

# 2013 MRL Workshop

## European Regulatory Initiatives



**Egle EIMONTAITE**  
**Freshfel Europe**

5 June 2013- San Francisco

# Freshfel Europe

**Freshfel:** Association representing the EU fruit & vegetables sector, based in Brussels

Diversified member structure:

- Supply chain approach (production, various trade segment down to retail incl. logistics and service providers...)
- National associations and companies
- Intra and extra EU

Food quality & safety and sustainability among core tasks

- Proactive: shaping policy
- Reactive: crisis management



8 SH fresh fruit exporting countries



18 leading apples and pears producing countries

# Agenda



Food safety: perception & facts in EU



EU Legislation



Reviews of recent incidents and lessons learned



Conclusions

# Food safety: perception & facts



# Food safety: perception



**DANGER  
ON YOUR  
DINNER  
PLATE**



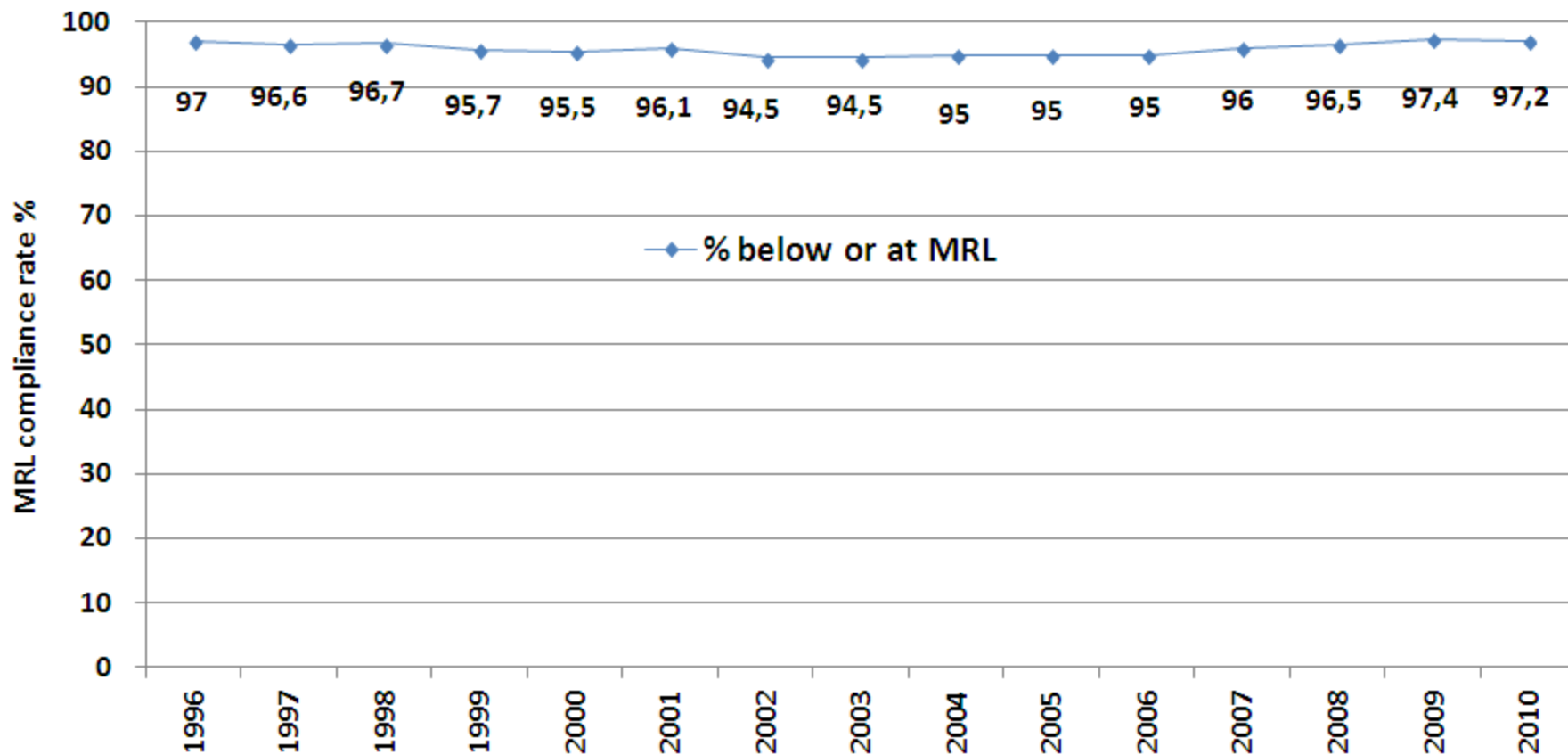


# Food safety: perception



# EFSA annual report 2010

High level of compliance with .... a trading limit, not a safety limit



Source: EFSA EU Pesticide residue report covering 2010

# EFSA annual report 2010

In 2010, the harmonised EU MRLs were more often exceeded for surveillance samples from third countries (7.9%) than for samples from the EU (1.5%).

EU+NCP – Exceedances of MRLs according to the sample origin (EU, imported, unknown) for surveillance samples - 2010.

