



Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Thoughts on interactions with CA's



Starting point

CA's need information from outsiders in the system and market operators can also use the information

Eyes and ears on the ground in producer and source countries

Information from different sides (NGO's- Governments- IM etc)





Big data analysis thoughts

Thoughts for market operators:

What does data show- historic or forecasts

What parameters where used

How reliable is the data





Big data analysis thoughts

Thoughts for governments

Why was data gathered

What is in the data- relevance and reliance

What parameters are used

Can data be used for analysis- legal basis

Is permission from the public prosecutor necessary



Substantiated concerns

2016 till august – top ten topics NVWA



Be specific on your topic:

Timber: phytosanitary ?

Packaging for stone from China: ispm

Timber chair: product safety

Timber chair made from Ramin: CITES

Timber chair from Indonesia: FLEGT

Timber chair from Indonesia made from illegally logged timber: EUTR



Cases – starting points



International CITES case: Eutwix message on confiscation of birds meant for a zoo in Bulgaria

Dutch timber case: Greenpeace CCT report was used as one of the sources of information- starting point was a re-inspection

Mahogany case: alert Customs officer (location of importer and way shipment was stacked)



- Information is too dated/old
- No direct link with importer/company in the EU
- Situation turns out differently than at first glance

How to be effective ??



Be specific on your goal

Sharing information to be used in a risk assessment

Country, regions, local situation, species, local customs, other sources of information

Sharing information on companies committing crimes in producer countries:

Which companies, which products, what time frame ?



Be specific on your goal

Sharing information on EU companies

Which companies,
which products,
what time frame,
whom did they buy from,
is there any evidence,
what was done against the seller,
where did you get the information



Ways to reach a CA



Direct contact:

- File a report or complaint
- Substantiated concern: look at national legislations for rules

Indirect:

- Anonymous: tiplines: be specific or your information will be lost
- Whistle blower: see national legislation



Substantiated concerns



Consider forming an alliance with a NGO in the country where you want to file your concern

Always contact the authorities in the country where the crime was committed first

File your concern in the local language, at least the cover letter

Translate relevant documents

Build a relationship with a CA - don't shop!!

Thank you !

