



# **Animal identification, animal breeding and International trade The future EU legislation on Zootechnics**

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**Sergio PAVON**  
**European Commission**  
**DG Health and Consumer Protection**  
**Unit G.2 Animal health**

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[Sergio.Pavon@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sergio.Pavon@ec.europa.eu)



## AGENDA

**1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU**

**2-Animal identification, traceability and international trade**

**3- Major challenges for international trade of genetic material**

**4-The future EU legislation on zootechnics**

# 1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU

*-In the light of the **Bovine Spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** crisis Union rules on the identification and traceability of bovine animals were re-enforced in 1997*

*-Regulation (EC) No 820/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council established a regime of individual traceability of cattle by means of:*

- Individual animal identification of animals with **two ear tags**;
- **Holding register** on each holding (e.g. farm, market, slaughterhouse)
- **Individual passport** for each animal containing data on all movements
- **Reporting all movements to a national database** that is able to quickly trace animals and identify cohorts in the case of disease.

# 1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU

*These principles were upheld later in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council...*

## Objectives:

- to **re-establish consumer confidence** in beef and beef products through transparency and traceability of bovine food products
- to **localise and trace animals for veterinary purposes**, which is of crucial importance for the control of infectious diseases
- To assist with the management and supervision of certain Community aid schemes in the field of agriculture such as livestock premiums as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) **subsidy schemes**.

# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

*1- **Consumer protection information**: to restore confidence in beef and other bovine-derived products in the consumer after the BSE crisis through transparency and traceability*

*2- **Human health**: food can be traced quickly through the food chain and can be quickly withdrawn from the market (dioxins, residues...)*

*3- **Animal health**: Location, tracking and culling of animals for veterinary purposes (fundamental for controlling infectious diseases)*

*5- **Fraud Prevention***

*6-Ensuring the functioning of a "Single market" (28 Member States)*

*7- From "**Birth to slaughter**"....but also "From the Farm to the table"...*

# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- **The vision of the EU with regard to animal identification is not limited to BSE**
- **In terms of animal health there is other major reason: "Regionalization"...**
  - *facilitates trade* despite the presence of highly contagious diseases in a region or country
  - You must know the origin of the animal and the time spent in certain areas / regions
  - Information on the export place (place of dispatch) does not seem to be sufficient ("*one-step-back*")
  - In the EU and some international trade partners require further information on the "previous" movements the animal ("*full traceability back*")

# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

***- EU experience: was it worth it? YES ...!!!***

- ***At the level of animal health (not just BSE)***
- ***At the level of consumer protection and information***
- ***In terms of market access***

***However:***

- ***Costs involved***
- ***Administrative burden (will change) -Electronic Identification in cattle and others***

# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- The final test of the effectiveness of a traceability system depends very much on the **performance of the database***
- database should ensure **a real time bovine-tracking - system***
- this effectiveness will depend on **how often and how quick** the database is **"fed"** with the necessary information*
- The responsibility of "feeding" the database depends heavily **on farmers***



# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- *A fundamental requirement for having a labeling system which is credible is that it is based on an effective system of AI & T*
- *The EU legislation contains provisions for beef labelling*
- *Any beef **which** goes on sale in the EU for the consumer must include on the label information on the origin:*
  - A reference number that enables to trace-back to the holding of origin (birth)*
  - *Information regarding the origin of the meat:*  
***"Animal Born: in Spain; Raised: in France, Slaughtered: in Germany"***

# **1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU**

*These principles are contained in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council which has been reviewed recently:*

- introduces EID in cattle (voluntary bases)*
- electronic exchange of information (reducing paper word)*
- certain derogations for old animals*
- modifications on beef labelling (voluntary)*
- applicable in 2019*

# 1-Animal identification in the EU

- ⊙ *Different rules have been adopted EU de on the species:*
  - **For cattle:** Regulation 1760/2000\*
  - **For sheep and goats:** Regulation 21/2004
  - **For pigs:** Directive 2008/71
  - **For horses:** Regulation 504/2008
  - **For Pets:** Regulation 998/2003
  - *They all share certain fundamental principles but may change in the accessory (type of identifier, type of registration, passport or for movement)*



\*New regulation recently adopted (Bovine EID)

# 1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

Espece	Identification	Trazability (Registration of movements)
<i>Bovine</i>	<b>Individual (EID from 2019-voluntary bases)</b>	<b>Individual (National Database)</b>
<i>Ovine/caprine</i>	<b>Individual (IED)*IE –Compulsory for animals born from 1 January 2010</b>	<b>Individual (Holding) and by lot (National Database)</b>
<i>Porcine</i>	<b>Lot/Batch</b>	<b>Lot/Batch (National Database)</b>
<i>Horse</i>	<b>Individual (IED)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<i>Pets</i>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