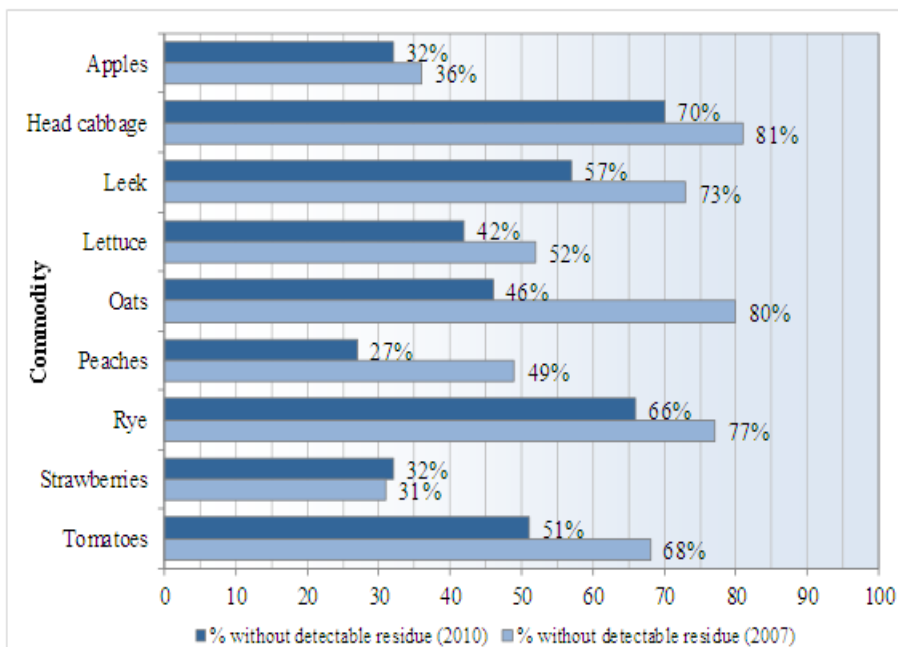
Sample origin	Number of samples	Above MRL	%	LCL(a)	LCL(b)
EEA	55210	809	1.5	1.4	1.6
Third country	14818	1173	7.9	7.5	8.4
Unknown	2785	60	2.2	1.7	2.8
	<b>72813</b>	<b>2042</b>			

(a): Lower confidence limit<sup>52</sup>

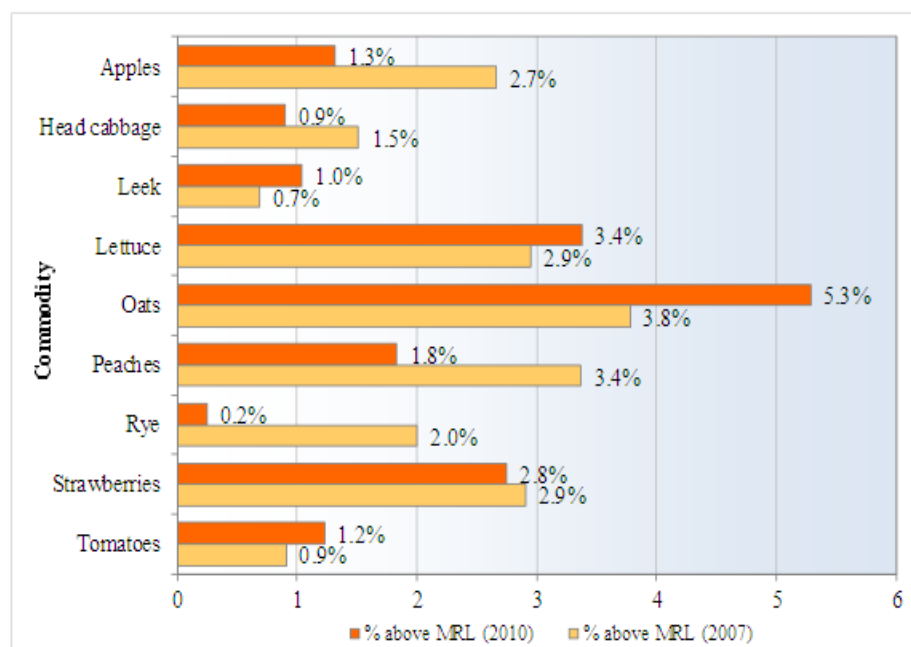
(b): Upper confidence limit



According to the results of the last four EU-coordinated programs (2007 to 2010), the percentage of samples exceeding the MRLs was rather stable, with only small variations.



EUCP – Percentage of samples free from measurable residues for the nine food commodities analysed in the EU-coordinated programmes 2007 and 2010

