



EU FIGHT AGAINST FOOD FRAUD



DG SANTE

Unit G5 – Alerts, Traceability and Committees

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*Health and
Food Safety*



European
Commission

FOOD FRAUD

- **No EU definition**
- **Four key criteria:**

1. Violation of EU Food Law

2. Intention

3. Economic gain

4. Deception of customers

**Fraudsters have no
interests in creating
public health incidents!**

Impact on Consumer Confidence

1988

Adulterated oil
Spain

2000

Adulterated
Butter Italy

2007

Melamine Pet
Food China

2008

Melamine in
milk China

2012

Horsemeat
scandal



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2013

Successful traceability

Products taken off the market

February-April

Identification of fraudsters

Criminal investigations/prosecutions (ongoing)

Tougher financial penalties

More unannounced official controls

May

March-June

1st Coordinated Control Plan on horse meat

4.6% Positive

July

Creation of a Food Fraud Network

2014

EU Reference centres for Authenticity and integrity of the food chain

April-July

2nd Coordinated Control Plan on horse meat

0.6% Positive

2015

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2015

February

Coordinated Control
plans on HONEY and
FISH

JRC
Protocols

March

Revised rules for
horse passports

UK Slaughter
house managers
fine 8.000£ 4
months
suspended jail
sentence

April

NL Trader: Jail
sentence 2,5
years

Administrative
Assistance and
Cooperation
System (AAC)

November

December

Results for
Coordinated
Controls on FISH

6% detected
non
compliances

**EU-Coordinated
Cases**



2016

Preliminary results for
Coordinated Controls
on HONEY

7%
adulterated
with sugar

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

Dedicated activities have started in 2013



The EUROPEAN FOOD FRAUD NETWORK

to facilitate exchanges of information between Member States. Since November 2015 the network is supported by a dedicated **IT system** (AAC)



EU-WIDE COORDINATED CONTROL PLANS

In 2015, two coordinated control plans targeted to **honey and fish**. They provided information on the nature and scale of frauds for these commodities.



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CURRENT INITIATIVES

BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food)



Five specific workshops per year dedicated to food fraud:
eCommerce and **Investigation Techniques**

Review of Regulation 882/2004



- Extension of **Scope for AAC**: Animal Health, Plant Health, Animal Welfare, Marketing Standards (for Food fraud)
- **EU Reference Centres for Food Authenticity,**
- **Reinforced Sanctions**
(linked to economic advantage or operator's turnover)

These initiatives have been welcomed by Member States, MEPs, consumer organisations and industry



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A COOPERATIVE APPROACH



Judiciary

Investigative legal powers

Promoting cooperation between authorities

Member States

Administrative (inspectors)

