

REFIT

Evaluation of:

Regulation (EU) N° 178/2002 “the General Food Law Regulation–GFL ”

And The evaluation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

- ▶ state of play
- ▶ June 2014

So far...

Commission Staff Working document: 'Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT): Initial Results of the Mapping of the Acquis' , COM(2013)401

"Health and Consumer Policy" states :

43. REFIT evaluation of the General Food Law foreseen [2015]

44. Subject to the results of the current review of enforcement aspects, the Commission

could undertake an impact assessment of a simplified regulatory framework

optimising enforcement, reducing administrative burden and valorising welfare

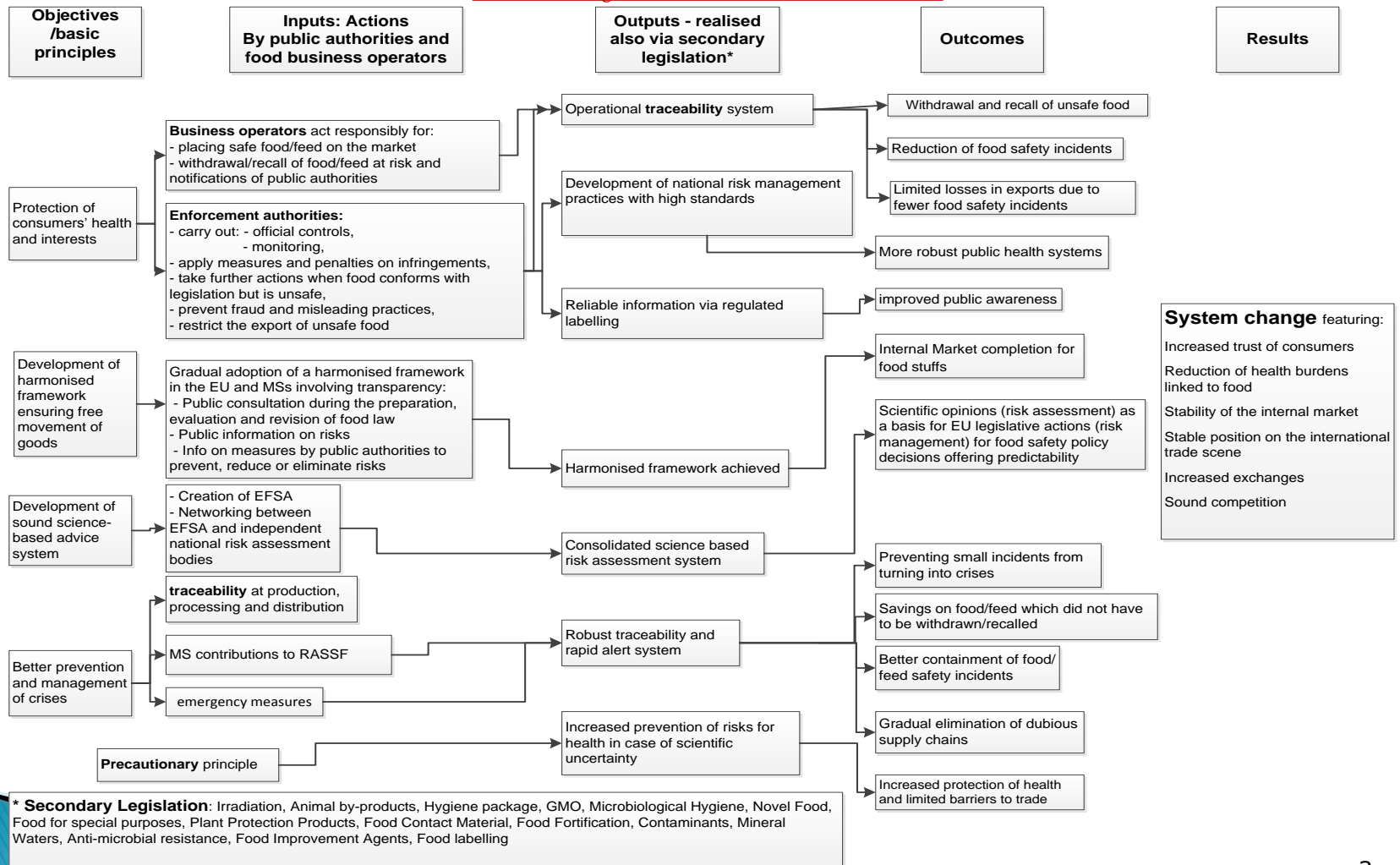
standards to enhance EU food industry competitiveness."



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Intervention logic

Intervention Logic for the General Food Law Evaluation



General principles and requirements of GFL(1)

- Reg. 178/2002 was conceived as a fundamental framework underpinning the whole food law. It includes fundamental definitions, principles and requirements, in particular
 - Food law shall be based on **risk analysis**:
 - ✓ **risk assessment** shall be based on the available scientific evidence and undertaken in an independent, objective and transparent manner
 - ✓ **risk management** shall take into account the results of risk assessment and use of **precautionary** principle in case of scientific uncertainty.

General principles and requirements (2)

- consumers' ability to make **informed choices** in relation to the foods they consume
- transparency (public consultation and public information)
- Specific safety requirements on food and feed exported to third countries
- promotion of **international standards**
- Food/feed shall not be placed on the market if it is unsafe
- **presentation** of food which does not mislead consumers



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TOR: evaluation objectives and scope

- **Objectives**
 - **Assess Key management principles of food law,**
 - **Assess tools for crisis/emergency management**
- **Scope :**
 - **2 exercises ; 1 on GFL, 1 on RASFF, EFSA already evaluated twice**
 - **evaluation to include application of fundamental definitions, principles and requirements provided by GFL in related pieces of law**

TORs

- **Evaluation questions now include concerns signalled by MS/ Stakeholders consulted (HLF Food Chain, SCOFCAH, Food Chain Advisory Group): detailed implementation of RA analysis and precautionary principle, questions on consistent interpretation and implementation reinforced, reference to other needs (competitiveness, sustainability/foodwaste, innovation, e-commerce)**
- **TOR comprehends classical eval.questions: EU added value , effectiveness etc.**

The evaluation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (1)

Main objective of the RASFF is to ensure that information available to the competent authorities in a Member State indicating that food or feed is likely to constitute a risk is swiftly shared with all members of the network, so as to enable measures to contain such risk to be taken as rapidly and as effectively as needed.

Evaluation Issues:

- ▶ role of the European Commission
- ▶ efficiency of maintaining the system and the capacity to keep the members interacting, achievement of outputs at reasonable cost, efficiency of dissemination of information
- ▶ participation of third countries, international organisations and other stakeholders in RASFF,
- ▶ effectiveness: achievement of objectives

The evaluation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (2)

- ▶ EU-added value: additional value resulting from the EU rapid alert system and from an EU crisis management compared to what could be achieved by Member States at national and/or regional levels
- ▶ Complementarity: how well the RASFF system and the different existing crisis/alert systems at EU level for the crisis management work with other systems
- ▶ **Timeline :**
 - ▶ TOR published this month/ study contracted out:
 - ▶ interim report likely in October : stakeholders will be approached for consultation on this report to guarantee its completeness