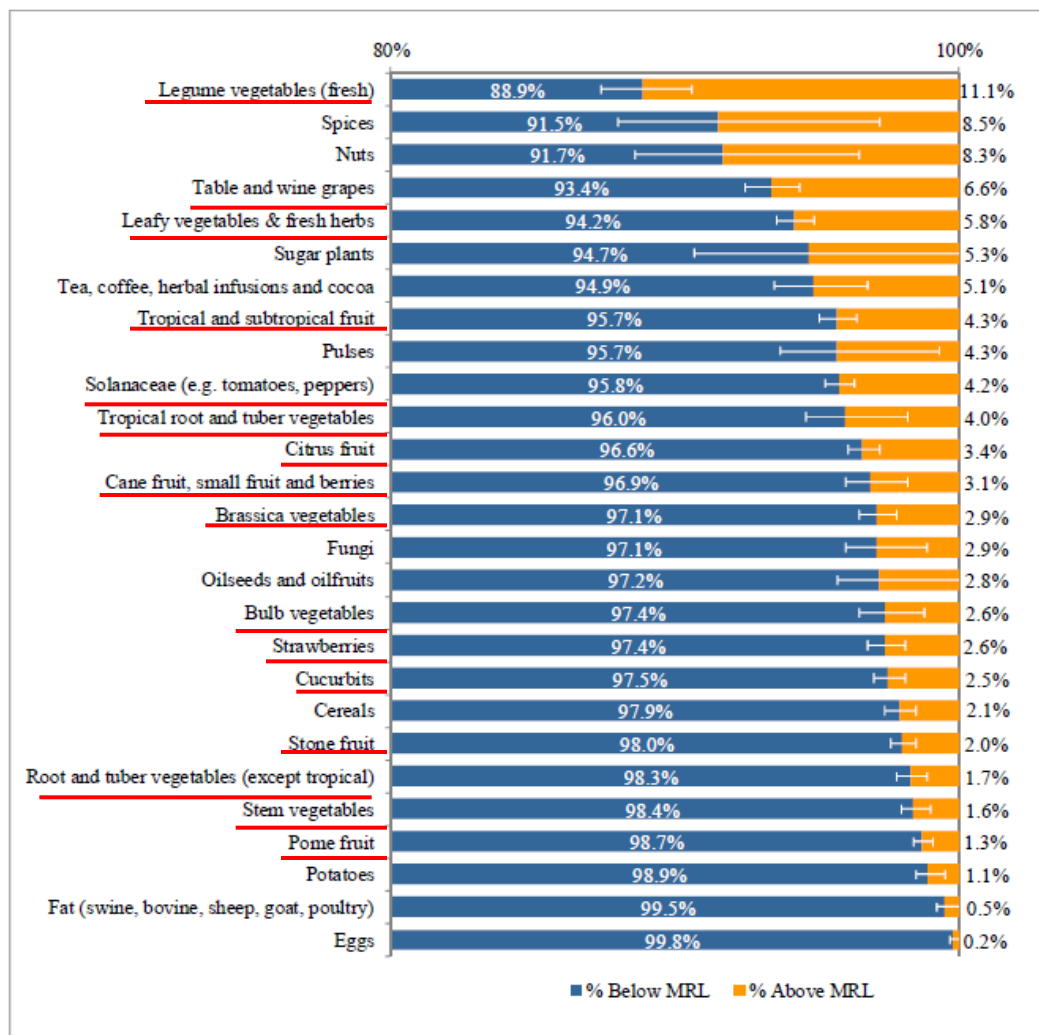


EUCP – Percentage of samples with residues above MRL for the nine food commodities analysed in both the EU-coordinated programmes 2007 and 2010



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# EFSA annual report 2010

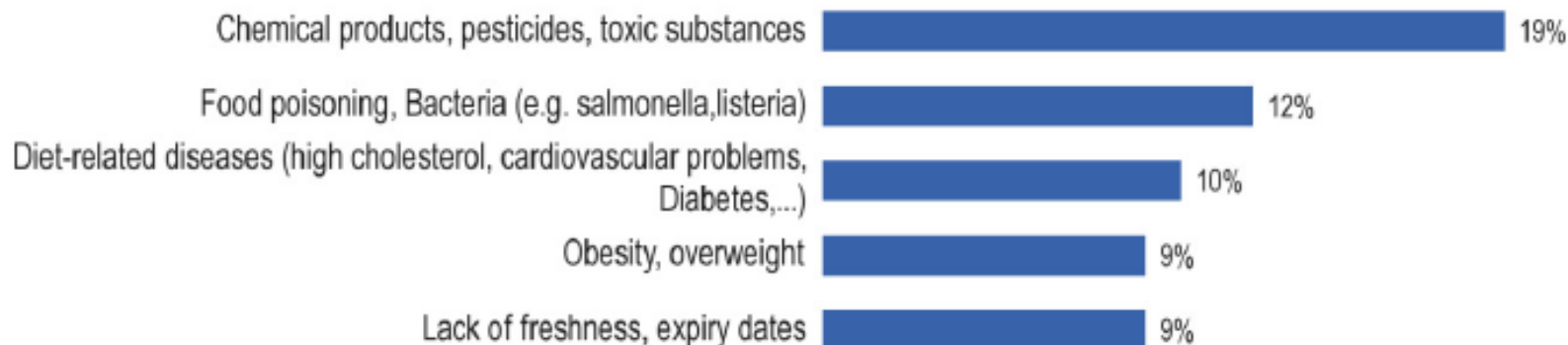


EU+NCP – Percentage of compliance with EU MRL for unprocessed commodities (surveillance samples) - 2010

