuring adequate and effective controls”

Member States shall enforce food law, and monitor and verify that the requirements are fulfilled by food and feed business operators at all stages of production, processing and distribution.



## Commission

“Guarding the Treaties”

Ensuring that the EU legislation is properly enforced.

“External representation”



# Legal framework

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002: “Food Law”

Regulation (EC) No 767/2009: “Feed Law ”

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011: “Food information to Consumers”

Regulation (EU) No 2017/625: “Official Controls”

Regulation (EU) 2019/1715: “IMSOC” (Information Management System for Official Controls)

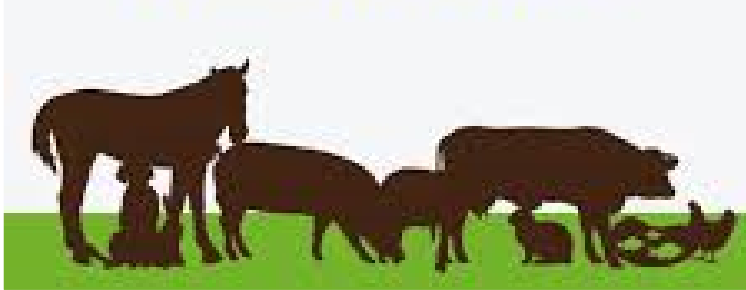
+ EU sectorial legislation (Standards)

(<sup>1</sup>) Text with EEA relevance



# Scope of action

Animal welfare



Feed



Plants



Plants protection products



Organics



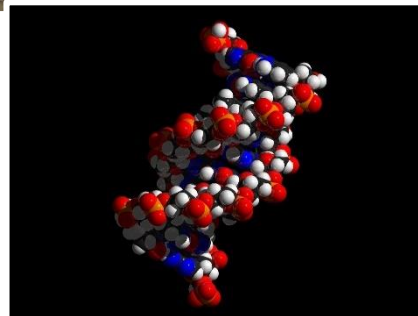
Animal health



Food



GMOs



PDOs, PGIs, TSGs



# Measuring fraud: Headlines ...

- 2021-22: Ethylene oxyde (public health concerns and massive economic losses)
- 2019: Polish meat scandal (economic losses)
- 2017: Fipronil in eggs (massive economic losses)
- 2013: Horse meat in beef products (massive economic losses)
- 2012: Czech Republic: methanol in spirits (59 casualties)
- 2008: Melamine in Chinese milk products (54,000 babies hospitalised, 6 deaths)
- 1999: Belgium: dioxins found in feed/food (massive economic losses)
- 1981: Spain: "rapeseed oil" fraud intended for industrial use (20.000 people affected - 370 to 835 deaths)



# Top 10 'At Risk' Fraudulent products?

Information from publicly available articles in scholarly journals and general media



<sup>1</sup> Development and Application of a Database of Food Ingredient Fraud and Economically Motivated Adulteration from 1980 to 2010 / Moore, J, Spink, J, and Lipkus, M. In: Journal of Food Science, 2012, Volume 77 (Number 4), p. R118-R126.

Exchanges within the iRASFF FF (2021)







# Tip of the iceberg

- Consumers losing confidence
- Operators losing money
- Authorities losing credibility
- Impacts on legitimate trade
- Possible threats to public health

# ALERT and Cooperation Network

Rapid Alert System for Food  
and Feed Network



Administrative Assistance  
and Cooperation Network

EU (Agri) Food Fraud Network

**Three networks - one communication tool: the iRASFF**  
(+ Europol SIENA: Secure Information Exchange Network Application)

# EU Food Fraud Network



## Administrative authorities

OCR Competent Authorities and  
Delegated Bodies



## Judicial authorities



## Law enforcement authorities

Police and customs services



# IMSOC components and figures 2021



## TRACES certification

### Import / Export / Intra-EU Certification (animals, plants, food and feed)

>63.000 public and private users  
in 91 countries and overseas territories  
3569507 documents (1247347 e-signed)

### Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)

