

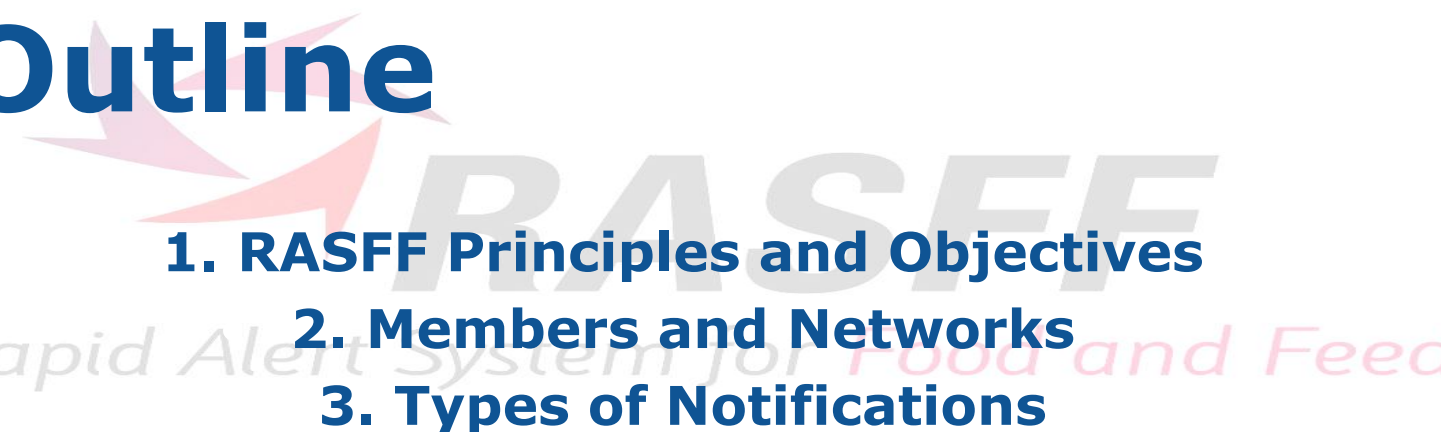
Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

AU workshop: Food Safety Authority – Rapid Alert System
Kigali, 29-30 October 2012

Moustapha Magumu (EU DEL/AU-Addis Ababa)

Outline

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- 1. RASFF Principles and Objectives**
2. Members and Networks
3. Types of Notifications
4. Notification Template and Platform
5. Link with EFSA & International Collaboration (WHO)
6. RASFF at Work: example
6. Publications

The system principles



Objective



To provide a **rapid exchange of information** among European countries and the European Commission **about direct or indirect risks** detected in relation to food or feed



RASFF members

31 European countries:

- 27 Member States of the EU
- 3 EFTA/EEA countries (IS, LI, NO)
- Switzerland – partial participation

European Commission; European Food Safety Authority and EFTA Surveillance Authority

<http://ec.europa.eu/rasff>

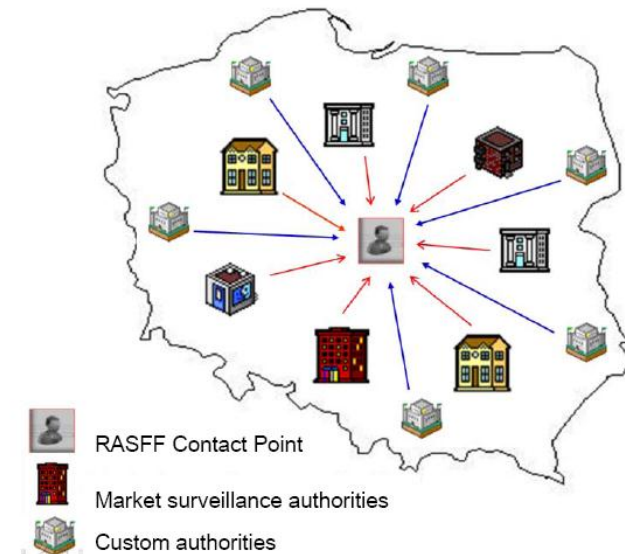
RASFF networks

European level:

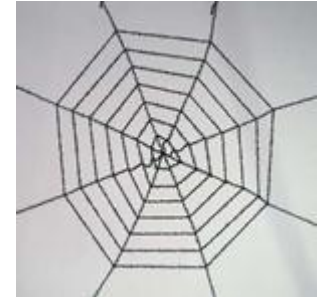
- **31 RASFF Contact Points**
- **1 single Contact Point per MS**

National level network includes:

- **RASFF National Contact Point**
- **Market surveillance authorities**
- **Border control authorities**



RASFF networks

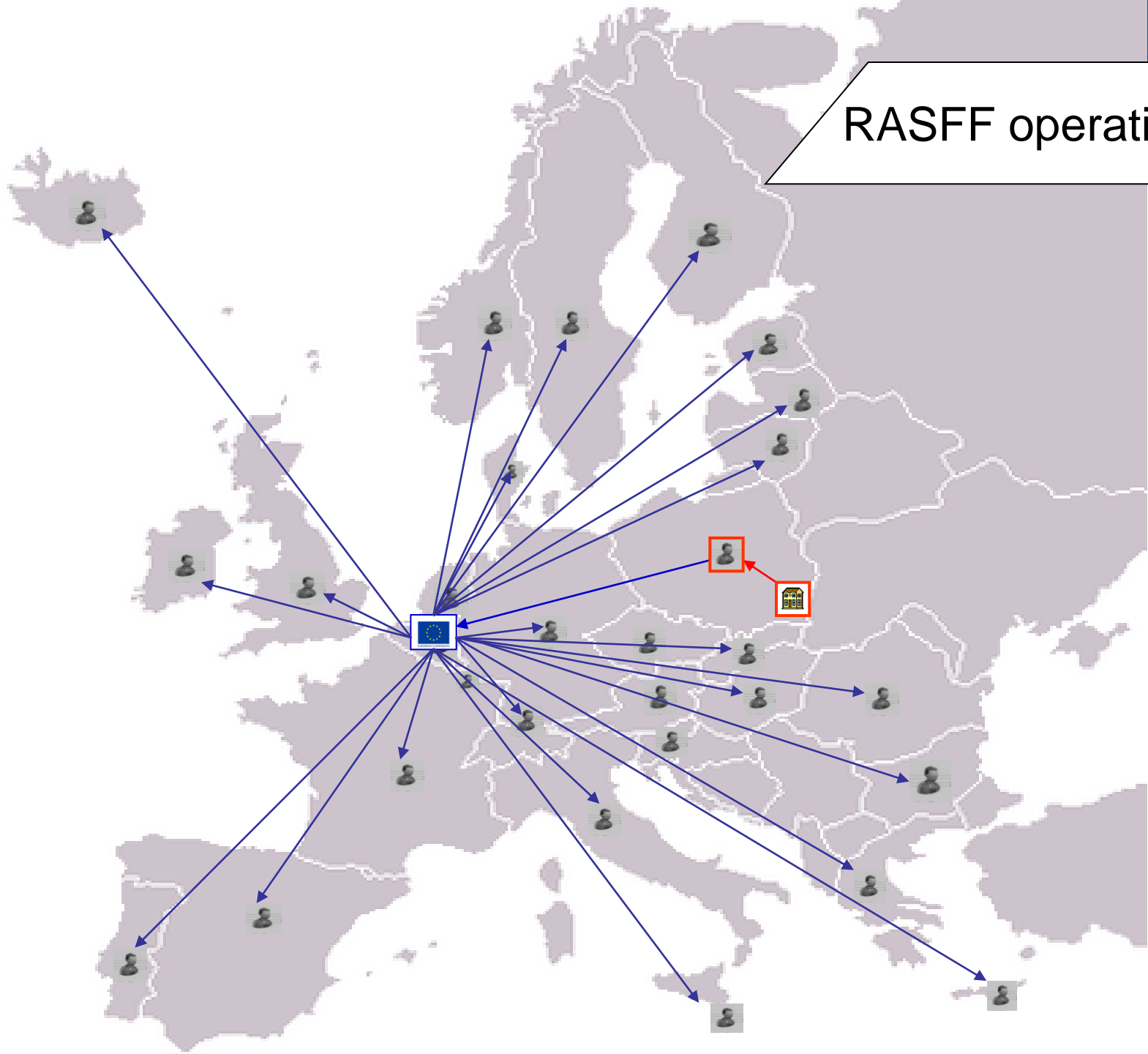


Simple structure:

- **clearly identified contact points**
- **Organised way of information exchange by means of template**

In case of an urgent notification outside of office hours all members have out-of-hours arrangements (24/7)

RASFF operation



RASFF - Legal basis

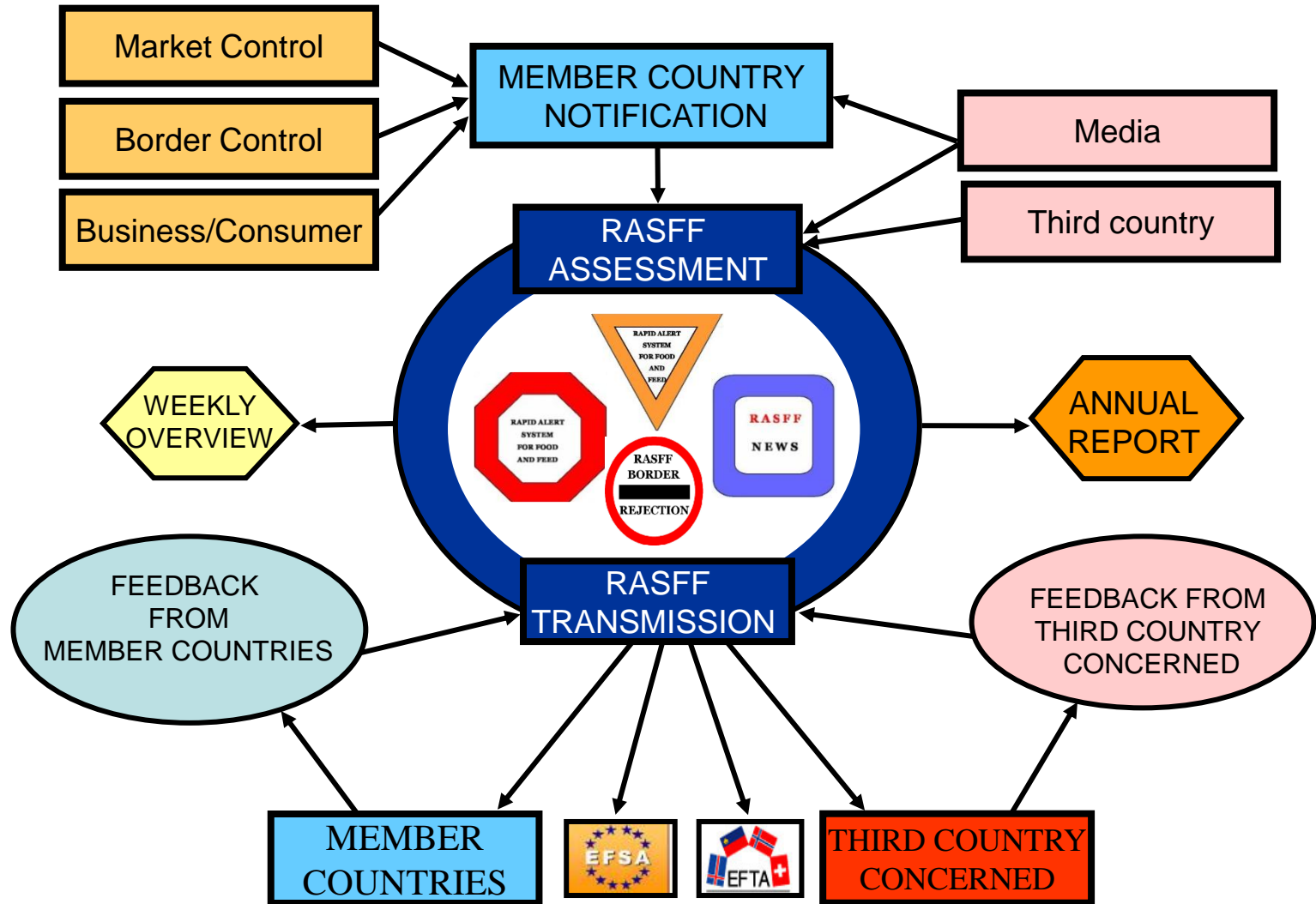
Articles 50-52 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of **Food Law**

Commission Regulation (EU) 16/2011 laying down implementing measures for the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed





European Commission



Health and Consumers

Criteria for notification

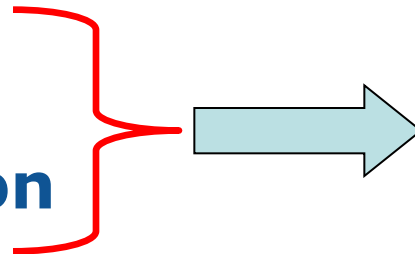
Food and feed for which exists a direct or indirect risk to human health

Since 2006 also animal health and environmental threat for feed: this includes pet food (Regulation (EC) N° 183/2005)

Types of notifications

Types of notifications based on seriousness of the risk and distribution status in the EU

- **Alert**
- **Information**
- **Border rejection**
- **News**



NOTIFICATIONS

Each of above notifications is usually accompanied by **follow-ups** informing about actions taken by member or third countries

Alert Notifications

- **Food or feed for which a serious risk has been identified**
- **Product is on the market**
- **Immediate action is required by members of the network**



Information Notifications

- **Food or feed for which a serious risk has been identified but no rapid action required on the product**
- Or
- **Not a serious risk but useful for food/feed control in other member countries**



Border Rejection Notifications

- Any rejection, related to a direct or indirect risk, of a batch, container or cargo of food or feed at a border post



News Notifications

- **Information related to the safety of food/feed**
- **Not communicated as an 'alert', 'information' or 'border rejection'**
- **But judged as interesting for the control authorities**



What triggers RASFF notifications

Usually triggered by:

- **A control on the market**
- **A control at the EU border**

Usually an official control but it can be an own-check, verified by official authorities and followed up by an official control if necessary

Consumers' complaint – minority of the cases:

- **e.g. food poisoning**

Templates – main content

General information

Hazards

Product

Risk/measures

Traceability of the lot(s)

Border control

Other information



GENERAL INFORMATION:

1	Notification type:	
2	Notifying country:	
3	Contact point reference n°:	
4	Basis for the notification:	
5	Related RASFF notification n°:	
6	Date of notification:	
7	Countries flagged for action:	

HAZARDS:

8	Hazard category:	other:
9	Hazards found:	
10	Results of the tests:	/ / / /
11	Counter analysis:	; /
12	Sampling	dates: / / / /
13		n° of samples:
14		method:
15		place: other/name:
16	Laboratory:	
17	Analysis	sample treatment/ analytical matrix:
18		method of analysis:
19	Persons affected:	
20	Type of illness/symptoms:	

PRODUCT:

21	Product category:	other:
22	Product relation to the product notified in linked notification:	other/more info:
23	Product name (on label):	
24	Product description	brand / trade name:
25		product aspect (e.g. packaging):
26		barcode n°:
27		other labelling info:
28	unit weight/vol.:	units

RISK / MEASURES

29	Distribution status:	
30	Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> serious concern: human health
31		motivation:
32	Legislation in breach:	
33	scope:	European
34	max. permitted level:	analytical units
35	Voluntary measures:	<input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) <input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) <input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) used as <input type="checkbox"/> physical treatment - <input type="checkbox"/> informing recipients <input type="checkbox"/> public warning / press release: other/more info:
36	Compulsory measures:	<input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) <input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) <input type="checkbox"/> product (to be) used as <input type="checkbox"/> physical treatment - <input type="checkbox"/> informing recipients <input type="checkbox"/> public warning / press release: <input type="checkbox"/> reinforced checking other/more info:
37	date of entry into force:	
38	duration:	

TRACEABILITY OF THE LOT(S):

39	Consignment(s) / lot number(s):	/ / / /
40	Durability dates	use-by date: / / /
41		best before date: / / /
42		sell-by date: / / /
43	Description of the lot	number of units: / / /
44		total gross weight/volume of lot: units units units
45		Public health certificate
46	number(s): / / /	
47	date(s): / / /	
48	CVED/CED number(s): / / /	
49	Country of origin:	
50	select company type	name: COU street + nr:

51		postal + city:	approval / reg. number:
52	select company type	name:	
53		street + nr:	country:
54		postal + city:	approval / reg. number:

DISTRIBUTION:

55	Distributed by	select company	
56		select company	
57	select company type	name:	
58		street + nr:	country:
59		postal + city:	approval / reg. number:
60	select company type	name:	
61		street + nr:	country:
62		postal + city:	approval / reg. number:
63	Distribution to member countries:		
64	Distribution list attached:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
65	Exported to third countries:		
66	Distribution list attached:	<input type="checkbox"/>	

BORDER CONTROL:

67	Point of departure:	
68	Point of entry:	
69	Product CN-code:	
70	Country of destination:	
71	Consignee	name:
72		address:
73	Container n°(s)/seal n°(s):	/ / / /

OTHER INFORMATION:

74	Organisation/ministry:	
75	Contact person:	
76	Other information:	

Exchange of information with third countries

If the notified product originates from or is distributed to a third country, the Commission contact point shall inform the third country without undue delay.

The Commission contact point shall send notifications to a single designated contact point in the third country for attention or for follow-up based on the seriousness of the risk.



Use of RASFF Window platform to inform countries that are not member of RASFF

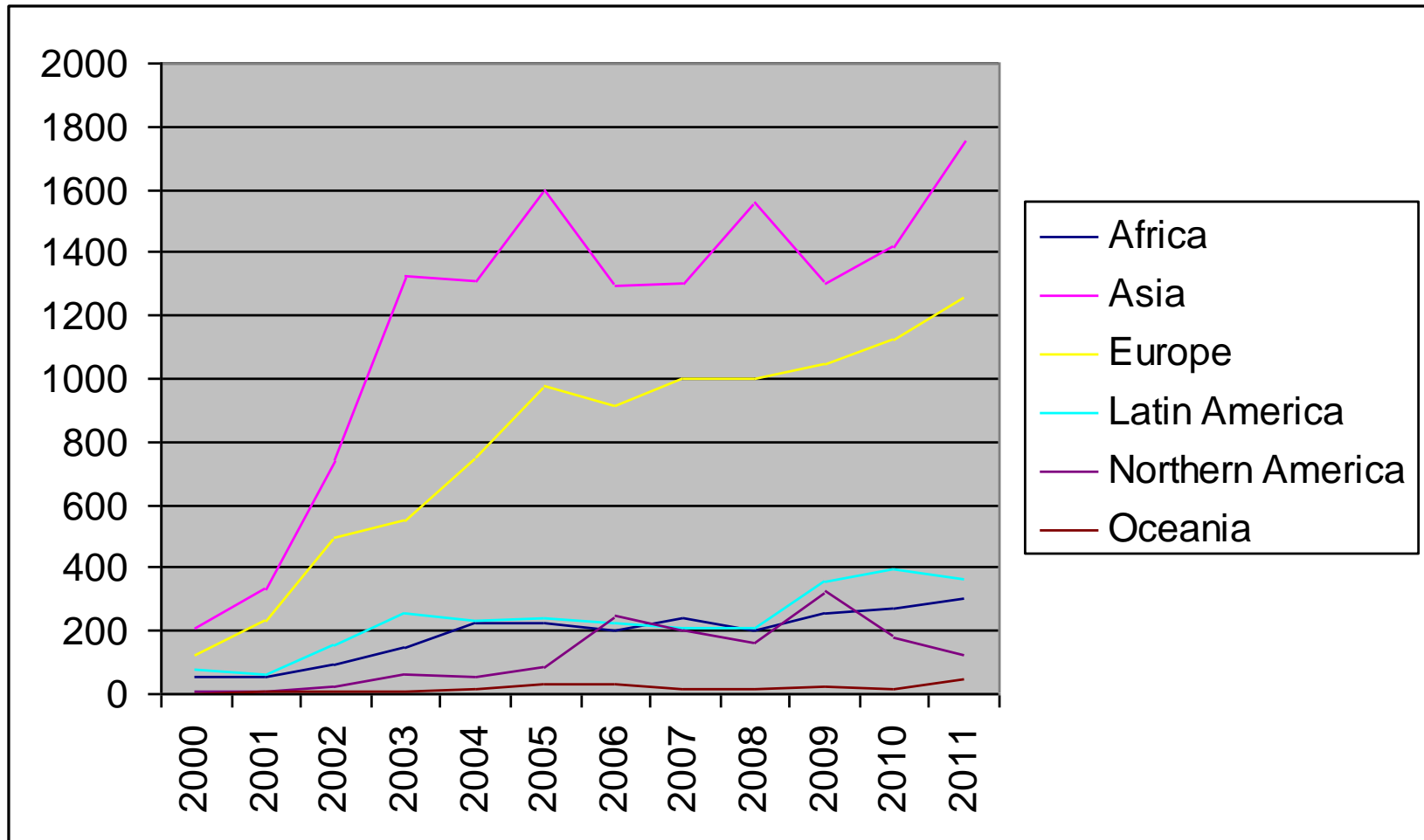
Information published within 24 hours

Presently more than **90 countries** use RASFF Window

Restricted access provided to a **single contact point** responsible for further coordination of information in its country

Engaged towards observing **confidentiality** and **providing feedback** on actions taken

2000-2011 Notifications by World Region





European
Commission

RASFF Portal Database



[Home](#) | [Transmission of information](#) | [Members of the Network](#) | [Notifications](#) | [Publications](#) | [RASFF portal database](#)

30 YEARS
Rapid Alert
System for
Food and Feed



Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed



Rapid Alert System for *Food and Feed*

What's New?

1979-2009 RASFF celebrates its 30th anniversary.



[International RASFF conference - 10 conclusions of Robert Madelin](#)

[RASFF annual report 2008](#)  pdf