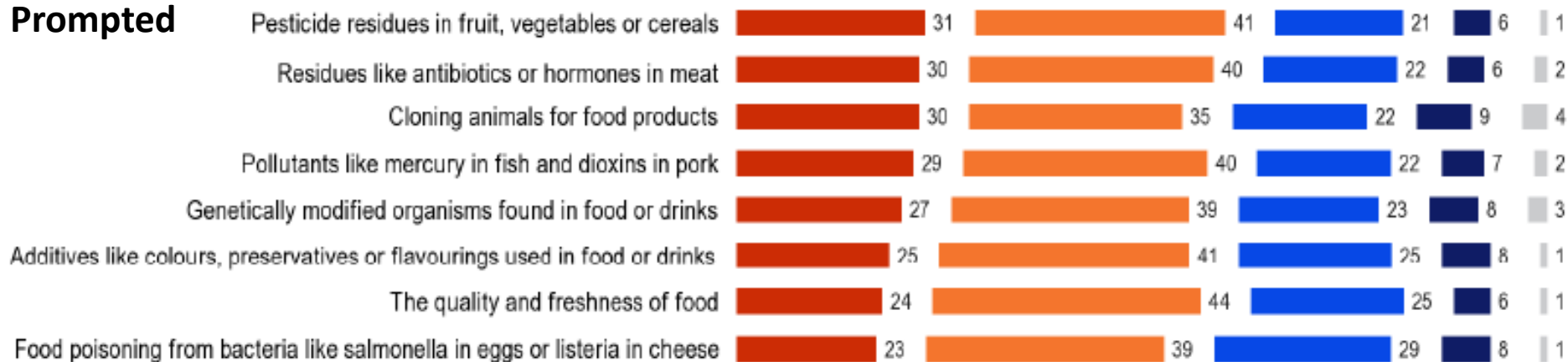
# Perception food poisoning

## Responses to problems and risks associated with food

### Spontaneous



### Prompted

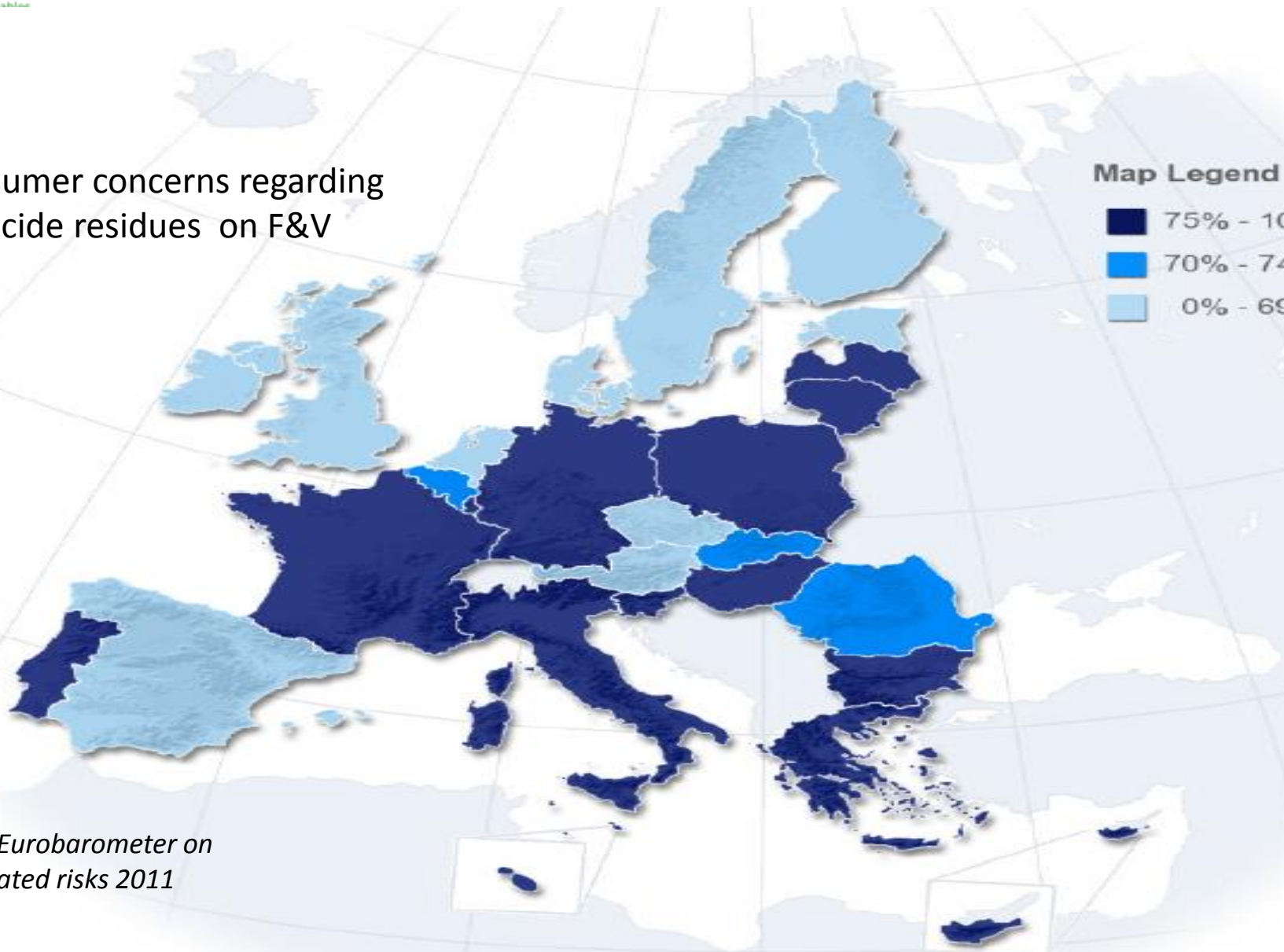
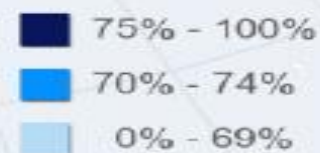


