

SVETOVNI DAN VARNOSTI HRANE 2022

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2022

4. konferenca ob svetovnem dnevu varnosti hrane 2022

4th Conference On World Food Safety Day 2021

Ljubljana, Državni svet, 7. junij 2022

Challenges for European directives: Case 178/2002 20 years later

Nikolche Babovski, DVM*

- Title: Director
- Institution: Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia
- mail: nbabovski@fva.gov.mk

Za javnost/For public dissemination

Statement

Food safety issues are many times global issues. Many factors likely to impact **food safety**.

Macedonian citizens have access to safe and wholesome food thanks to the highest standards of the European Union.

Why EU standards?

1. Aspiration of the Republic of North Macedonia for EU Membership; and
2. EU **standards** are stricter and the **highest** in an international comparison. They ensure a **high level of protection of human life** and consumers' interests in relation to food

Main details for retrospective overview → next slides

Statement

Past challenges (before year 2010) - 1: National legislation (Food safety Law (“Official Journal of RM” No 54/2002) and Veterinary Public Health Law (“Official Journal of RM” No 114/2007)) was aligned with the EU General Food Safety Law (EU Regulation 178/2002).

HOWEVER, institutional structure and layout of food safety system control in Republic of **North** Macedonia distributed in both ministries, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and Ministry of health was complex. Accordingly, **it was necessary to examine the possibility for reorganization of the system.**

Statement

Past challenges (before year 2010) - 2: Therefore, for the purpose of complementing certain segments and areas it was necessary that Republic of Macedonia develops relevant food safety system towards providing **integrated and comprehensive approach, “from farm to fork”**. These required re-arrangement of existing approach for food safety and food quality at national level. Accordingly, 01.01.2011: Food and Veterinary Agency was established.

Statement

This includes adaptation and harmonizing of methods for control, preparation and implementation of legislation, implementation of EU approach to official controls. In addition, new institutional reorganization, aiming at appropriate coordination in food control system, efficiency improvement, financial control of budget resources and transparency, was taken into consideration as an essential element.

Statement

Ten years ago (2010): *Macedonian Food Safety Law* has been adopted. Main progress and at the same time reform in food safety control system in Republic of Macedonia has been achieved with adoption of Law on Food safety published in “Official Journal of RM” 157/2010 from 08.12.2010.

As before 2010, the general principles and requirements concerning food and feed law in the Republic of North Macedonia are established in line with those at EU level, i.e. **the Regulation 178/2002**.

This framework Food safety law, from viewpoint of institutional strengthening and integrated approach, established the Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) that incorporated both Veterinary Directorate, under Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and Food Directorate, under Ministry of Health. In accordance to article 119 of this law, FVA is the competent authority for coordination of the legislation and the control systems for issues related to food and feed safety between relevant institutions in Republic of Macedonia as well as for communication with the institutions of the European Union in relation to the food safety, feed safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy.

Statement

The Agency's is competent for the following control systems: 1) Control system for animal health; 2) Control system for food of animal origin; 3) Control system for imports of food of animal origin; 4) Control system for feeding-stuff and animal nutrition; 5) Control system for TSE and animal by products; 6) Control system for veterinary medicines and residues; 7) Control system for general food hygiene 8) Control system for imports of food of plant origin; 9) Control system for pesticides; and 10) Control system for animal welfare.

Statement

Another fact/s: Crisis management related to food safety area has been developed as a legal obligation of Law on food safety (“Official Journal of Republic of Macedonia” 157/**2010**), defining the procedures and actions to be taken by the competent authorities in the case of emergency situation relating to food.

Statement

The EFSA collaboration (1):

The Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia, in the role of a national contact point for EFSA in the Republic of North Macedonia, actively participated in the activities of individual thematic working groups organized by the European Food Safety Agency, in different thematic areas.

Statement

The EFSA collaboration (2):

The participation in the work of the working bodies of the European Food Safety Agency contributes to the process of building and strengthening the capacities of the Food and Veterinary Agency in terms of risk assessment and communication, and at the same time provides opportunities for implementation of joint projects, international cooperation in the field of risk assessment, establishment and operation of a database containing national institutions and experts involved in the process of risk assessment and communication in various fields, etc.

Statement

The EFSA collaboration (3):

The FVA is beneficiary of the IPA project overall objective is to foster links between EFSA and the IPA beneficiaries, contributing to the growth of a food safety community by building capacity in risk assessment and risk communication. The workshop focused in the latter, and intended to increase capacity and present different approaches to food safety risk communications.

Statement

The European Commission assessments and recommendations (1): The EC Progress Report on RM - 2011 (1), a year after establishment of the Food and Veterinary Agency:
“Good progress has been made in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, in particular with regard to the adoption of a new Framework Law on Food Safety , the establishment of a new Food and Veterinary Agency and the implementation of various programs for the eradication of animal diseases. The administrative capacity of the Food and Veterinary Agency, and in terms of the number and competence of its staff, is still insufficient to ensure proper implementation of the acquis.

Statement

MAIN FACTS - 1:

The European Commission assessments and recommendations: EC Progress Report on RSM - 2011 (2): According to the *European Commission*, the Food and Veterinary Agency provides a high level of food safety. "The assessment of animal health, welfare and safety of food of animal origin and animal nutrition is also positive."

Statement

MAIN FACTS - 2:

The European Commission assessments and recommendations: The EC Progress Report on RSM - 2016-2021: EC Progress Report on RSM - 2016 - 2021: The country has a good level of preparation in the field of food safety and veterinary policy.

Apart from progress and strengthening in certain areas with recommendations from the European Commission with further efforts by the FVA, there are no problematic issues noted by the EC Except for 2018 when the EC Report was not published, due to the transitional phase of introducing the new accession methodology in the EU (division of Chapters by cluster)

Statement

*The **challenges ahead** of implementing EU Food Law in the Republic of North Macedonia:*

Lack of scientific support including financial resources for effective and timely measures for **risk assessment activities** related to food and feed safety (as well as nutrition, animal health and welfare, protection of plant health).

Possible solutions: new project for capacity building with regards to risk assessment

Statement

Final note: *The Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia* remains dedicated to successful implementation of the EU Regulation 178/2002.

Statement

Thank you very much for your interest and attention!