

## ACTION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY FOR 2024 and 2025 TRADE FACILITATION

### I - EXPERT WORKING GROUP FOR AGRICULTURE, SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

**Chaired by: Milanka Davidović**, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

The expert working group for agriculture, sanitary and phytosanitary measures considers issues and proposes initiatives that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of foreign trade exchange in agricultural and food products. In the issues and initiatives that it considers and proposes, the expert working group makes sure that veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary measures pertaining to foreign trade in agricultural and food products are adopted and applied in the manner that does not burden the economy more than is necessary in order to ensure appropriate protection of life and health of people, plants and animals.

	Planned activity	Measures for the implementation of activities	Competent institutions	Outcome indicator
1.	Improvement of electronic submission of requests and supporting documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improvement of the functioning of the electronic submission of requests for control of goods in order to facilitate import and export, and shortening the time of import controls, for shipments within the scope of competences of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM).</li><li>Preparation of a report on the state of play and deadlines for the introduction of the electronic system for submitting requests, as well as a proposal for next steps in order to introduce the electronic system as quickly as possible, for shipments within the scope of competences of the Ministry of Health.</li></ul>	<p>MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration)</p> <p>MH (Sector for Inspection Affairs)</p>	<p>Shortening the time of holding shipments at border crossings.</p> <p>Prepared report on the current situation necessary for the introduction of the electronic system, with a proposal for next steps.</p>

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2.	Improvement of the cooperation of line ministries with authorised laboratories, with the aim of improving work and speeding up the provision of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish, in all cases (regardless of the subject inspection service), the practice of random selection of authorised laboratories that can perform analyses for all required parameters and that are geographically closer when sampling goods during the import process.</li> <li>Inspection services that do not have a random selection of laboratories to provide information on the necessary prerequisites for the introduction of such a system.</li> <li>Preparation of a report on the performed supervision of laboratory work (in accordance with the signed contracts)</li> <li>Establishment of electronic communication between laboratories and inspection services regarding the submission of reports on performed analyses.</li> </ul>	MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration)  MH (Sector for Inspection Affairs)	<p>Established random selection of authorised laboratories.</p> <p>Prepared report on the prerequisites and deadlines for the establishment of a random selection of laboratories.</p> <p>Prepared report on the performed supervision of laboratory work</p> <p>Established electronic communication system of laboratories and inspection services.</p>
3.	Continuous improvement of the capacity of inspection services and economic operators, in order to standardise and speed up the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardisation of the work of inspection services (within individual inspections) in order to speed up the flow of goods.</li> </ul>	MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration)  MH (Sector for	<p>Prepared procedures that standardise the work of inspection services.</p> <p>Annual training plan for the inspection service was drawn up.</p>

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	implementation of administrative procedures for the control of shipments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raising the awareness of business operators (importers, exporters, customs agents) regarding the new procedures and/or the most common mistakes when preparing documentation for goods control.</li> <li>Strengthening the administrative capacities of inspection at border crossings and in the country.</li> </ul>	Inspection Affairs)	<p>Completed training of inspectors in individual areas of work.</p> <p>Held workshops with business operators with the support of the business community.</p> <p>Recruitment of new employees.</p> <p>Modernisation of equipment necessary for performing inspection controls.</p>
4.	Improvement of the system of risk analysis during the control of goods by all inspection services in order to facilitate the international traffic of shipments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction and further improvement of models for risk analysis when importing goods.</li> <li>Drafting and/or revision of internal procedures for risk management and the acting of inspectors</li> </ul>	<p>MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration)</p> <p>MH (Sector for Inspection Affairs)</p>	<p>Prepared methodological instructions for the application of risk analysis in all inspection services.</p> <p>Adopted official control and monitoring plans based on risk assessment.</p> <p>Developed internal procedures for risk</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of IT tools for analysis and risk management used for the implementation of control of goods during importation.</li> </ul>		<p>management.</p> <p>Use of IT tools for risk analysis and risk management in all inspection services.</p>
5.	Reduction of the volume of mandatory documentation and formalities in the procedures of international shipment traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the list of products for which it is not mandatory to obtain a decision on the fulfillment of veterinary-sanitary conditions for import and transit.</li> <li>Establish the electronic submission of requests and accompanying documentation, as well as the issuance of decisions.</li> <li>Establish a consultative function of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management regarding the import or particularly requirements in terms of product safety and quality, mandatory documentation and</li> </ul>	<p>MAFWM (Veterinary Administration)</p> <p>MAFWM</p>	<p>Amendments to relevant regulations. Holding quarterly meetings with representatives of the business community in order to more actively approach the expansion of the list.</p> <p>A complete e-RecordsAndFilingOffice system has been established.</p> <p>A procedure was established for business consultations pertaining to the fulfilment of requirements for products the</p>

		<p>its content, especially for mixed products and products the regulations of which are not harmonised with EU requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a joint position of the MDFT and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry regarding the requirements for food declaration arising from the Law on Trade (MDFT) and the Rulebook on Declaring, Labelling and Advertising of Food (MAFWM).</li> </ul>	MDFT and MAFWM	<p>regulations of which are not harmonised with EU requirements, and a published contact point on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.</p> <p>In accordance with the common position, harmonise the requirements for declaring food in the relevant regulations.</p>
6.	Acceleration of procedures for obtaining conditions for placing products on different markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive cooperation with competent institutions of other countries of potential importers/exporters with mutual cooperation of chambers of commerce of interested countries.</li> </ul>	MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration)  MH (Sector for Inspection Affairs)	<p>Held workshops with business operators with the support of the business community.</p> <p>Completed procedures necessary for the achievement of import/export of certain agricultural and food products.</p>
7.	Improvement of cooperation within the framework of CEFTA, Open Balkan Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation in the work of CEFTA competent bodies in order to reach an agreement regarding the harmonisation and recognition of mutual documents in trade in agricultural and food products.</li> </ul>	MAFWM (Veterinary Administration and Plant	<p>Reports on the implementation of activities</p>

	and other international agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation in the implementation of activities necessary for the implementation of the Decision of the Joint Committee of the Agreement on Free Trade in Central Europe 2006 number 1/2020 on facilitating trade in fruits and vegetables.</li> <li>• Active participation in the implementation of activities agreed within the framework of the Open Balkans initiative in order to facilitate the trade of agricultural and food products.</li> </ul>	Protection Administration) MH (Sector for Inspection Affairs)	within CEFTA, the Open Balkans initiative and other international agreements.
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