Source: Eurobarometer on food-related risks 2010

# Perception pesticide residues

Consumer concerns regarding  
pesticide residues on F&V

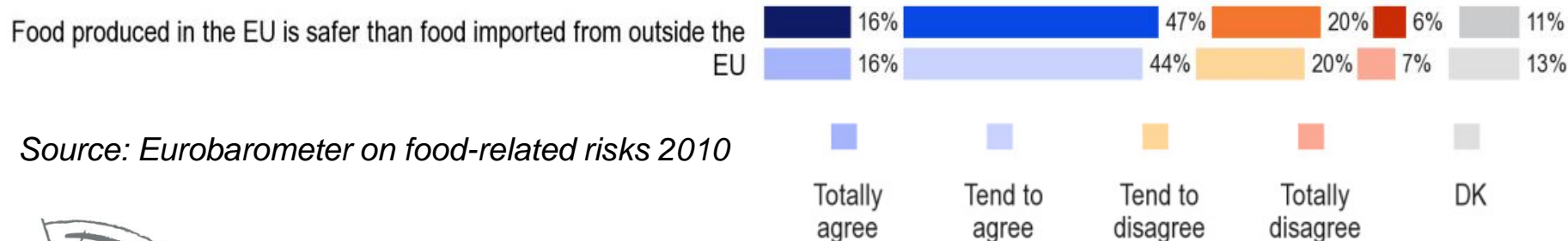
## Map Legend



Source: Eurobarometer on  
food-related risks 2011

# Perception imported produce

2010/2005



Source: Eurobarometer on food-related risks 2010

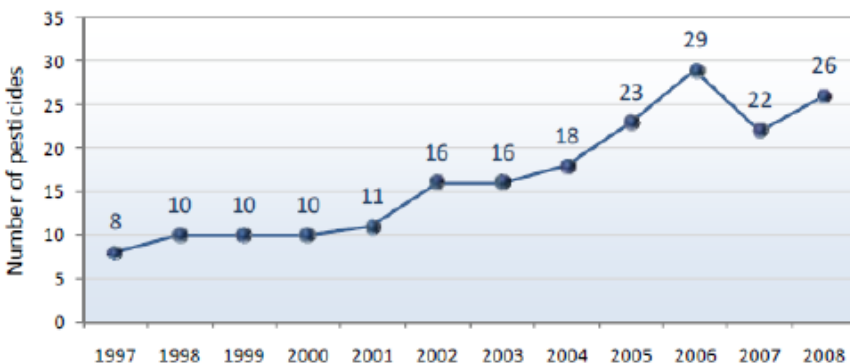


The EP considers that standards equivalent to those applied in the EU must be imposed on imports so as to ensure that EU farmers compete on a level playing field and EU citizens are effectively protected; underlines the need for tighter import controls at borders. EP Own initiative report EU agriculture and international trade - 2010



# Food safety ... and facts

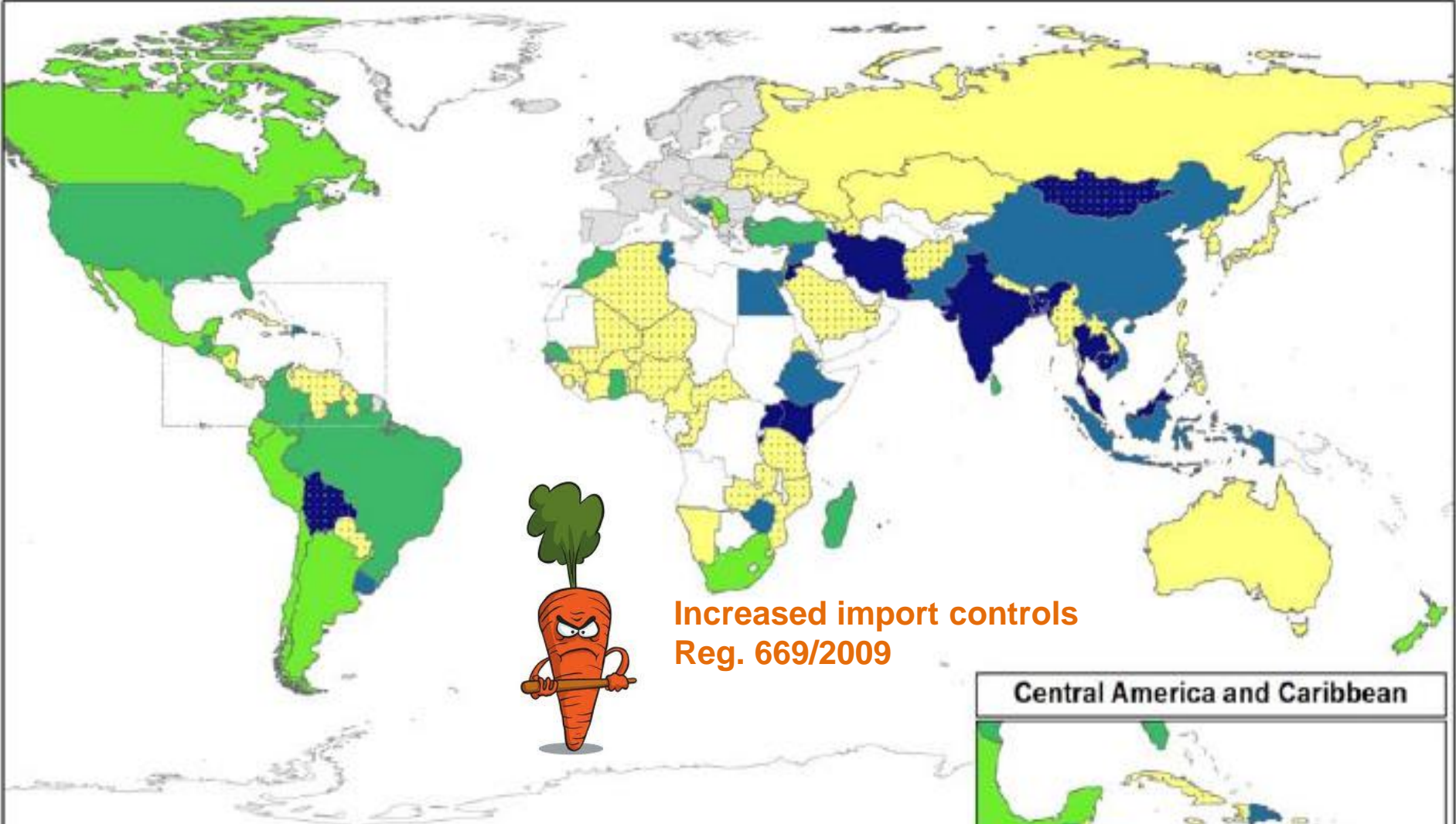
.... but increase of multi residues and still unknown impact and measurement models => role of Acropolis project!