35 countries or territories  
19623 outbreaks  
29 animal disease

## ADIS EUROPHYT outbreaks

### EUROPHYT

XXX pest/organism outbreaks  
XXX different pests/organisms

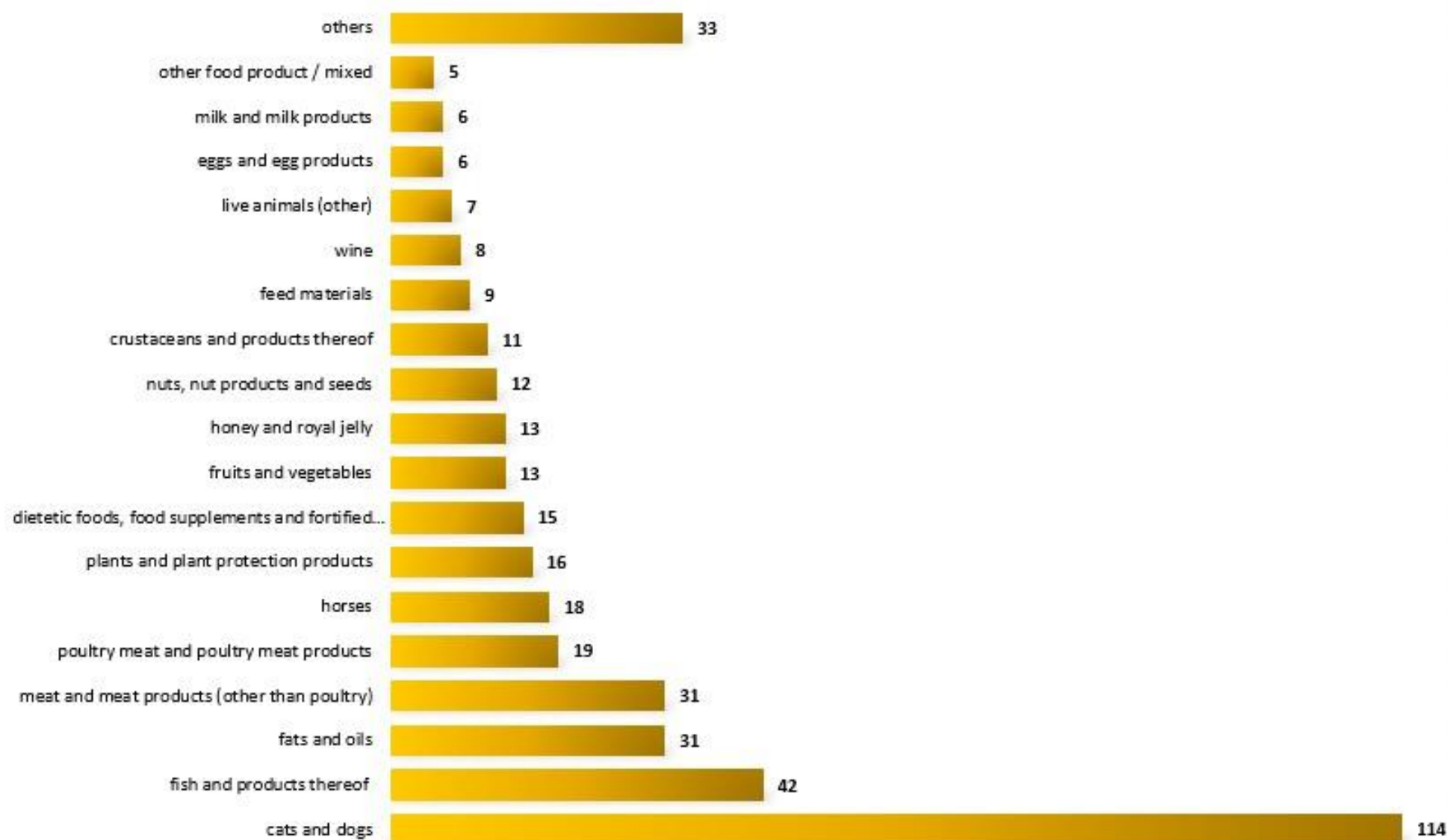
## iRASFF cooperation

### Cooperation on non-compliances

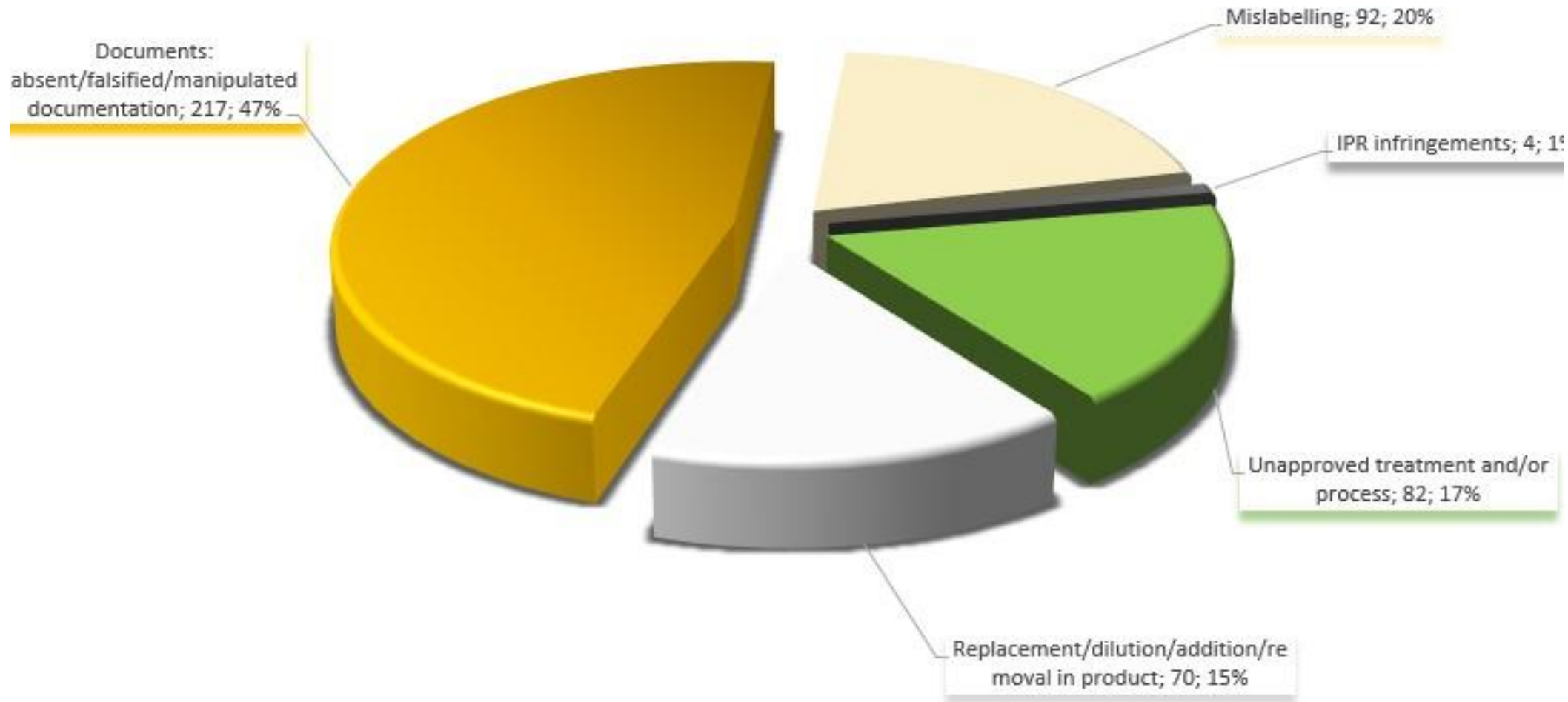
4608 notifications - public health risk  
2900 notifications - no public health risk  
407 notifications - suspicion of fraud



## Number of requests for cooperation related to fraud suspicions by product categories notified – iRasff FF (2021)



## Types of non compliances related to fraud suspicions - iRASFF FF (2021)



# Potential frauds in iRASFF (week n°44)\*

- 6 notifications on **chlorate or benzalkonium chloride on pangasius** from Vietnam: levels acutely harmful and may derive from an overly use of biocide / chlorination of the process water.
- Prohibited substance **chloramphenicol in frozen shrimps** from India.
- **2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP)** offered online for sale (China and South Korea).
- **beef and pork unfit for human consumption** distributed to other MS and TCs.
- **unauthorised substance omethoate in fresh spinach**. Recall ordered.
- 4 notifications on **illegal import attempts** from Ghana by the UK – air cargo that was not declared to border post as required.

