

Monitoring of zoonotic agents/zoonoses: European Union legislation



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Developing a new approach in food safety

Regulation No 178/2002 (General Food Law)

- Farm to fork approach
- Risk analysis and scientific basis
- Primary responsibility for food safety: operators
- Precautionary principle
- Traceability
- Establishment of European Food Safety Authority

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Zoonoses: until 2004

Directive 92/117/EEC

Background

- Salmonella in eggs crisis in the UK
- Achievement of single market

Principle:

- Safe food from healthy animals



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Zoonoses: at present

Directive 92/117/EEC

requirements:

- **monitoring of certain zoonoses and zoonotic agents;**
- **“control” of salmonella in fowl;**
- **implementation of detailed minimum measures to eradicate of *S Enteritidis* and *S Typhimurium* in breeding flocks of poultry (*Gallus gallus*).**



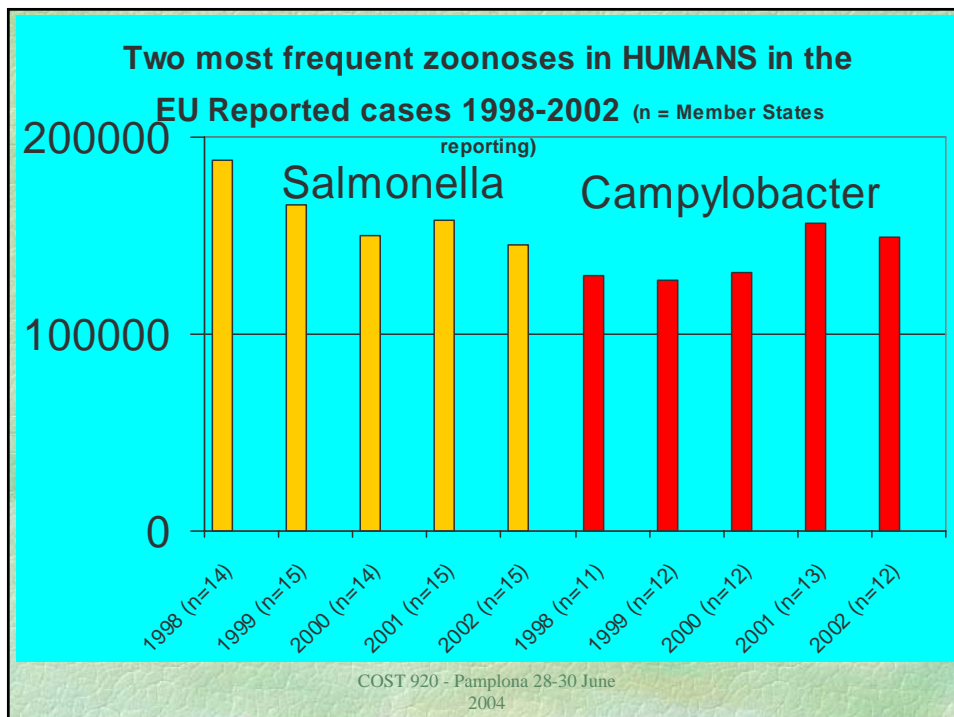
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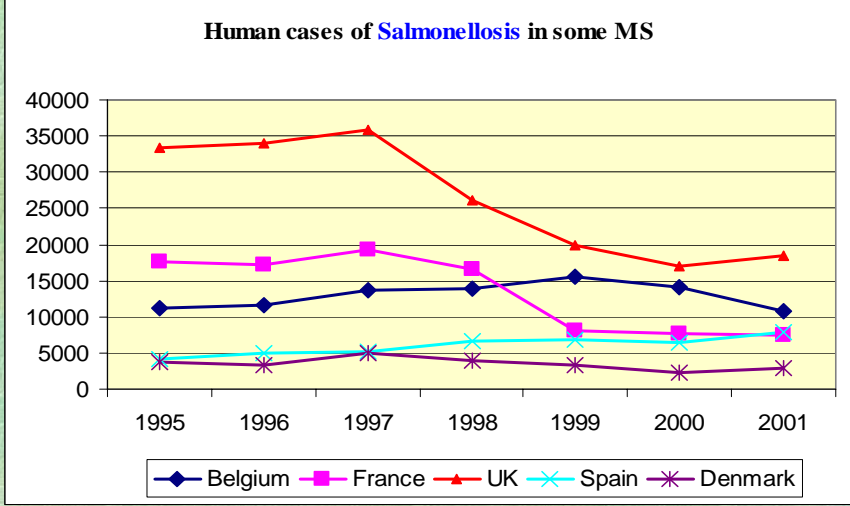
Dir 92/117/EEC: Community report on trends and sources of zoonoses:



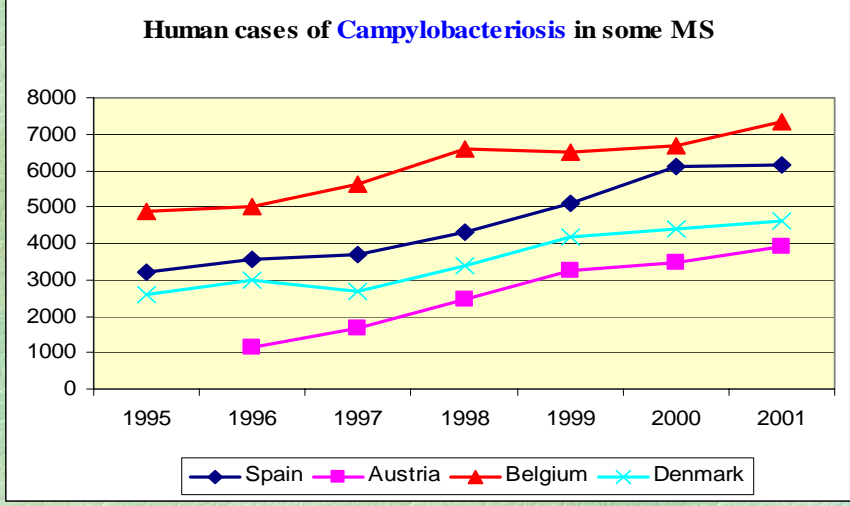
- Task of CRL Berlin since 1995 (data 1994)
- Yearly national reports
- Data in animals/feed/food/humans
- Quality and quantity of data increased along the years

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Food sources of salmonellosis in humans

- *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* account for over 70% of the total salmonella serotypes isolated from humans in the EU (and most Member States): 84% in 2002
- The distribution of serotypes in humans is quite different from the serotypes in feedingstuffs but usually comparable to those serotypes found in different species of livestock.

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Estimated sources of human salmonellosis

- Denmark (report 2001):
 - table eggs (+/-30%); travel; pork; poultry meat; beef.
- Netherlands (on the basis of salmonella isolates from 1994-98):
 - 39.4% of human salmonellosis cases are related to eggs, 25.2% to pork, 21% to poultry meat, 10.7% to cattle.



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Monitoring of zoonoses under Dir 92/117/EEC: success/caveats



- ☛ Setting up of national structures/procedures for collecting data
- ☛ Combined information food chain/humans
- ☛ Community reference data
- ☛ Compulsory monitoring on 4 zoonotic agents, but 11 reported (voluntary basis)
- ☛ Historical data since 1994: valid assessment of trends (at least within countries)
- ☛ Some information on sources

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Monitoring of zoonoses under Dir 92/117/EEC: success/caveats



- ☛ Some MSs do not report on certain zoonoses / regularly
- ☛ Data collection usually not harmonised: the report has to be carefully interpreted
 - Although CRL efforts with guidelines, limited possibilities to harmonise
 - lack of EU added value
- ☛ Data collection not often statistically based; lack of quantitative data

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Monitoring of zoonoses under Dir 92/117/EEC: success/caveats



☛ In humans:

- No information on public health burden
- Lack of estimation of true number of cases and risk factors