Commodity	Number of samples	Number of residues									% samples with multiple (>1) residues
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	>=8	
		Percentage of samples									
Vine leaves (grape leaves)	7	28.6			14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3		14.3	71.4
Cane fruit (e.g raspberries and blackberries)	295	24.1	18.3	11.9	12.9	12.9	8.5	4.7	4.4	2.4	57.6
Citrus fruit	4258	27.0	16.4	18.4	15.9	11.1	6.1	2.9	1.2	1.1	56.6
Table and wine grapes	3019	26.2	18.2	15.4	11.2	8.1	6.1	4.6	3.4	6.7	55.5
Strawberries	2408	28.7	17.4	13.8	13.3	10.4	6.8	4.2	2.1	3.2	53.8
Pome fruit	5124	34.8	18.9	15.2	11.1	8.2	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.7	46.3

> 50% samples with multi residues

Source: EFSA  
EU Pesticide residue report



Increased import controls  
Reg. 669/2009



Percentage samples exceeding the EU-MRLs  
by origin country (only third countries)

Color	Percentage Range
Yellow	0%
Light Green	>0% - 4.1%
Medium Green	4.2% - 6.6%
Dark Green	6.7% - 14.5%
Dark Blue	14.6% - 50.0%

Legend:   
White box: no samples taken   
Dotted box: ≤ 10 samples

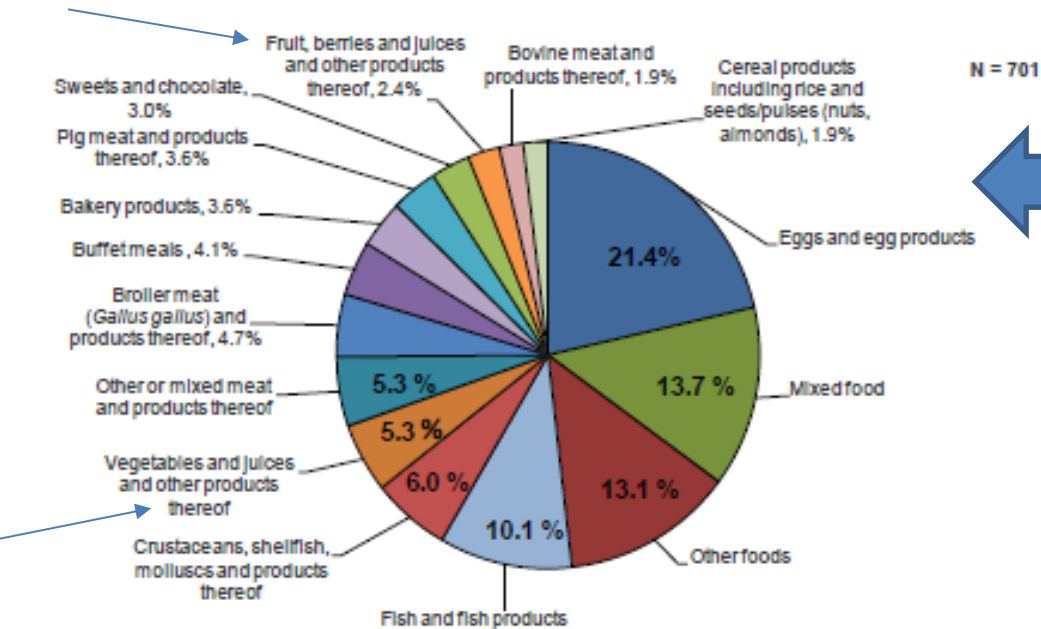


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# Facts food poisoning

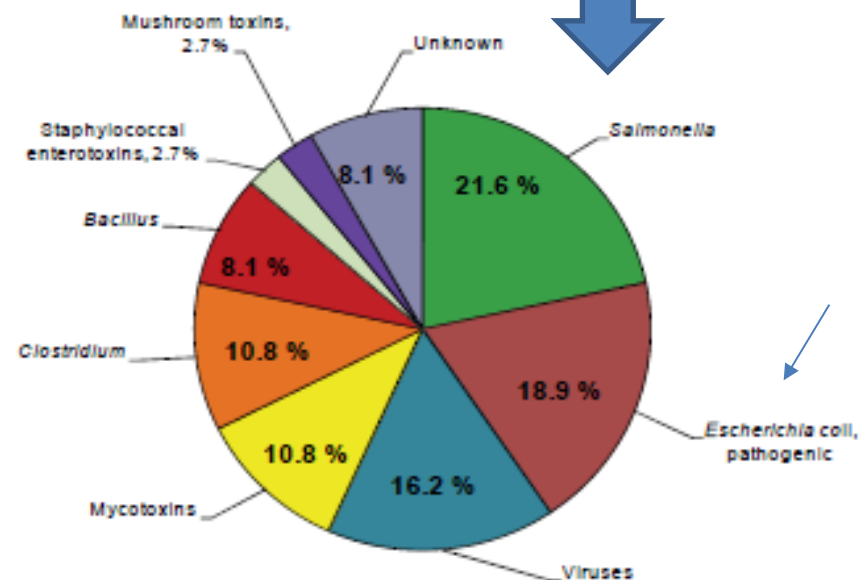


Source: EFSA report on zoonoses and food borne outbreaks



Outbreaks by products

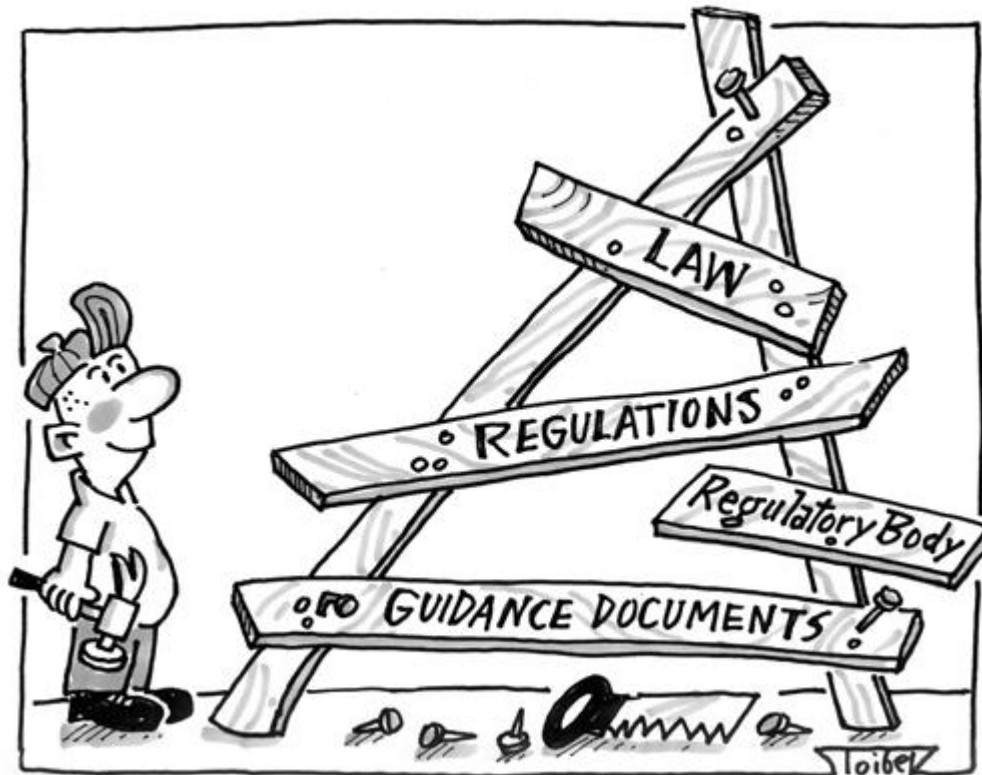
Outbreaks by causative agents



✓ EFSA: Consumers' increasing preference for convenience products reinforces the need to monitor microbiological hazards more closely

✓ Impact EHEC 2011

# Legislation



# MRL Regulation (EU) No 396/2005

In the last decade the EU completely reshaped its food policy:

- Single market and harmonisation (Regulation (EC) No 396/2005)
- Consequence of food safety outbreak. New emerging risks
- NGO focus and consumers awareness
- Re-organization (DG SANCO, EFSA): split of role risk manager and risk assessor

High level of compliance since much demanded harmonisation among EU-27 but :