### *Main principles:*

*1-A traceability system cannot be achieved without costs*

*2-It is necessary that the IA & T systems are proportionate to the objective and the goals to be achieved*

*3-Depends on the objective:*

1. **Animal health (AUS, NZ...)**
2. **Food safety (EU, JAP, KOR...)**
3. **Market access (BRA, ARG...)**

*4-Depends on the animal species (sheep, goats, pig, cattle..?)*

## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- **The animal species:**
  - **Production systems and business trends for each animal species may be different**
  - **Traceability in cattle more complex than in pigs**
  - **Mixture of cattle from different sources**
  - **Mixture of sheep from many different sources**
  - **Age verification (e.g. BSE-cattle)**
  - **Less expensive a traceability based on "group of animals" (batch/lot) than on an "individual"**

## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- ***Mandatory or Voluntary?***
  - **Most exporting countries: mandatory AI systems (some of them voluntary AI system)**
  - **Major importing countries: mandatory AI systems**
  - **Record movement of animals is common in countries with mandatory IA systems**
  - ***Not to forget: importing countries are the ones establishing the minimum standards that exporting countries will need to satisfy to access their markets...***

## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- *IA & T have become **essential requirements** for international trade not only meat but other products of animal (and vegetable)*
- ***Tendency to generalize:** many countries have developed systems of IA & T*
- *Difficult to isolate the impact of traceability in international trade*
- *Its absence may **limit market access***
- *Its tenure can quickly **lift trade restrictions***



## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

*- during the BSE crisis, more than 80 countries imposed restrictions on EU products*

*- today, many of these restrictions have been lifted based on:*

- *The implementation of a proper AI & T system*
- *The "farm to the fork" concept*
- *ABP management*
- *Crucial to restore confidence on business partners*

## 2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

### **Regionalization:**

- *trade facilitation tool*
- *Allows SAFE trade of live animals and animal products within the EU and also at international trade*
- *EU policy is to **promote regionalization** as much as possible:*

- 1. Internally**
- 2. At international level (BRA, ARG...)**
- 3. for major animal diseases:**

***-Foot and mouth disease***

***-Avian influenza***

***-Newcastle disease***

***- Classical swine fever***

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

- *EU is one of the major exporters of genetic material worldwide*
- *the OIE's animal health code contains recommendations for safe trade in genetic material*
- *OIE is recognised by the WTO (World Trade Organization) as the ISSO (International standard setting organization) for animal health*
- *WTO sets the main principles for international trade*

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

**Case 1:** *International recommendations exist but importing countries decide to go "beyond"...conventional pathogens*

**Case 2:** *lack of OIE's recommendations= lack of international standards for safe trade....emerging pathogens*

**Case 3:** *administrative, environment and biodiversity reasons*

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

*Case 1: International recommendations exist but importing countries decide to go "beyond"...*

- *with scientific bases (legal, **but on a temporary bases...**)*
- *without scientific bases....resulting in ...**unjustified trade restrictions***

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

"Conventional" pathogens:

**1. BSE, FMD**

**2. Blue Tongue**

**3. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis**

**4. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea**

***BSE is a clear case of importing countries "going beyond international standards...International trade in genetic material is safe in relation to BSE ... no justification for restrictions....***

## 3- Major challenges for international trade of genetic material

*Other problem is Regionalization (e.g.: FMD):*

- Refuse to recognize **regionalization**
- Resulting in *unjustified restrictions* to genetic material from regions/areas which *are free of the virus...*
- **OIE** contains recommendations on Zoning and compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.3)
- The **WTO** contains provisions regionalization (**disease free areas**) in Article 6 of the SPS Agreement

### 3- Major challenges for international trade of genetic material

***Case 2: the lack of OIE's recommendations= lack of international standards for safe trade***

- ***"emerging pathogens"***
- ***Leptospirosis (L. interrogans and L.borgpetersenii)***
- ***some importing countries request unjustified treatments with antibiotics for **bovine semen** (excessive and prolonged in time)***
- ***lack of international recommendations: the pathogen does not met the criteria as to be considered by the OIE***
- ***result ? **Incertitude** for international trade in genetic material...***



## 3- Major challenges for international trade of genetic material

*Case 2: the lack of OIE's recommendations= lack of international standards for safe trade*

- *Schmallenberg virus (SBV)*
- *does not represent a source of concern for international trade*
- *does not meet criteria for being listed as a disease in the OIE*
- *result ? Unjustified restrictions for live animals and their genetic material*

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

### *Case 3: administrative, environment and biodiversity reasons*

*- Import restrictions due to **administrative problems** are raising as a major problem for international trade:*

- Long delays at BIPs
- Excessive administrative burden and requests
- Excessive documentation request without previous notification

*- **Environmental reasons** and protection of the domestic Biodiversity are provoking trade disruptions for genetic material*

## 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

### *Case 3: administrative, environment and biodiversity reasons*

- *Undue delays* in the application process for getting market access (this can take years, without any justification provided by the importing country)
- *Discriminatory treatment* between trading partners – different import conditions (animal health) for different exporting countries without justification might be required by the importing country;
- *Discriminatory treatment in comparison to domestic market* – e.g. importing country does not put measures in place for diseases for which it requires strict import conditions (e.g. diseases belonging to the same group as SBV).

