



The EU at a glance

The EU food safety system

Patrick DEBOYSER

Minister-Counsellor - EU Delegation to Thailand
Professor – European College of Parma

The EU at a glance

What is the European Union?

A unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries.

What are its aims?

Peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens — in a fairer, safer world.

What results so far?

- Frontier-free travel and trade
- Better living standards in poorer regions
- Safer food and a greener environment
- Joint action on crime and terror
- Millions of opportunities to study abroad... and much more besides.



The EU at a glance

How does it work?

To make these things happen, bodies have been set up to run the EU and adopt its legislation.

The main ones are:

- the European Parliament
- the Council of the European Union
- the European Commission
- the European Court of Justice



The EU at a glance

The World's largest economy

Although growth is slowing, the EU remains the World's largest economy with a GDP per head of €25 000 for its 500 million consumers.

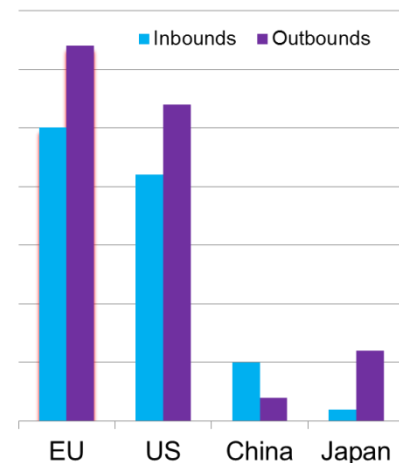
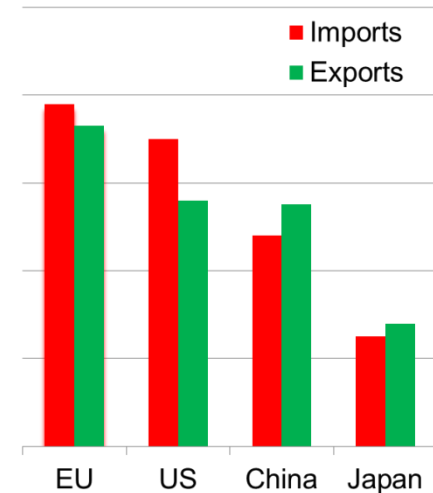
The World's largest trader

The EU is the world's largest trader (17%) of manufactured goods and services.

Unlike the USA (-5%) and Japan (-3%) which have most suffered from China's rise, the EU share of World trade has been stable over the last 10 years.

The World's largest investor

The EU ranks first in the World in both inbound and outbound international investments



White Paper on Food Safety (2000)

□ ***Structural reforms:***

- Reorganization of Commission services (DG SANCO)
- Creation of FVO (Food and Veterinary Office)
- Creation of EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)
- Reform of regulatory committee
- Creation of advisory group of the food chain

□ ***Procedural reforms:***

- RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed)
- Crisis management structure
- Emergency procedures

□ ***Legislative reforms:***

- New regulatory framework
- New legislation enacted (Regulations)
- Recasting (simplification) of existing legislation (Regulations)

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

- ❑ **Completed in record time!**
- ❑ **Based on a coherent and comprehensive approach:**
 - **Traceability ("from farm to table")**
 - **Functional separation between:**
 - **Risk assessment**
 - **Risk management**
 - **Risk assessment (EFSA):**
 - **Independency**
 - **Excellency**
 - **Risk management:**
 - **Based on risk assessment**
 - **Precautionary principle**
 - **Other legitimate factors**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Consultation of stakeholders**
 - **Access to information**

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

THE KEY OBLIGATIONS OF FOOD AND FEED BUSINESS OPERATORS

Safety

Operators shall not place on the market unsafe food or feed

Responsibility

Operators are responsible for the safety of the food and feed which they produce, transport, store or sell

Traceability

Operators shall be able to rapidly identify any supplier or consignee

Transparency

Operators shall immediately inform the competent authorities if they have a reason to believe that their food or feed is not safe

Emergency

Operators shall immediately withdraw food or feed from the market if they have a reason to believe that it is not safe

Prevention

Operators shall identify and regularly review the critical points in their processes and ensure that controls are applied at these points