- NGO legal action against the MRL harmonisation process
- Concerns raised by some WTO members on the LOD
- Some MRL questioned as being higher than the ARfD
- Close follow up process of MRL changes, and also WTO notification
- Role of import tolerance, cross contamination level
- On-going impact of private standards



# Food additives

## Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008

- EU harmonised legislation regarding authorisation and use conditions/limitations
- No labelling obligation for fresh unprocessed produce (except for packaging gases) – specific labelling requirements for citrus
- Most additives (waxes, sulphur) authorised on F&V qualify as preservatives – enlarged list for waxes.
- Particular cases such as morpholine's – transition period and then LOD



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# Food additives

## Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008



	Sorbic acid - sorbates	Sulphur dioxide - sulphites	Glycerol ester of wood rosin	Sucrose esters of fatty acids - Sucroglycerides	Beeswax, white and yellow	Candelilla wax	Carnauba wax	Shellac	Microcrystalline wax	High viscosity minerals	Montan acid ester	Oxidized polyethylene wax
	E200-203	E220-228	E445	E473-474	E901	E902	E903	E904	E905	E905A	E912	E914
Fresh fruit				X								
Apples		10 ppm			X	X	X	X		P		
Avocado	P				X		X	X	X	P	X	X
Bananas					X					P		
Blueberries												
Cherries	P									P		
Citrus fruit	X		X		X	X	X	X		P	X	X
Lychees												
Mango					X		X	X	X	P	X	X
Melon					X	X	X	X	X	P	X	X
Nectarines	P				P					P		
Nuts					X	X	X	X				
Papaya							X	X	X	P	X	X
Peaches	P				X	X	X	X		P		
Pears					X	X	X	X		P		
Pineapple					X	X	X	X	X	P	X	X
Plums	P				P					P		
Pomegranate					X		X	X				
Table grapes		10 ppm										
Cucumbers		100 ppm			P					P		
Peppers					P					P		
Sweetcorn												
Tomatoes					P					P		
Maximum Level	20 ppm		50 ppm	QS	QS	QS	200 ppm	QS	QS	QS	QS	QS