Police / customs

Expertise/Enforcement

Health and Food Safety

Intelligence



Interpol

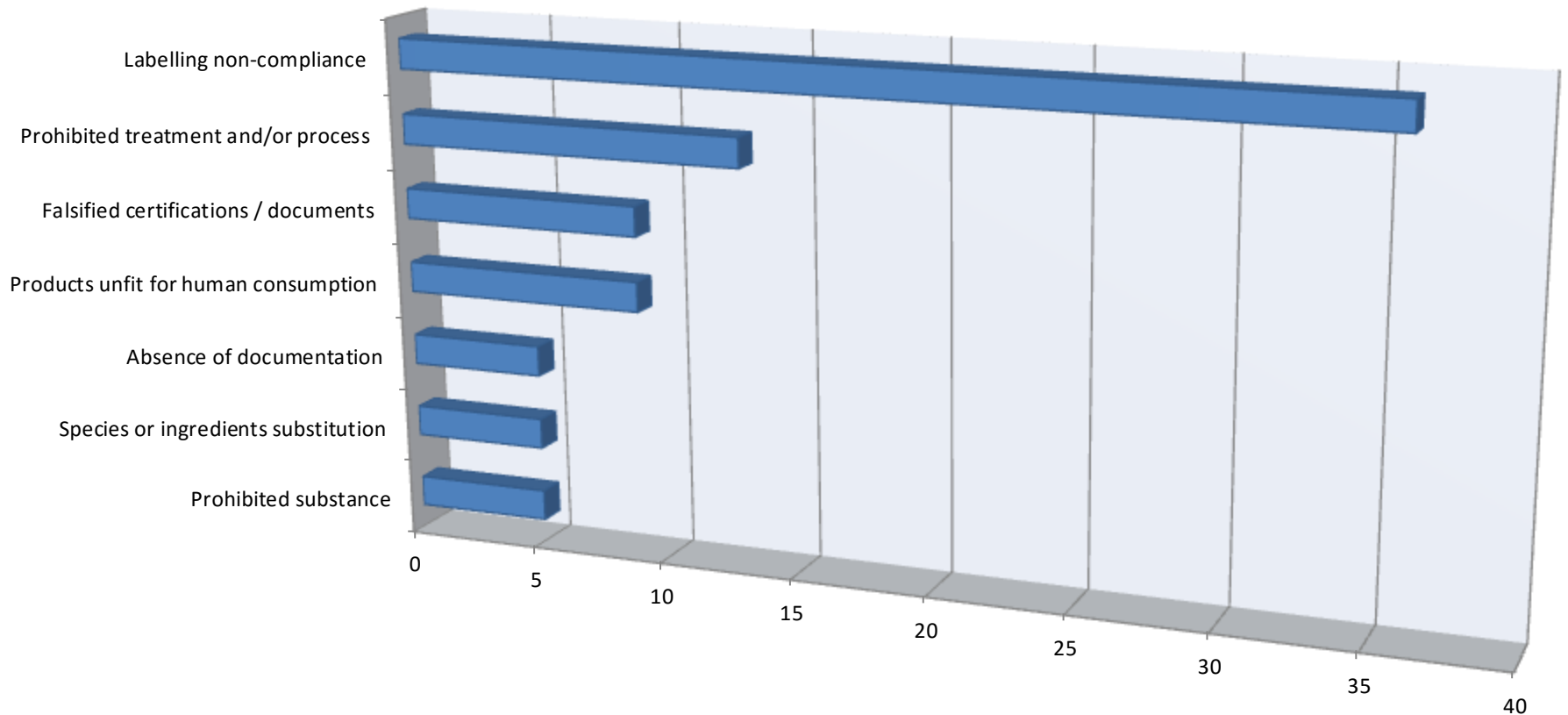
The EU Food Fraud Network





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FRAUD CASES EXCHANGED VIA THE NETWORK (since July 2013, 200+ cases)





EXAMPLE OF EU-COORDINATED CASE in the framework of art. 40 of Regulation (EC) N° 882/2004

UNDECLARED PEANUTS IN GROUND ROASTED HAZELNUTS FROM GEORGIA





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Consumer Complaint:
After **allergic reaction.**

Peanut allergy is recognized as one of the most severe food allergies due to its prevalence and potential severity of allergic reaction



Manufacturer's own check:

Discovery of **undeclared peanut** in batches of ground hazelnut and hazelnut flour (**22%**)



Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit

Investigations from DE authorities:
suspicion of fraud and public health risk



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AAC

Administrative assistance and cooperation system



European Rapid Alert System for **Food and Feed**



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1

ECONOMIC GAIN

Market price



3.600\$/Ton

=

Gain
400\$/Ton



1.600\$/Ton

2

EU COMPETENCE

1. Two RASFF Notification (**Public Health**) concerning two different Georgian establishments (22% and 15% substitution)

2. Imports from Georgia/Several MS Concerned (art. 40 of Reg. 882/2004 on Official Controls)





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CRITERIA FOR EU COORDINATION

1. Violation of EU Food Law

Undeclared peanuts in ground roasted hazelnuts

2. Intention

22% and 15% substitution

3. Economic gain

400\$ per Ton

4. Deception of customers

Customer wants to buy only hazelnuts. **Unexpected allergenes (peanuts)**





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EU COORDINATION

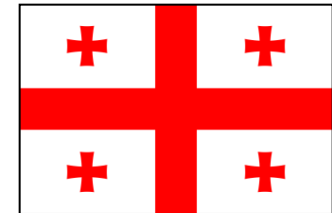
Information through AAC



The EU Food
Fraud Network



1. Automatic alert from RASFF
2. Specific request for action/information



Georgia

Letter to inform FRUCOM and Food Drink Europe and ask for possible commitments through HACCP





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RESULTS OF EU COORDINATION after 2 MONTHS

GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES REACTION/COOPERATION

- Urgent adoption of **Government Decree** 185, technical regulation on export for hazelnuts (controls on every consignment and 0.05% tolerance on foreign matters)
- Ongoing **investigation** in 2 suspected establishments

RAISED AWARENESS IN MS:

Strengthened controls on EU flour Hazelnuts markets.
Similar types of **contamination** are being **detected**
(e.g. contamination in hazelnut cream)



Informed consumers

Bright and Appetizing Olives!



