#### SAVE THE DATE



Towards the **EU FOOD SAFETY FORUM**The new sustainability regulation: how to integrate it into food safety?

15th December 2022

h. 09:30 - 13:00 CET



Copa - Cogeca | European Farmers European Agri-Cooperatives
Room A 61, Rue de Trèves
Brussels







# What are the key challenges to ensure food safety for a Food Safety Authority?

#### **MAUROY Axel**

Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain



#### 1. The FASFC as Food safety authority in Belgium





# **Belgian Food Safety Agency** (FASFC)



1.400 employees	19 new markets	barometer : -6,6%
sample compliance : 97,5%	3.929 consumer complains	733 fraud investigations
547 CFP	114.486 missions	492 recalls and warnings

#### Towards the EU FOOD SAFETY FORUM | 15th December 2022





National Investigation Unit (NIU)



Our mission is to ensure that all actors in the food chain can provide the consumers and each other with the greatest possible assurance that the food, animals, plants and products they consume, keep or use are reliable, safe and protected, now and in the future.

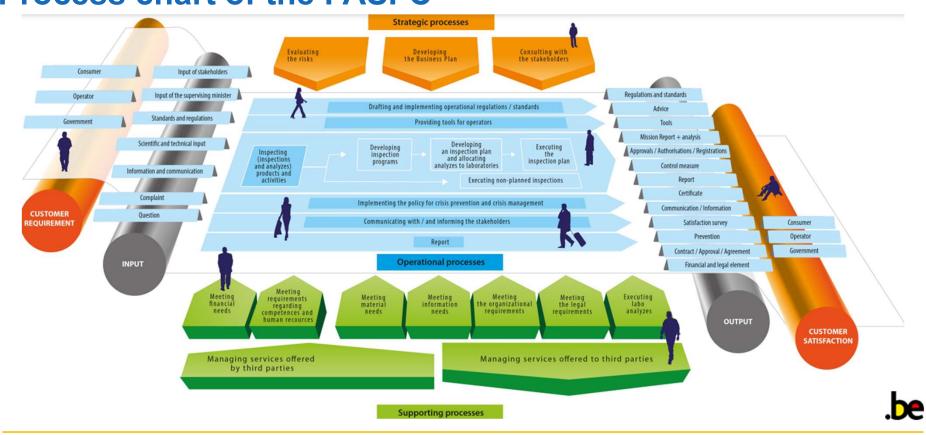






# FoodSafety4EU Process chart of the FASFC

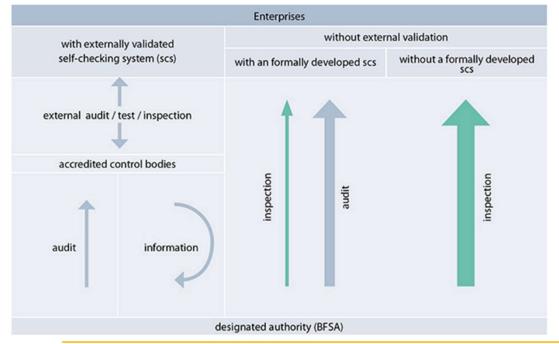
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! The garantee of the food safety must first be given by the

operator!

The stimulation of self-checking



Basic legislation (hygiene package, animal & plant health) and surveillance

Official controls, implementing legislation and enforcement

FBO

Implementation and self-checking procedures procedures

→ The FSA is implementing the control in the chain and must give to the operators all the necessary means to know, understand and implement the reglementation

From risk perception to risk management via risk

assessment















# 2. Food safety vs food security vs food sustainability: challenge means for the Food safety authority





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Services

Wage labour

Processing: FOOD /FEED

**FOOD Primaire processing** 

The risk analysis process is at the heart of a complex food chain

Slaughter Arable crops Independent basis Extraction Fruit and vegetables Harvesting Conservation Fruit and vegetables **FOOD Secundaire processing** Livestock production Cutting **Production animals** Processing Cattle - Pigs - Poultry - Rabbits - Farmed game RTE Production Crustaceans FEED Molluscs Animal feed production Other Storage / Transport **Hunting and fishing** In-house / At/by the trader Game At/by third parties Large - Small **NON-FOOD** production Fish Crustaceans B to B Fertilisers Other Plant protection products Trade Direct sale Chemicals Local Additives National Processing aids Intra-communal Third party country Packaging materials Traders Technical oils Markets Wage labour Auctions Independent basis Energy Assembly centres Direct sales in/from the Other products (talc, etc.) enterprise on street BtoB **Retail Trade** Distribution Butchery **Environmental Temperature** Bakery Cold Frozen On Site Street Markets Take-away Consumer Consumption on site Collectivity

