



EU regulatory harmonisation – international dimension

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Outline

- History – food safety milestones
- Food safety - International principles
- Importance in international trade
- Importance bilateral trade EU-Taiwan
- Conclusions

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History – Food safety milestones

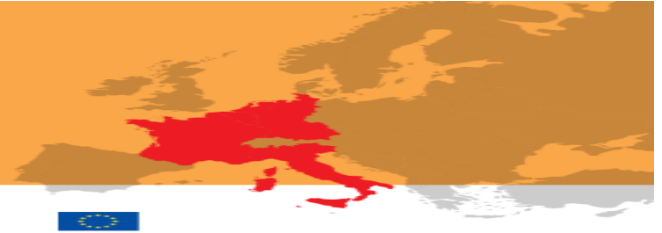




- **6 countries together: ECSC/EEC**
- **Post-war scarcity: food producers focus on the quantity of goods.**
- **No standard food safety measures in place across Europe.**
- **National governments own rules.**
- **1957: EEC facilitated free circulation of goods between MS - food products from across borders easier to obtain.**

1960s

on the up



- **6 countries together**
- **Food faced a longer and more complex journey, increased food safety risk.**
- **1963: Codex Alimentarius (UN/FAO and WHO)**
- **1964: First EU food hygiene rules, limited to requirements for fresh meat**
- **1969 International Code of Practice-General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1**



- **6 countries became 9**
- **Shift production of food in factories – preservation techniques.**
- **1971: EU harmonised hygiene rules poultry, health rules imports of cattle, swine and fresh meat**
- **1976: first EU rules on pesticides**
- **1979: RASFF – communication food/feed public health**
- **1979: first EU rules on food labels**



- **9 countries became 12**
- **Food scares made food safety an issue of growing public concern.**
- **Increase of food trade**
- **1985: EU ban on growth hormones**
- **1986: BSE**
- **EU – set-up of same high standards for food safety – EU production/imports**



- **12 countries became 15**
- **Consumers questioning confidence in food .**
- **Steep increase of food trade**
- **1993: EU single market creation**
- **1995: WTO SPS Agreement**
- **1997: creation of EU's FVO**
- **EU – solid body of Food safety, AH, PH legislation–high investment highest levels of food safety–public/authority communic., transparency, traceability, risk assessm...)**



- **15 countries became "28"**
- **Consumers became more alert to issues related to food safety**
- **EU: biggest global importer/exporter of Agri-food**
- **2002: EU General Food Law–Farm to the Fork**
- **2002: EFSA creation – scientific basis**
- **2004: Hygiene package/TRACES set-up -**
- **EU – one of highest levels of food safety in the world**

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The WTO... ... In brief



the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.



International trade rules food safety

- Since 1995 – WTO SPS Agreement
 - **Legally binding - WTO Members**
 - **Main principles:**
 - Science based risk analysis, transparency, harmonisation**
 - **Specific reference to international standards**
 - "Members **shall** base their SPS measures on international standards..."
 - "**CODEX**, IPPC, OIE specifically mentioned in Agreement"(Art 3)
 - **When deviating from IS – risk analysis based on science is required**
 - **SPS measures should be set with the objective of minimising negative trade effects**

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CODEX – food hygiene principles

- 1969: CODEX Standard on food hygiene principles - includes
 - **Identification of essential FH principles throughout the food chain**
 - **HACCP**
 - **Specific codes**
 - **Roles of Governments, industry/consumers**

CODEX – food hygiene principles

- Responsibilities of both industry and governments
 - ...
 - **provide assurance that food is suitable for human consumption;**
 - **maintain confidence in internationally traded food;**
 - **communication on food hygiene;**
 - ...

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- The **EU is Taiwan's fourth** trade partner after China, the USA and Japan. In 2011, Taiwan was the EU's seventh largest trading partner in Asia.
- Over the past years the EU has been the major source of foreign direct investment in Taiwan.

EU, Trade in goods with Taiwan

Trade flows by SITC section 2009 - 2013

Source Eurostat Comext - Statistical regime 4

		Imports (Mio €)					Exports (Mio €)				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Total	17,942	24,250	24,303	22,631	22,120	10,025	14,787	16,214	15,823	16,513
0	Food and live animals	43	42	56	53	50	271	333	398	410	432
1	Beverages and tobacco	12	14	16	22	22	249	328	409	469	444
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	240	315	398	344	359	406	598	511	406	325
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	232	411	210	24	100	125	49	50	213	231
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	1	1	2	19	21	26	29	36
5	Chemicals and related prod, n.e.s.	718	960	1,147	1,040	1,073	2,467	3,309	3,385	3,420	3,654
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,417	3,261	4,069	4,193	4,225	1,073	1,391	1,465	1,399	1,231
7	Machinery and transport equipment	12,045	16,528	15,800	14,311	13,544	4,219	7,248	8,208	7,827	8,332
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2,127	2,564	2,504	2,519	2,590	930	1,193	1,421	1,404	1,494
9	Commodities and transactions n.c.e.	96	116	70	87	109	122	193	136	128	171
	Other	12	38	32	37	47	145	124	205	117	163

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- EU: proven solid high level of food safety – transparent, stable, predictable, based on international standards
- Importance of respect International trade rules/standards – a must
- Safe, smooth, free and predictable trade is key
- Beneficial to both sides

THANK YOU