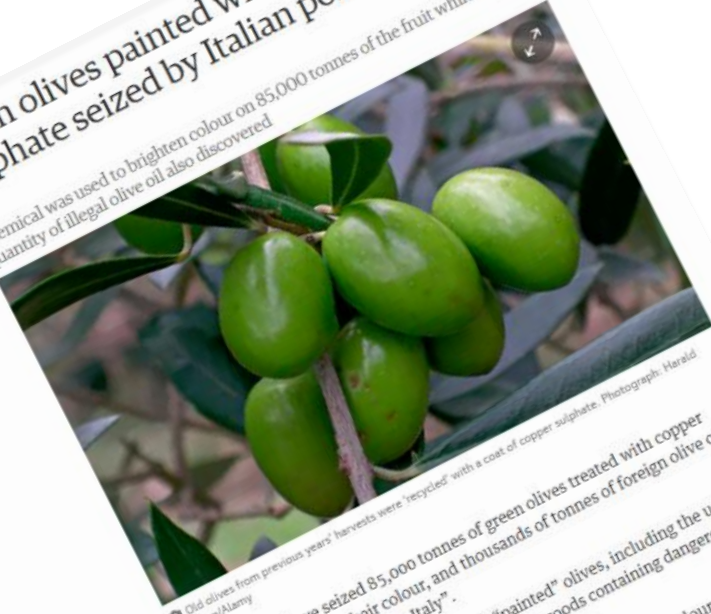
But Juicy ???

BE VIGILANT and REPORT BACK!



Green olives painted with copper sulphate seized by Italian police

Chemical was used to brighten colour on 85,000 tonnes of the fruit while huge quantity of illegal olive oil also discovered



Old olives from previous years' harvests were 'recycled' with a coat of copper sulphate. Photograph: Harald Theissen/Alamy

Italian police have seized 85,000 tonnes of green olives treated with copper sulphate to brighten their colour, and thousands of tonnes of foreign olive oil being passed off as "Made in Italy".

Nineteen people face charges over the "painted" olives, including the use of banned additives and planning to sell edible goods containing dangerous substances, the forestry police said on Wednesday.

Old olives from previous years' harvests that had lost their colour were "recycled" with a coat of copper sulphate to give them an intense and uniform green colour.

Puglia, tonnellate di olive "riverniciate" sequestrate. Il vero ottenuto con il solfato di rame, nocivo per la salute

© Fornito da CEO Digital & Servizi S.R.L. Le olive riverniciate

Prima il pane nero colorato con sostanze chimiche, ora le olive "riverniciate" di un verde brillante neanche fossero il cancello scartavetrato della pubblicità. E' l'ennesima truffa alimentare a danno dei consumatori che amano avere in dispensa le olive dolci da tavola, quelle tipo Castelvetro che prevede l'uso della soda caustica. Un processo autorizzato che lavorazione particolare per intenderci. Per togliere l'amaro si ricorre a un tipo di insieme al gusto amaro che toglie anche il colore del frutto che così diventa meno vivido, tendente al giallino e con un aroma meno a pieno eventuali marchi n. difetti. Da qui l'idea

LARGEST-EVER SEIZURES OF FAKE FOOD AND DRINK IN INTERPOL-EUROPOL OPERATION

30 March 2016

More than 10,000 tonnes and one million litres of hazardous fake food and drink have been seized in operations across 57 countries in an INTERPOL-Europol coordinated initiative to protect public health and safety.

Operation Opson V, resulted in seizures ranging from nearly nine tonnes of counterfeit sugar contaminated with fertilizer in Khartoum, Sudan to Italian officers recovering more than 95 tonnes of olives which had been 'painted' with copper sulphate solutions to enhance their colour.

Involving police, customs, national food regulatory bodies and partners from the private sector, checks were carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and industrial estates between November 2015 and February 2016.

A number of arrests were made worldwide throughout the operation and investigations are continuing. Among the aims of the operation is to identify and disrupt the organized crime networks behind the trafficking in fake goods and enhance cooperation between the involved law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

In Greece, officers discovered three illicit factories producing counterfeit alcohol. Police seized equipment used in the manufacturing process including labels, caps, empty bottles in addition to more than 7,400 bottles of fake alcohol and counterfeit labels.

In the UK, authorities recovered nearly 10,000 litres of fake, adulterated alcohol including gin, whisky and vodka. In Denmark, more

- Publications
- Strategic Analysis Reports
- Early Warning Notifications
- Public Access to Europol documents
- Crime Prevention Advice
- Image Galleries
- Europol Youtube Channel
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- TV, Films and Books



Thank you for your attention!



And DO NOT FORGET

FOOD IN THE EU HAS NEVER BEEN SAFER!