Primaire production: FOOD/ FEED

Growing/Propagating material

→ means different challenges (at least for the Food Safety authority)

## Globalisation means needs for further and tighter collaborations

- Controls at borders
- Regulation and standards (norms) diversity
- Fraud
- Sharing data e.g. molecular data from foodborne outbreaks
- Strengthening European cooperation and collaboration (EFSA)

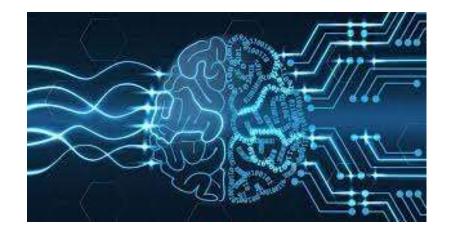




#### Science as essential support for the missions of a FSA

#### Game changer technologies:

- Artifical Intelligence
- blockchain
- Next-Generation Sequencing, Whole Genome Sequencing
- Nanotechnologies
- Controversial: OGMs, cloning, in vitro food
- New assessment procedures: 'one substance one assessment', exposome, biomarkers, cumulative risk assessment
- Facilitating research will inform 'Regulatory' science
- Risk- and science-based policies in control programs





# Food safety authorities must develop a culture of data acquisition and management

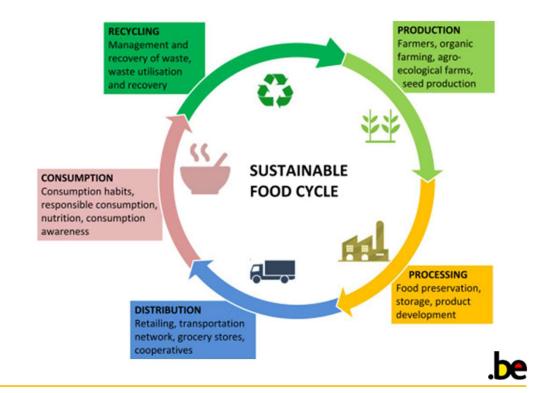
- Data access
- Data exchange
- Data inter-operability
- Data use
- Big data
- Horizon scanning tools for faster detection of new emerging issues





## Needs for sustainability when living on a limited hearth

- Environmental constraints
- Climate changes
- Decreasing waste
- Resources maximalisation
- Adaptation of FS policies to new consumer habits



## New European/national politics are also driving the work of FSA

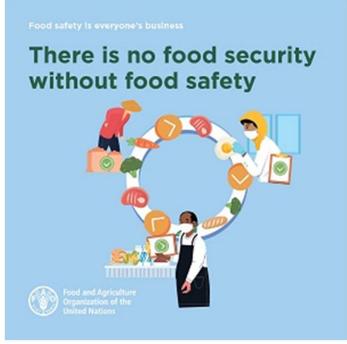
- New Plant Health Law
- New Animal Health Law
- Green deal
- Farm to fork strategy
- Needs for unifying the European regulation(s)
- Joining and implementing the One Health concept
- Funding!





## Food safety is tightly linked to secure food

- Socio-economical constraints can lead to food safety issues, food shortages, food chain breaks (breachs?)
- Fraud is first an economical issue but that can lead to food safety issues





## 3. Conclusions





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## **Operational challenges for a Food Safety Authority**

- Risk assessment → risk- and science-based policies
- o Fraud
- Accessibility and transparency for the consummer (contact point)
- Communication! → Take advantage of (social) medias to increase awareness and confidence of consumers
- Risk communication vs risk perception (crisis)

#### Socio-economical challenges

- New policies
- Fraud
- New consumer habits, new trends
- Globalisation



## Technological challenges

- Quick appropriation of new technologies
- Data management
- New process to ensure food sustainability

#### Strategic challenges

- Funding (financial support)
- Innovation and standardisation in risk assessment
- o Improvement of education, training, skills and experience of human resources
- Strengthening participation in research activities
- Strengthening collaboration between Member states
- Crisis Proparadness I



○ Crisis Preparedness !

Beyond the challenges that are facing all the actors of the food chain, we will have to feed 10 billion people from 2050 and we will need to get the trade-offs right between sustainability (including make better use of the food already produced), food security and food safety.

Furthermore, food safety and sustainability shall not be considered apart from food sovereignety and food equity

This will/must be OUR common challenge for the next decades





