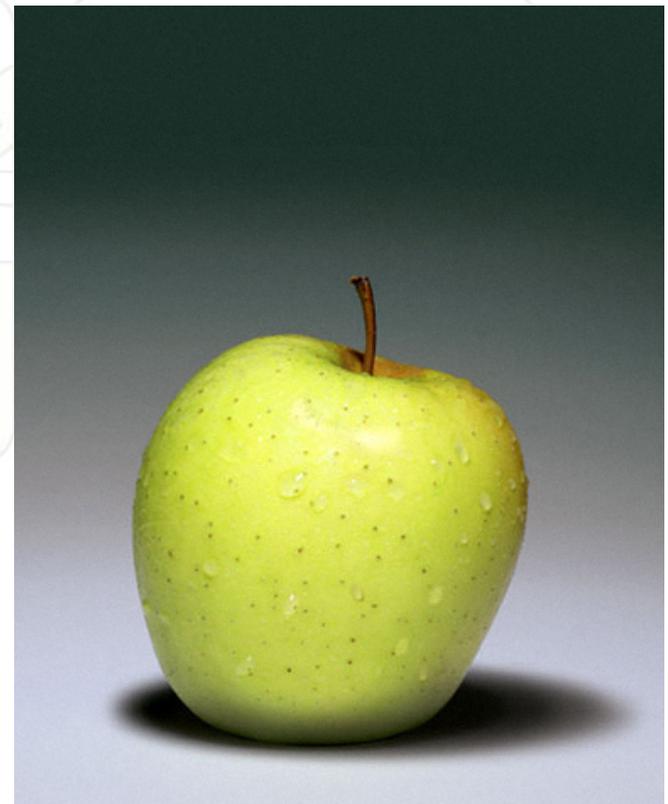


EURL *E. coli* Workshop

The role of SANCO in the STEC O104:H4 crisis, possible developments in legislation

Dr. Kris De Smet
Head of team food hygiene and zoonosis
control.
European Commission
DG SANCO/Unit G4



Epidemic

- Germany
 - First case 1st week of May
 - Epidemic peak 200 cases per day: 22 May
- European level
 - Germany reports to COM and MS on 21 May
 - 12 EU MS and also third countries affected
 - French cluster with sprout consumption on 24 June
- 7 July last case (date of onset of disease)
- 26 July: end of the outbreak is declared

- ECDC figures (as of 28 July):
 - 3910 cases, 782 HUS, 46 deaths

Additional burden and support

- Losses farmers in first 2 weeks: At least 812 Mio € (source: Coga-Copega)
- Export ban of vegetables to Russia: annual value of 600 M€
- Commission support:
 - 210 Mio € emergency aid package +
 - 50% of 75 Mio € for promotion of agricultural products in next 3 years +
 - 15 Mio € additional promotional programmes specific, specific in the light of the VTEC crisis

Selected EU actions

- First audio-conference on EU level on 24 May
- First EFSA/ECDC advice published 3 June
- Support Outbreak Investigation in Germany with EC, ECDC and EFSA experts from 5 June onwards
- European Task Force linked German and French clusters: seeds used for sprouting => Certain lots of Fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt
- MSs vote for import ban on certain seeds/beans from Egypt on 06 July. Prolonged this week until end of March 2012.
- FVO inspection visit to Egypt in August
- Follow-up mandate on risks in sprout production and possible control options by EFSA at end of October

Lessons learned / actions considered on STEC crisis (1)

- First exchange of views scheduled with public health and food safety authorities
- Possible new legislative initiatives on hygiene in sprouts production based on new EFSA opinion
- Coordinating access to data bases on pathogenic strains in humans and food to quickly link human isolates with possible sources

Lessons learned / actions considered on STEC crisis (2)

- “Health Secure Initiative”: including strengthening of preparedness and management of cross-border threats, and cross-sectorial coordination.
- Specific training on food-borne investigations under BTSF, bringing public health and food safety authorities together

New microbiological criteria based on EFSA opinion?



Current relevant criteria (R 2073/2005)

- Sprouted seeds/seeds: *Salmonella* absence in 25 g. (n=5, c=0)
- Read-to-eat food able to support growth: *Listeria monocytogenes*: 100 cfu/g. or absence in 25 g
- Precut fruit and vegetables: *E. coli* process hygiene criterion (n=5, c=2, m=100cfu/g, M=1000cfu/g)

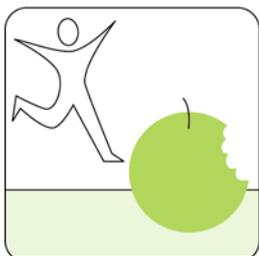
Laboratory issues relevant for possible new criteria

- Standard methods developed for analysis in seeds, spent water and sprouts + validated alternative (rapid) methods
- Validated pooling strategies

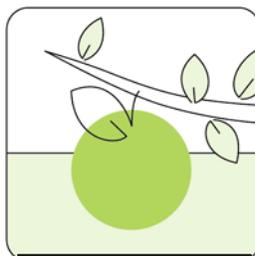
Thank you for your attention!

DG Health & Consumers

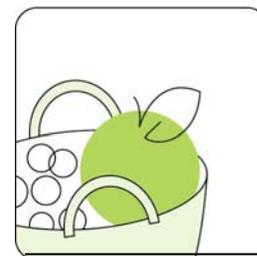
Europe working for healthier, safer,
more confident citizens



Public Health



Food safety



Consumer Affairs