\* From information publicly available: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/portal/>

# Suspensions of fraud in iRasff - 2021

**Notifications suspicion of fraud in iRASFF - FF: 407**

**DG SANTE - Weekly screening for potential fraud**

in 1079 RASFF non compliances notifications with public health risk  
(out of 4608 notifications)

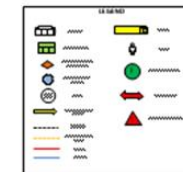
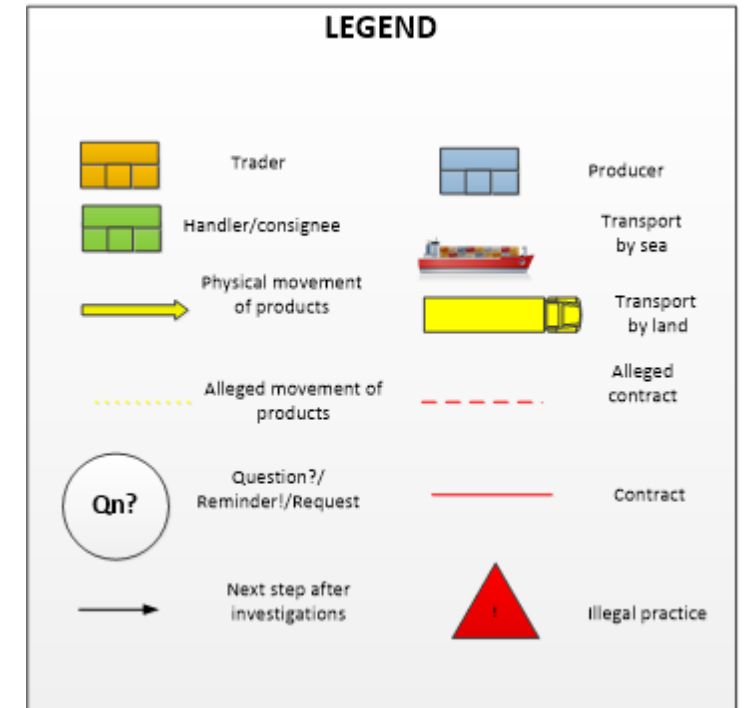
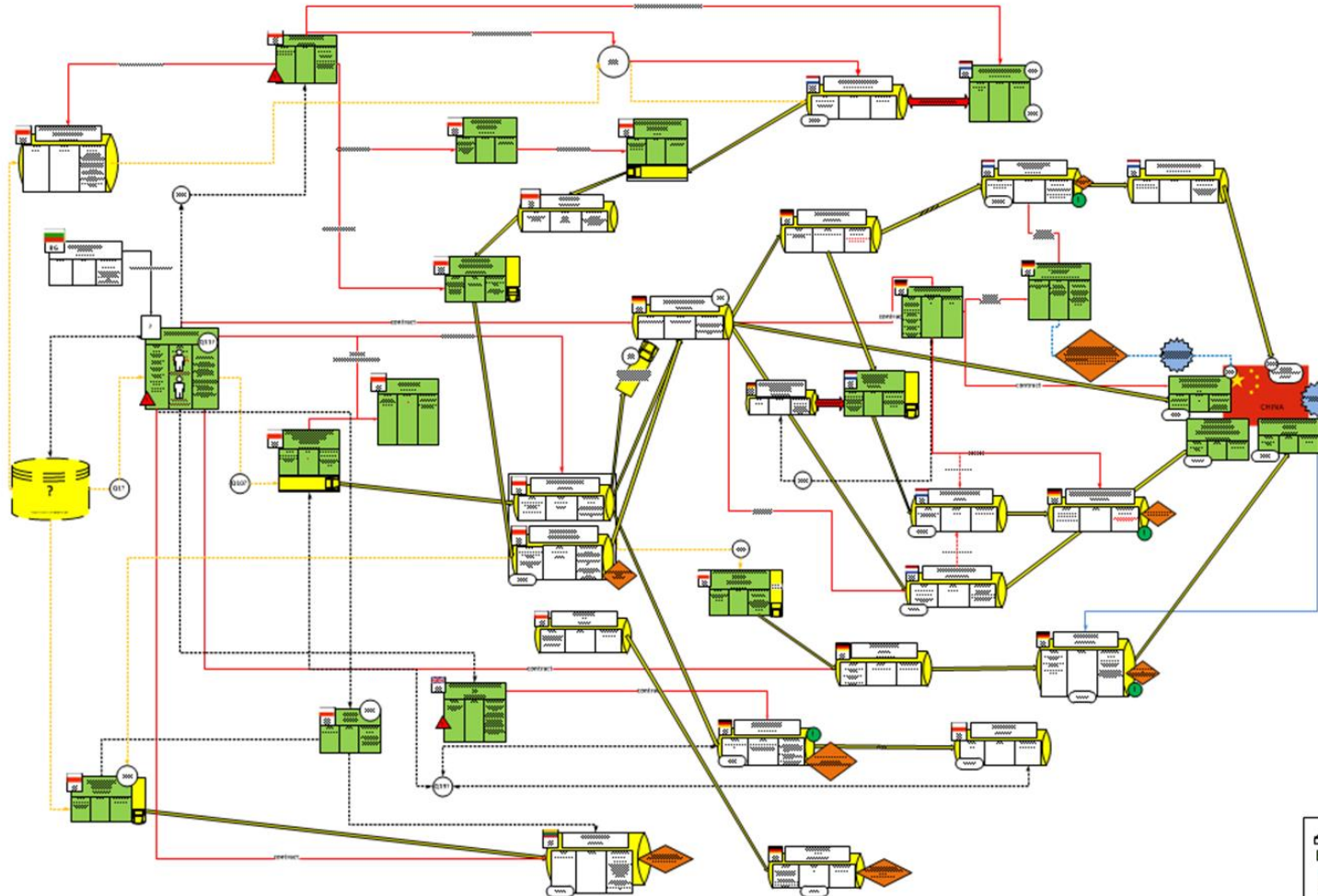
in 375 non-compliance notifications without public health risk  
(out of 2900 notifications)