### 3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material

- *Genomic Selection may be on disadvantage in relation to countries holding **domestic policy subsidies**, resulting on more competitive prices once on the market...*
- *market forces driven (farmers may choose the product in the market with the best price...)*
- *risk for biodiversity ?*
- *fair competition ?*

## **3- Major challenges for international trade in genetic material**

### ***To reflect:***

- 1. Excessively protective policy on animal health ?***
- 2. Excessively protective policy on food safety ?***
- 3. imports of genetic material do pose a threat for Biodiversity ?***
- 4. Protectionism approach towards domestic production?***

## 4. Major challenges for international trade of genetic material

*Final reflections...*

*Trade barriers imposed by third countries:*

- Animal health reasons
- Recently, barriers of an *administrative nature*
- Recently, *environmental and biodiversity* reasons

*Protection of national/domestic production ?*

*WTO legal gap ?*

*SPS, TBT Agreement ?*

*How to challenge these types of trade barriers ?*

*Incertitude & unpredictability in terms of international trade must be avoid*



**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE  
COUNCIL**

**on**

**the zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in and  
imports into the Union**

**of**

**breeding animals and their germinal products**

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

- *the European Commission recently adopted a legislative proposal with the objective to set up the EU level of zootechnia and genealogical conditions for in and imports into the EU of breeding animals and their germinal products*
- *this proposal has been **presented for discussions** to the co-legislators (European Council and the European Parliament)*
- *some time before a final agreement is reached and before is applicable*



## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

*- current Union legislation is organized vertically according to species*

*- the new proposal aims to:*

- **To present in a SINGLE FORMAT of a Regulation for *bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species***
- **streamlining existing provisions**
- **Drafting on a more precise and consistent language (different national transposition of Directives or different language for similar or identical content)**
- **Avoid obstacles to trade resulting from national transpositions (the concept of *single market* and free circulation of goods and services must be respected)**
- **Adaptation to the Lisbon Treaty**

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootecnics

*The new proposal provides principles for:*

- recognition and **listing of breeding organisations***
- breeders associations and private undertakings*
- approval of their **breeding programmes***
- entering of animals in **herd books, flock-books, stud-books** and their classification according to merits*
- registration of **hybrid breeding pigs** in registers*
- performance testing and genetic evaluation*
- the content of zotechnical certificates for breeding animals and their semen, ova and embryos*

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

*In addition, the new proposal provides principles for:*

- imports from third countries of breeding animals, their semen, ova and embryos*
- the designation of reference centres for breeding of animals*
- provisions to carry out official controls*
- provisions to resolve disputes arising where zootechnical checks disclose non-compliance with zootechnical requirements*

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

*Reasons for this new proposal:*

*- cross border activities of approved breed societies*

*- problems raised by:*

- **Breeders**
- **Breed societies**
- **and Competent Authorities**
- **Different interpretation of the existing legislation**

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

- **obstructing EU cross-border activities of "foreigners" breeders' organizations.**
- **In some cases foreign breeder organizations are not authorized or not registered and in some other occasions, restrictions are put in order to "expand" or to "operate freely".**
- **Council directive 2009/157/EC (on pure-bred animals of bovine species) is very clear on its wording: "EU MS shall ensure that activities like intra-EU trade on pure-breed animals, on semen, ova, embryos, the establishment of herd-books and the recognition of organisations and associations maintaining herd-books ARE NOT PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED or IMPEDED on zootechnical grounds"**
- **COM Decision 84/247 provides the legal basis to refuse to recognise a new breeder's organisation (or association) but this is only in case it endangers the preservation of the breed or jeopardise the zootechnical programme of the existing organisation.**

## 4. The new EU Regulation on zootechnics

- *imposing unjustified restrictions on intra-EU trade of bovine **genetic material** (e.g. bovine semen included those which are **GS tested by ICAR/Interbull validated systems**)*
- *This is resulting on questioning the role of international standard setting organisations like ICAR.*
- *COM clarified during 2010 that the breeding values which are established in accordance with the approved systems (e.g.: ICAR/Interbull validation methods) **are on line with EU legislation** and qualify bulls so tested for artificial insemination in accordance to Directive 87/328/EEC.*
- *"own interpretation" for some genomic performance parameters in order to calculate the breeding value of an animal (e.g. -beef conformation- COM Decision 2006/427/EC)*

# The end

*Time for questions*

*Sergio PAVON*