# freshquality

YOUR GUIDE TO EU FRESH PRODUCE LAW

*[www.freshquality.eu](http://www.freshquality.eu)*



# Fresh Quality Guide - online



quick  
search

## news room

14/03/2013 | Pesticide MRL – changes

Commission Regulation (EU) No 241/2013 was published introducing MRL-changes for the active substances chlorantraniliprole, fludioxonil and prohexadione. All changes concern increases of MRLs or new MRLs, h ... [Read more](#)

### Food Safety

Food Additives  
Heavy metals & nitrates  
Pesticides



### Labelling & Nutrition

Integrated Production  
Organic production & labelling  
Geographical Indications  
Labelling, presentation and advertising  
Nutrition and health claims



### Hygiene

Hygiene of foodstuffs  
Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs  
Irradiation  
Sanitizers



### Quality Standards

Marketing Standards for Fruit & Vegetable  
Miniature Produce



### Packaging

Packaging and packaging waste  
Wood Packaging  
Food Contact Materials



### Other Legislation

General Principles of Food Law  
Private Standards: Quality certification schemes  
GMOs  
Plant Health



## sponsors websites



# Review of recent incidents





# Recent incidents



2010

Chlormequat -Table grapes from India  
Retail driven

2010

Morpholine (coating ingredient) –  
Various fruit, multiple origins  
Government driven



2010

Coatings – Avocado, mango...  
Retail driven

# Recent incidents



2011  
E. Coli O104 outbreak  
Government driven

2012  
Sanitizers (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds)  
Various F&V (incl. bio), multiple origins  
Retail driven

2013  
Perchlorate  
Retail driven



## Lessons learned

- Further globalisation, cases are widespread and crisis with media exposure
- Knowledge increasingly complex EU food law in EU and in 3rd countries
- Improved laboratory detection methods and broader monitoring screening will increase the risk for similar incidents
- Focus on microbiological safety/food waste => post-harvest solutions
- Role of monitoring: early warning, data accountability, crisis management

# Lessons learned

## Role different stakeholders:

- Governments: slowness regulatory procedures (1-2 years)
- Agro Chemical Manufacturers: lack of transparency and commitment, though important leadership role
- Labs: expanding search scope vs offering solutions to clients
- Retailers: precautionary principle vs pragmatism
- Supply chain: increased scrutiny and transparency



# Implications of legislation and crisis



# Sector responses

- Supply chain partnerships
- Increased certification (GlobalGAP, QS - german scheme...)
- Rise in integrated & organic production
- Increased R&D efforts: reasearch & development
  - Reduction or elimination of residues
  - Ultra-low residues (below LOD)
  - Bio-control agents, non-chemical methods...
  - GMO



# Implications

Retail response varying across EU:

- Mitigation measures in certification schemes  
(e.g. GlobalGAP 2011 => IPM)
  - Long term commitment to reduce pesticide use and minimise residues in F&V
  - Role from specialised consultancies /NGOs/labs
  - Risk management by retailers
- => active involvement in choice of active substances in DE, UK
- =>private standards on number of substances and % MRL (lab uncertainties, brand protection...)

# Retailers - private standards



Max. 70% MRL  
Max 80% ARfd  
Max. 80% MRL (sum)  
Max. 80% ARfD (sum)  
Max. 3-5 AS depending crop



Max 70% MRL  
Max. 100% ARfD  
Max. 3-5 AS  
Red list AS



Max. 70% MRL  
Max. 50% MRL for EDEKA brand  
Max. 100% ARfD  
No max number AS



Max. 70% MRL  
Max. 70% ARfD  
No Max nb AS  
Cumulated MRM : 150%  
Cumulated Arfd : 100%



Max. 70% MRL  
Max. 70% ARfD



Max. 70% MRL  
Max 50% MRL for REWE brand  
Max. 70% ARfD  
Red list AS

# Retailers - private standards



Max. 50% MRL



Max. 50% MRL



Follow Pesticide reduction  
programme of Global 2000  
Austria –based on most  
vulnerable consumers

Cumulated PRP reidues limit  
apply



Max. 33,3% MRL

Max. 70% ARfD

Max 100% ARfD ( sum)

No max nb AS

No cumaltion MRL

If former German MRL

lower than EU

harmonized those apply



Max. 33,3% MRL

Max 100 % ARfD

Max 100% ARfD ( sum)

No max nb AS

No cumaltion MRL



Max. 80% MRL (sum)

Max. 80% ARfD (sum )

Max 5 AS

# Retailers - private standards



- Max. 70% MRL
- Max. 70% ARfD
- Max AS (> 0,01 ppm)  
from 3-5 depending of crop

**tegut...**



- Product specific grading for multiples residue with financial sanction for exceeding legal limits or max nb AS

- Max. 70% MRL
- Max. 70% ARfD
- Max AS 4 ( not including post harvest )
- No cumulative charge

# Conclusions



# Conclusions

- Consumers perception and brand perception => driving additional specifications beyond legislation
- Fall-out EHEC-crisis yet to become clear, but increased focus expected from operators and recent chemical contamination call for more scrutiny
- More holistic approach: not only MRL but also hygiene as well as other sustainable aspects
- Food safety should not be a competitive tool on which retailers differentiate themselves





[info@freshfel.org](mailto:info@freshfel.org)  
[www.freshfel.org](http://www.freshfel.org)

