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Introduction to Food Contact Materials and general concepts for ensuring safety

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Contact with foods means...

Possibility that ingredients from materials could be transferred into the food = migration

Examples:

- Plastics**
 - E.g. monomers, additives
- Paper and board**
 - E.g. components from bleaching
- Printing inks**
 - E.g. colourants and pigments
- Canned foods**
 - Lacquers, elements from metals






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Safety concepts

Toxicological evaluation (EFSA)

Limits: Overall migration, Migration of specific substances

In practice: need to simulate migration + quantification (polymers)

- 1) Cannot test on every food: need "simulants"
- 2) Need to simulate the shelf life

Compliance

- Plastics already harmonised at EU level
- Others: covered by art 3 of Framework, Member States specific measures or use that others

EU support to policies and enforcement

e.g. RASFF, Food and Veterinary Office, Joint Research Centre



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Scientific support to EU policies

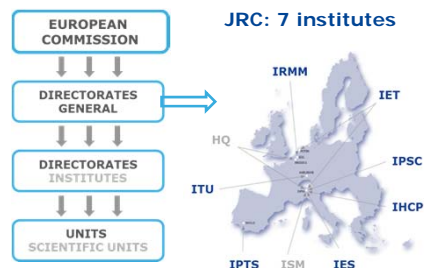
- Since 1995 for FCM (e.g. DG SANTE)
- Methods, data, tools, scoping studies..

Support to food policies

- EURL-FCM since 2004
- Serving official controls, Member States

Support to any stage of policy cycle

anticipation-development- implementation- monitoring



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Improving controls and EU safety: EURL role

European Reference Laboratories (EURLs) under the Feed and Food Controls legislation

EURL-FCM (Joint Research Centre)

- ✓ Access to + Validation of methods
- ✓ Assess performance of NRLs
- ✓ Draft technical guidance documents



EU network of National Reference Laboratories

- ✓ Active in the field of FCM
- ✓ Exchanging information, expertise
- ✓ Sharing advice of methods



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Conclusions



Sound scientific data: basis to uptake towards EU measures

RTD/research -> publications -> confidence -> Regulatory Framework + EFSA process

- ⇒ Recycling: from EU project to Regulation (EC) No 282/2008
- ⇒ Active packaging: from EU projects (actipack, nafispack etc) to Regulation (EC) No 450/2009
- ⇒ Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 new simulant for dry foods: 10 yrs. Research => "Tenax"
- ⇒ Change of simulant for dairy /vegetable: from data of EU projects migrosure, FACET= in Reg. 10/2011
- ⇒ Development of predictive modelling (SMT project) = now an equation into Regulation (EU) No 10/2011.



The more sharing of data, the more confidence in technical soundness of harmonisation or mutual recognition

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

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*Thank you
for your attention*



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