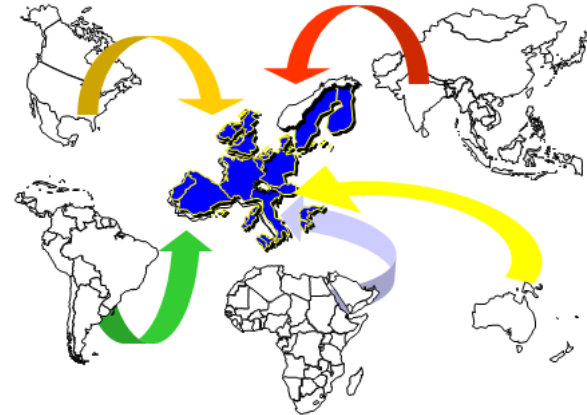
Co-operation

Operators shall co-operate with the competent authorities in actions taken to reduce risks

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

□ New legal framework for food business operators:

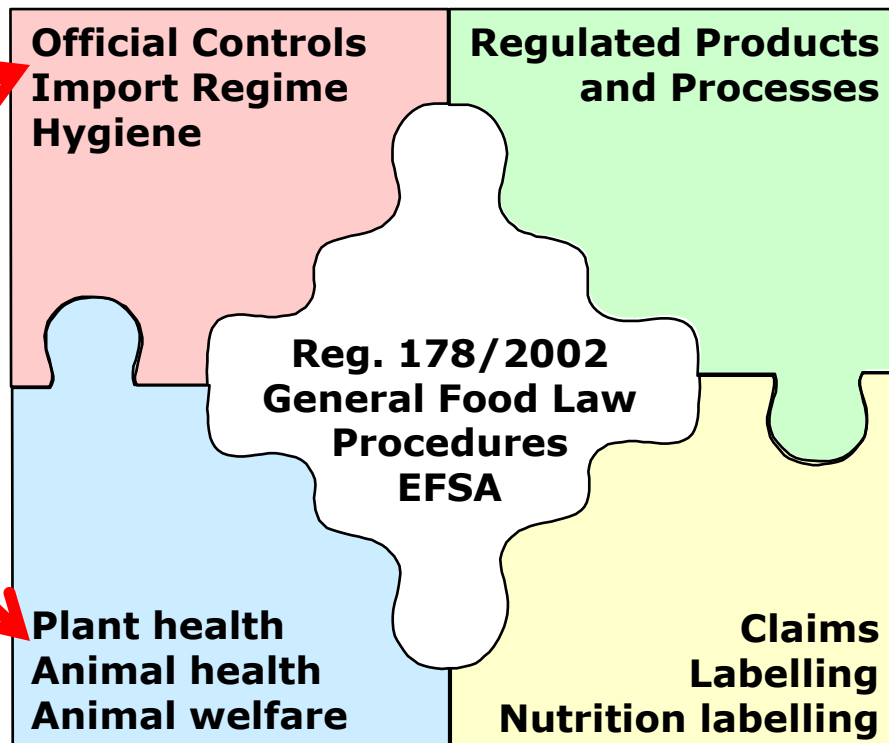
- **Clearly assigned responsibilities:**
 - Producers, wholesalers, retailers
 - Officials (controls)
- **Equal treatment of:**
 - Domestic producers
 - Importers from 1/3 countries



□ New emphasis on:

- **Enforcement**
- **Communication (Website, Guidance documents)**
- **Training ("Better Training for Safer Food")**

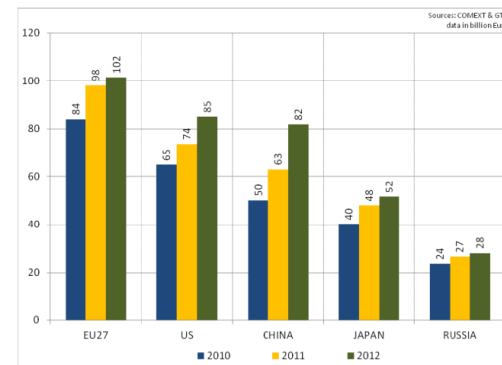
The EU food safety legislation



Arguably
the **strictest**
food safety
legislation
in the World !

Yet...

- ❑ The EU is, by far, the **largest importer** of agricultural products in the World.
- ❑ The EU imports more agricultural products from **developping countries** than the US, Canada, Australia, Japan and New Zealand together.
- ❑ The EU imports **60 %** of its consumption of **fish** and fishery products, from more than **90** countries around the World.





Thank you!