The Annual Report on the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed provides useful data on the number of notifications received in 2008, as well as details on the origin of the notifications, the products and countries involved, and the identified risks. It also details the follow-up actions carried out in response to various food safety problems.

Press release: [The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed more efficient than ever on its 30th birthday](#)

RASFF Portal database

On 16 July 2009, Commissioner for Health [Androulla Vassiliou](#) opened the RASFF Portal website and its new online searchable database of RASFF notifications. **This database replaces the weekly summary of notifications published on this web site.** Users of the [RASFF Portal database](#) can now produce their own tables based on a multitude of criteria.

Consumers

RASFF Portal Database

Through the Portal anyone can search RASFF notifications based on a set of parameters

The Portal will at first only make public the information that was already present in the previous weekly overview

In a second phase it may link through to public recalls



RASFF Link with EFSA & WHO

- **EFSA assesses and communicates on risks associated with food chain**
- **EC and RASFF work with WHO alert system – International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)**

RASFF at work: example

- **Irish**

- Pig meat originating in Ireland in September 2008
- Detected by routine monitoring by Irish authorities
- Notified by Irish authorities
- Appropriate actions taken

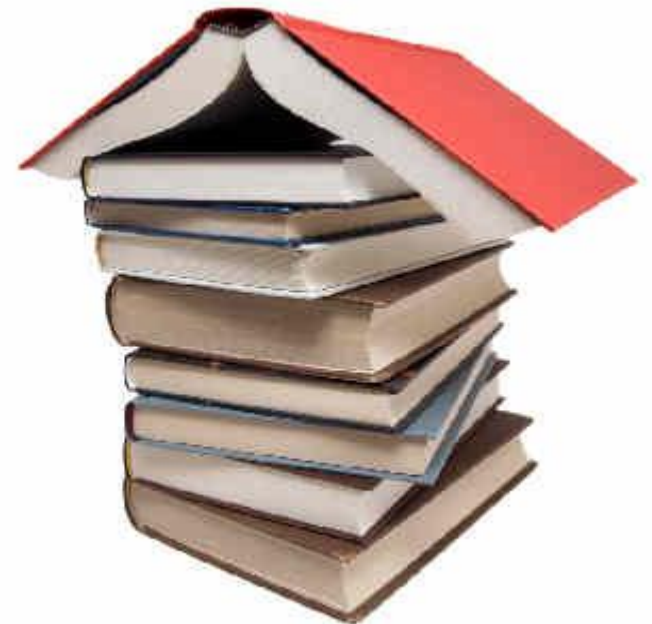
- **UNIDO using RASFF notifications to inform policy making**

Publications

Annual report

Leaflet

Special booklet on 30 years of RASFF





European
Commission

ISSN 1831-9332



The Rapid Alert System
for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Annual Report
2010

Annual report



RASFF website

<http://ec.europa.eu/rasff>

- **Information regarding the system, its legal basis, members, news...**
- **Publicly accessible database – RASFF Portal**
- **Publications**





European
Commission

Thank you!