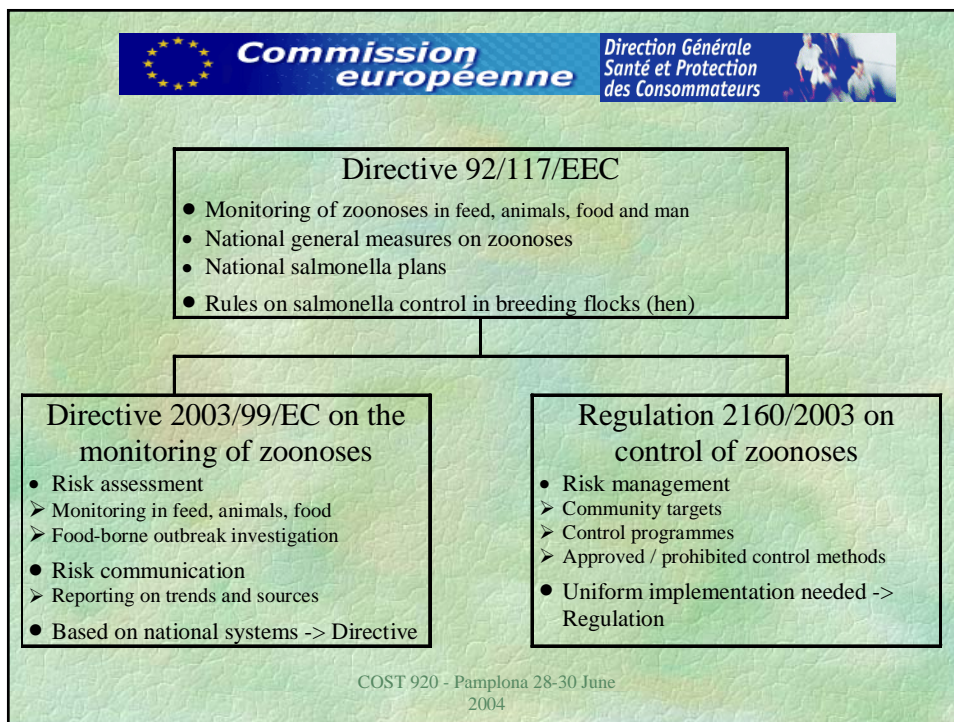
Relative lack of objectives for the monitoring apart from observing trends along the food chain and in humans

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New zoonosis legislation: Reasons for revision of the legislation

- ☛ Need to strengthen the collection of relevant data on zoonoses/zoonotic agents
- ☛ Need to decrease incidence of food-borne zoonoses in humans
- ☛ Need to improve the control of food-borne zoonoses in the primary production

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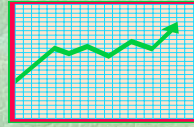
Directive 2003/99/EC:

main features

- Main objective is to collect comparable data to support possibly risk assessment activities and risk management decisions
 - Although monitoring based on national systems, legal basis to harmonise “routine” monitoring schemes and reporting formats
 - Also “coordinated monitoring programmes” for temporary/focussed studies
- Surveillance throughout the food chain - but data in humans collected mainly through Dec 2119/98/EC
 - Co-operation between competent authorities (food/feed/animal/human health sector) and mixed report
- Reform of the reporting system (EFSA)

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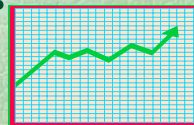
Directive 2003/99/EC: main features



- ☛ Data collection obligatory for 8 zoonoses/zoonotic agents
- ☛ Compulsory monitoring resistance to antimicrobial agents in animals/food (Salmonella; Campylobacter and possibly other agents)
- ☛ Food borne outbreaks investigation (yearly reporting; details for investigations to be laid down)
- ☛ Arrangements for keeping isolates by food business operators (details to be laid down)
- ☛ CRLs/NRLs to be appointed where appropriate

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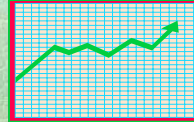
Directive No 2003/99/EC: implementation



- ☛ Draft schemes for harmonised monitoring:
 - Campylobacter in broilers
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Special study on salmonella in layers to prepare implementation of Reg (EC) 2160/2003
 - need to consider other schemes (e.g.salmonella in broilers; pathogens in food)
- ☛ Transfer of responsibility to EFSA in the framework of technical assistance
- ☛ Discussion with CDN structures on collection/reporting of data in broilers

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Data collection for QMRA/ Dir 2003/99/EC



- Public health burden; true prevalence in humans...: but likely need for special studies
- Contribution/fraction of food sources for human cases? (harmonised schemes, isolates keeping...)
- Exposure assessment: routine monitoring? But diversity of food
- Hazard characterisation/Quantitative data: is it necessary to collect routinely? data from FB outbreaks ; coordinated monitoring programmes?
- Non (exclusively) foodborne zoonoses?

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Conclusions

- Food safety legislation has been largely revised: objective of high standard of safety; new approach starting from primary production; new tools
- Zoonoses legislation revised, building on previous measures: new Dir on monitoring will help collect comparable data, not only on sources and trends but also for RA activities and RM measures
- Estimation of food sources and public health burden important, in particular for salmonella (and Campylobacter)
- Need for other tools (research; networks...)

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