



Recalls in meat supply chains

Bert Urlings

Amsterdam 2 maart 2023



Food that **Matters**

Content

1. Introduction
2. FBOs responsibility within EU framework
3. Authorities moves
4. Discussion??



Vion is a leading European producer of pork and beef



4,7

Revenue for 2021
in billion euros



One shareholder
Zuidelijke Land- en
Tuinbouw-organisatie (ZLTO)



Employees

12,150

Average number of employees in FTEs
in 2021 (including flex workers)



Part of top 100
largest global food
companies



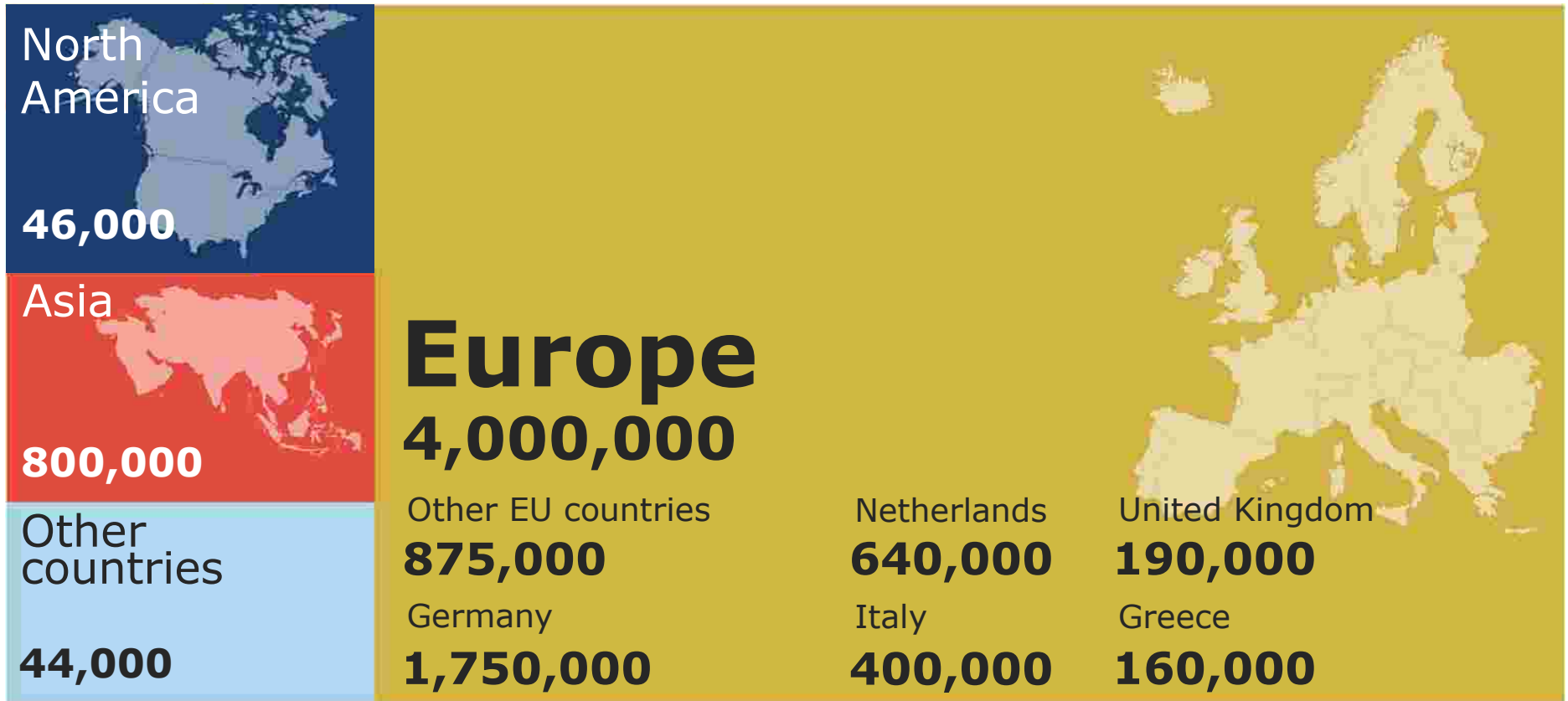
Production locations
The Netherlands –
Germany-Belgium