and, in 407 notifications from the EU FF Network





# Coordinated actions: mapping illegal activities



# Coordinated actions: control plans, enforcement



2019-2021  
Control Plan:  
“Herbs & Spices”



2021-2022  
Enforcement action:  
“Bamboo-zling”



2021-2022



2022  
Control Plan:  
“Dogs and cats”

“Undeclared water and water retention agents in fishery products”

“Illegal sales / uses of PPP”

Protein 14g		0%	
Vitamin A 0%		Vitamin C 0%	
Calcium 0%		Iron 0%	
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.			
	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g
Calories per gram: Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4			
<b>INGREDIENTS: PACIFIC COD, WATER, SODIUM PHOSPHATES, SALT.</b>			



(Previous actions: horse meat, honey, fish substitution, online offered food, Covid-19)

# Coordinated actions: control plan “Herbs & Spices”

- The overall rate of suspicious samples was 17% (329 of a total of 1885 analysed samples).
- The oregano supply chain was most vulnerable as 49% of samples were suspicious of being adulterated, in most cases with olive leaves.
- The percentage of samples which were suspicious of adulteration were 14% for cumin, 11% for curcuma, 17% for pepper, 11% for saffron and 6% for paprika/chilli.
- The majority of suspicious samples contained non-declared plant material; in 2% of the analysed spice samples non-authorised dyes were detected. One sample contained a high level of lead chromate.





Operations **OPSON**:  
Europol/Interpol joint initiative  
targeting trafficking in fake and  
substandard food and beverages.

**77**

**countries**  
participated  
in Operation  
OPSON IX

# Coordinated actions: OPSON IX

(December 2019 to June 2020)



**OPSON IX**  
Targeting  
counterfeit and  
sub-standard food  
and drink



**12,000 tons**  
products seized



**USD 40 million**  
total value of illicit  
goods seized



**779,342**  
units in total



**27,579**  
inspections



**19**  
organized crime  
groups disrupted



**407**  
arrest warrants  
**235**  
search warrants  
executed



**408**  
criminal cases  
**2,980**  
administrative cases



**USD 5.8 million**  
Considering the value,  
alcoholic beverage represent  
the first category of  
seized goods



**2 million**  
litres of fake and  
sub-standard drink



**2,000 tonnes**  
of fruits,  
vegetables and  
legumes



**Animal food**  
is the most seized product





# Training activities

New Food Investigation Techniques aiming at identifying potential fraud along the food chain and on the E-commerce of Food

Regional seminars in non-EU countries

E-learning modules

**BETTER TRAINING  
FOR SAFER FOOD**

ANNUAL  
REPORT 2018

Food Safety

# Keep in touch



SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu



[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud_en)