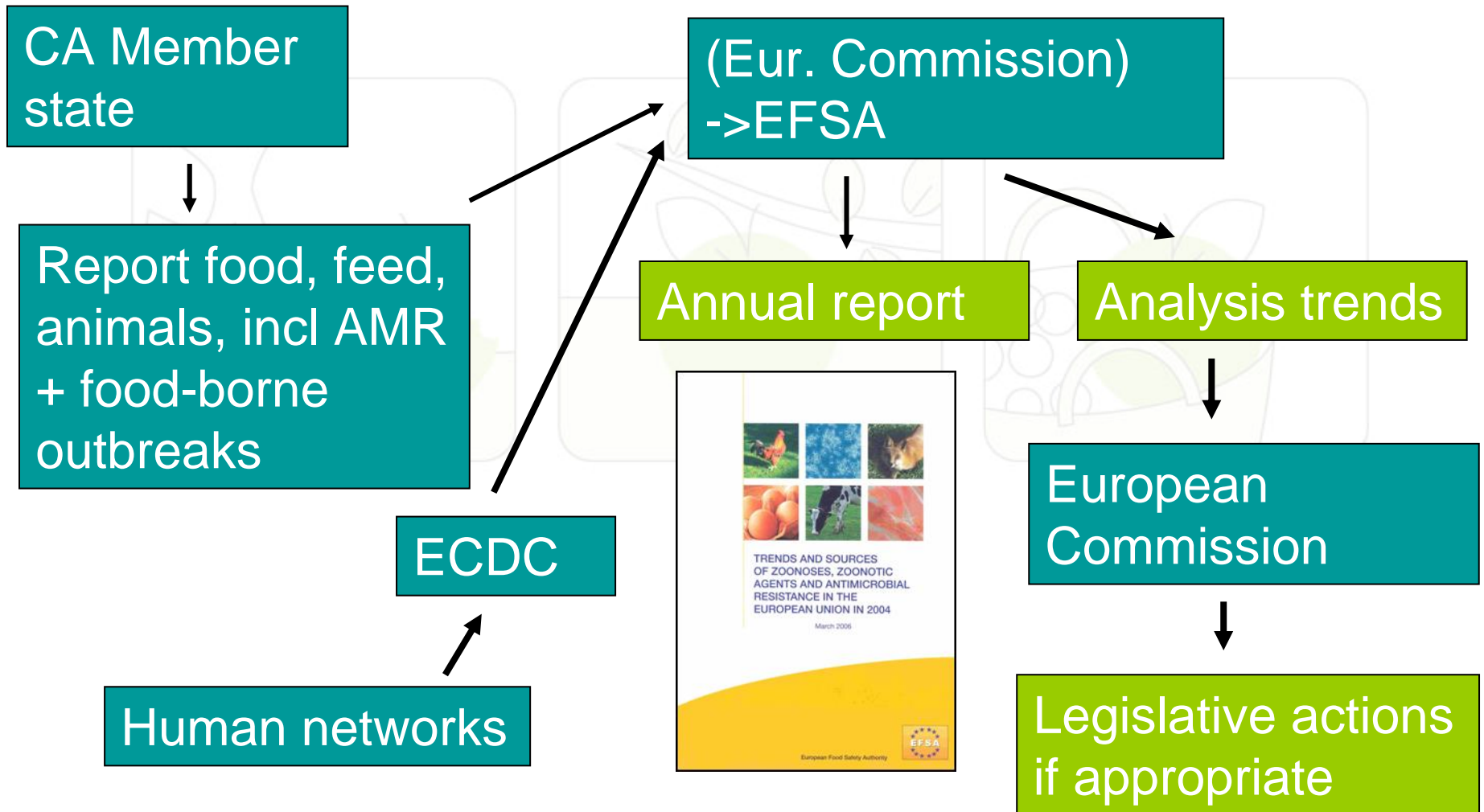


# Need/appropriateness of EU monitoring or/and control of VTEC

2° Workshop NRLs E. Coli

23.11.2007

# The overview



# Monitoring activities



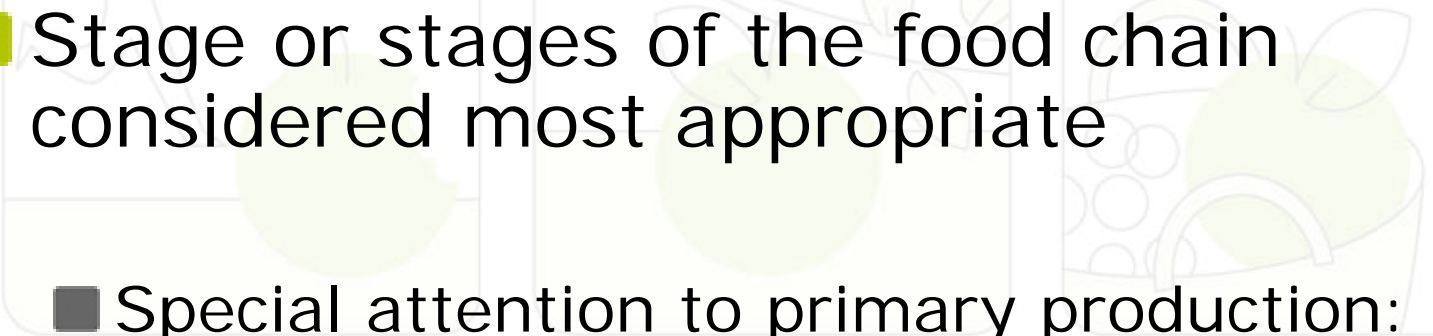
# Monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in the EU

- In food, animals and feed: Directive 2003/99/EC, includes mandatory monitoring of verotoxigenic *E. coli*
- In humans: Commission Decision 2000/96/EC on the communicable diseases to be progressively covered
  - Includes food-borne diseases: campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, listeriosis, **infection with Enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli*, ...**

## Scope of the Directive 2003/99/EC

- Collection of information from all Member States on
  - monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents necessary to evaluate trends and sources
    - in food, animals and feed
    - Related antimicrobial resistance
  - Investigation of food-borne outbreaks

# Monitoring Directive 2003/99/EC: Where?

- 
- Stage or stages of the food chain considered most appropriate
    - Special attention to primary production: animals and farms
    - Other stages of the food chain: food and feed

# Monitoring Directive 2003/99/EC: How?

- Based on systems in place in Member States
- Detailed harmonised rules may be laid down in legislation
  - Voluntarily harmonisation by agreement between experts of EFSA Task Force on zoonoses monitoring
  - Harmonised rules for antimicrobial resistance testing
  - Baseline studies *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*
  - VTEC?

# Epid. investigation of food-borne outbreaks

Definition of a food-borne outbreak:

- Incidence of two or more human cases of the same disease and/or infection, or a situation in which the observed number of cases exceeds the expected number and where the cases are linked, or are probably linked, to the same food source



# Epid. investigation of food-borne outbreaks

## IMPORTANCE:

- Draws the attention of press and consumers
- Politically sensitive
- Easier to find relevant information than in individual cases
- Often initiator of legal action even if representing only limited % of human cases

# Epid. investigation of food-borne outbreaks

## Content of annual report

- Number of outbreaks
- Number of human deaths and illnesses
- Causative agents
- Foodstuffs implicated and other potential vehicles
- Place of production/purchase/acquirement/consumption
- Contributory factors

# Specific control activities

Legal possibilities



# Zoonoses controls in animals: Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

- Setting of a target for reduction in an animal population
- Preceded by a cost/benefit analysis
- Submission of national control programmes to achieve the target
- Minimum requirements for monitoring

# Zoonoses controls in food: Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

- Microbiological criteria to be complied with by food business operators
  - Food safety criterion
  - Process hygiene criterion



## Your views?

Priority, feasibility, cost,  
expected benefit, ...?