**Market
leadership**
In the Netherlands
and Germany

**13 Sales
support
offices**
worldwide

Over 100 million consumers per day enjoy our meat

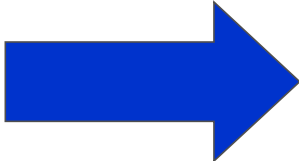
Markets served (Net turnover in 2020 per market in thousands of euros)



Vion's responsibility to control food safety



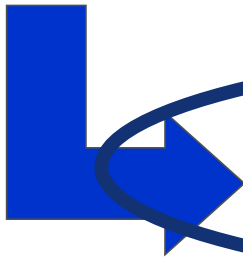
Europe
USA
China



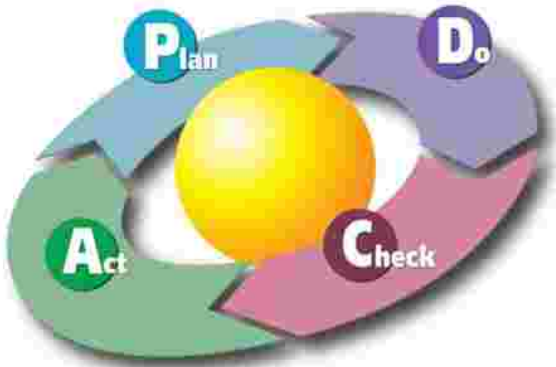
Responsibility (supply chain of) producers



Show performance of food safety control (eg. Food Chain Information)



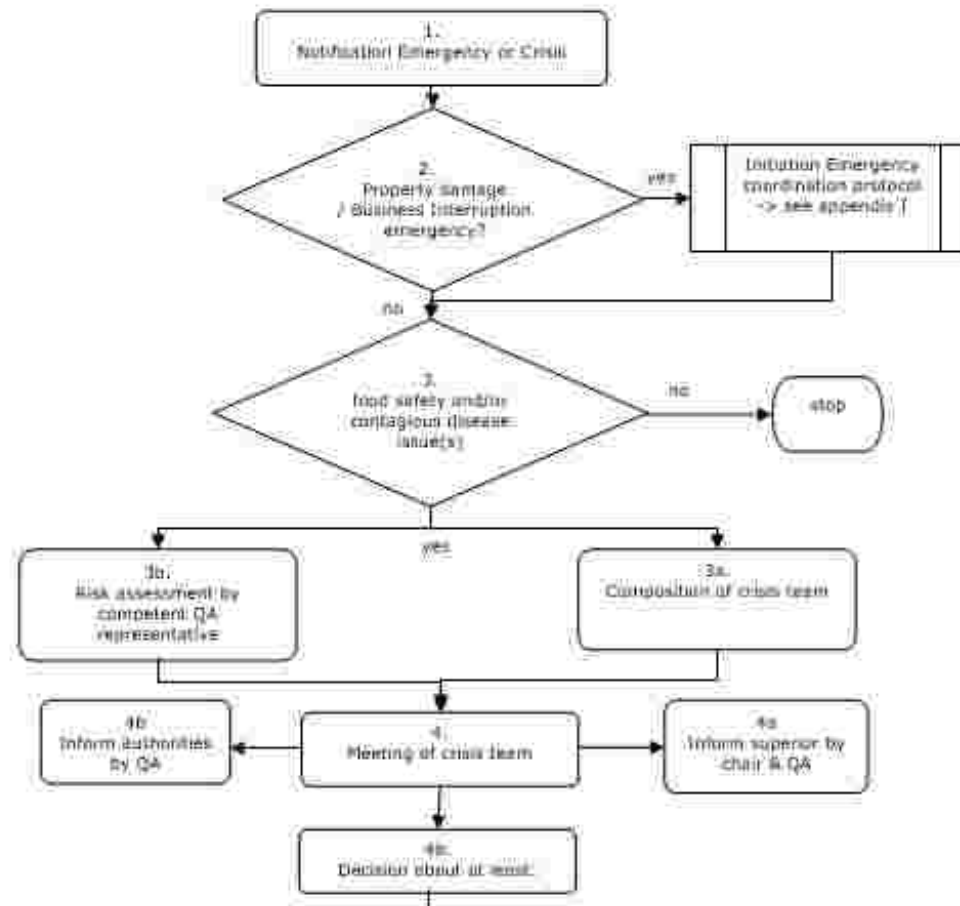
- 1. Systems and procedures
- 2. Need for transparent and easy data collection



