

Top 10 for an effective fight against food fraud

Conclusions of the Conference

“Food Fraud - A joint effort to ensure the safety and integrity of our food”

presented by Director General Silvio Borrello

*Event organised by the Minister of health in collaboration with
the European Commission under the Italian Presidency*

1. To develop a definition of “food fraud” to be included in European legislation, in compliance with the judicial systems of Member States
2. To ensure adequate training for the staff of the competent authorities involved in official controls in the agri-food chain, focused on investigative techniques of police authorities, which identify fraudulent practices in a timely manner.
3. To ensure that specific controls, aimed at identifying possible fraudulent practices, are carried out along the entire agri-food chain, in addition to official controls planned and performed according to Regulation (EC) 882/2004.
4. To implement, in each Member State, all measures and tools necessary to develop an effective and operational collaboration among all stakeholders (competent and judicial authorities and police bodies), including a rapid exchange of data and information relating to possible food frauds.
5. To guarantee that competent authorities implement, with increasing efficiency, the rules on cooperation and administrative assistance provided for in the current European legislation on official controls (Title VI of Regulation (EC) 882/2004) to ensure an effective and prompt exchange of information and data to facilitate cross-border investigations and prompt adoption of corrective measures.
6. To promote and support the European Commission initiatives aimed at establishing networks for a rapid exchange of information with Third Countries about goods and animals entering or leaving the European Union regarding suspected fraudulent practices to allow for an increased level of official controls for imports and exports.
7. To promote and support initiatives of the European Commission to set up information systems for the collection and management of data on official controls carried out along the agri-food chain, in order to create a permanent monitoring facility. This will help with the detection of anomalous patterns in the agri-food chain and in turn with a timely identification of possible fraudulent practices to be promptly shared with police bodies and European and national judicial authorities.
8. To promote partnerships and cooperation among stakeholders, including food business operators and exploit their experience in preventing and discovering fraudulent behaviors and practices.
9. To ensure the creation of systems and networks to collect useful information from business operators, even confidentially, about possible fraudulent practices to share with police bodies.
10. To ensure that food fraud penalties have a deterrent effect, severely impacting on profits illegally sought or obtained.