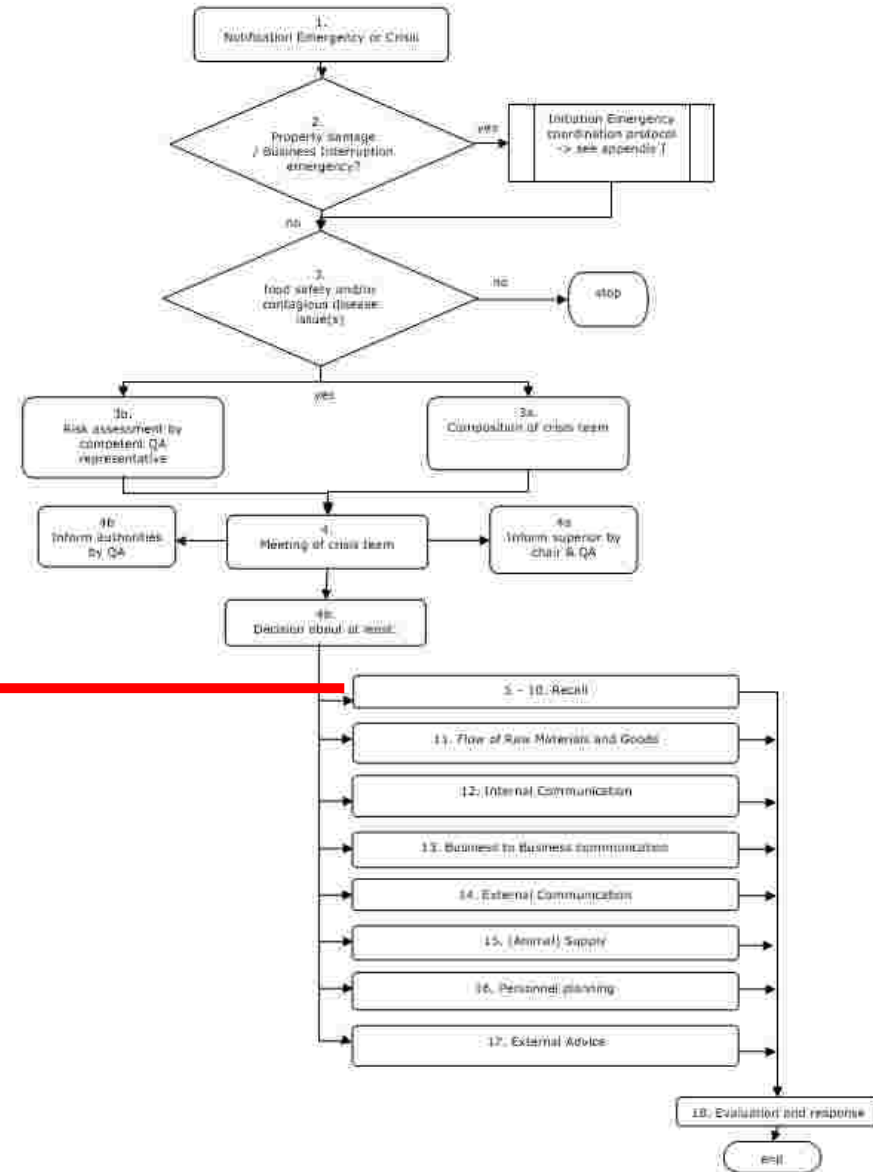
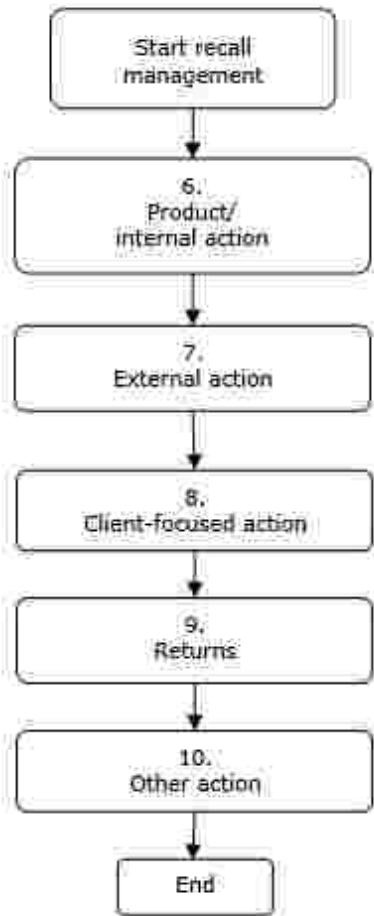
Food Safety Assurance: structure of control (content and system)

- HACCP plan based on Codex Alimentarius combined with pre-requisite programme
- FBO Procedures: including PDCA
- FBO Verification: checks and balances at the work floor
- First party audit: peer system review of colleagues working on other production sites
- Second party audit: customers carrying out audits at production level
- Third party audit: accredited CI's carry out audits on recognised standards.
- Government supervision, both within the own territory and importing authorities.

Crisis management: initiation phase



Crisis management: implementation



Legal basis for a recall (business to public)

General Food Law:

- Risk Assessment
- Pre-cautionary principle
- Food Safety risk / increased Public health risk
- Proportionality

Market withdrawal (business to business):

- In specific cases, mentioned in legislation, e.g. with meat preparations and salmonella.

Change in the policy of the authority during 2022

Whenever a product did not fulfil any legal requirement in any stage before the current stage of the product: the authorities order a market withdrawal, or even a recall of the product.

This previous stage can be e.g.:

- Farm: e.g. lost identification number of the animal
- Slaughter: authorities reconsider the meat inspection decision

The applicable legislation of the current state of the product is not considered at al.

Depending on the product e.g. pasta or meat different protocol is applied by the authority.

:

Processes within the competent authority

Balance of Power

- The current authority just takes the freedom to let an individual interpret EU Regulations based on a single inspectors consideration (within the EU legislative framework this is reserved for the member states policy organisations >> Ministries).
- An individual who does the interpretation of the EU Regulation, decides on the status of an observation >> can conclude to e.g. recall a product.
- The authority decides within the own organisation concerning an appeal.
- The same individual shows up at court to secundant the state lawyer at the trial for court.
- The opinion of companies and individuals who go into appeal is not taken seriously anymore within the current "Bestuursrecht".

Behaviour of the competent authority

Rule of Law / Legal Security

- Most announcements of the authority are not official notices
 - No appeal possible
- When a legal notice is sent out:
 - It will be announced at Friday afternoon around 17.00 hrs
 - And expire at Monday morning 8.00 hrs
- Emergency Appeal “Kort Geding” is not accepted at Court while the time period is expired (“no urgent need anymore”)
- Communication of the members of the authority is often not in agreement with the legal framework. Thus causing unnecessary nuisance.