



voedsel en waren autoriteit

**Food and Consumer Product Safety
Authority (VWA)**

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Objectives of the presentation:

- Netherlands Food Safety & Veterinary Organisation
 - in EU context
- international co-operation by VWA

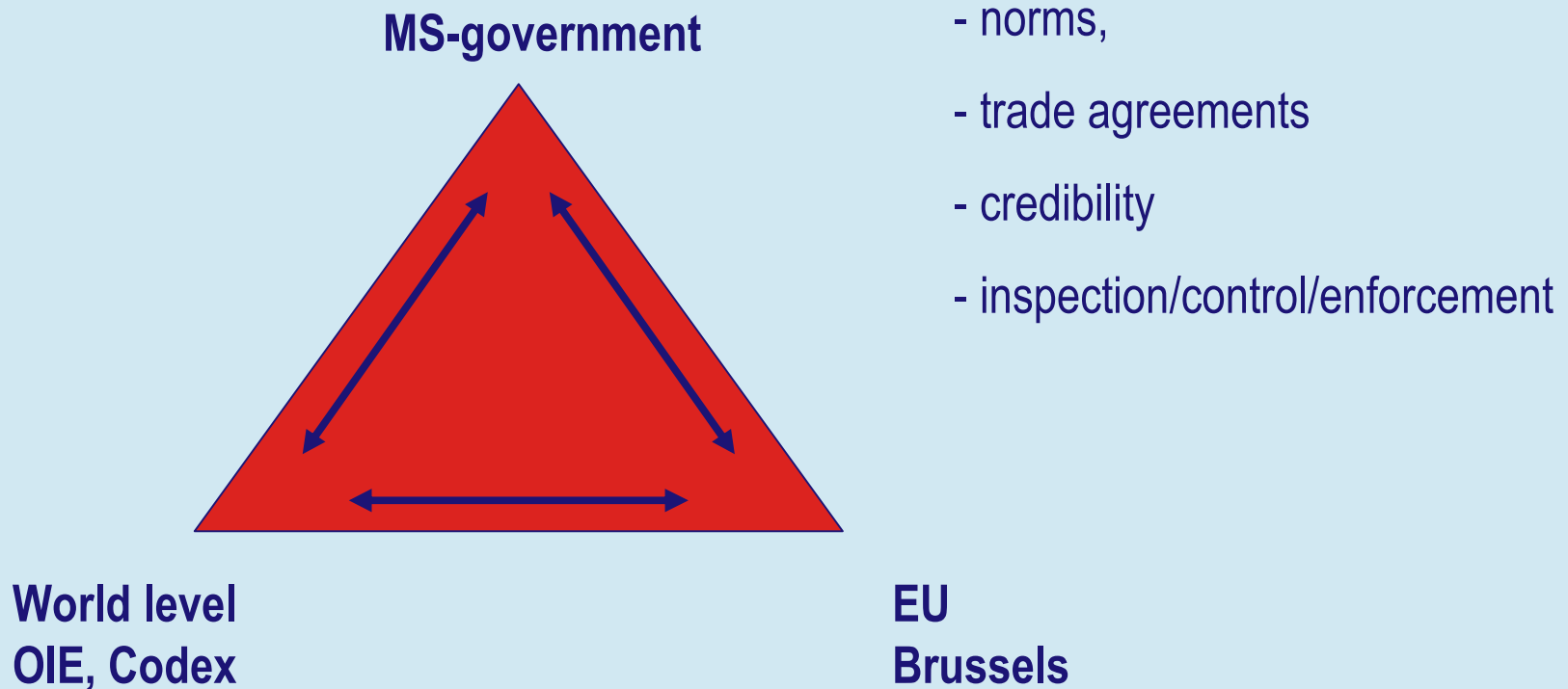


Some data

- Agricultural production 10.4 % of total economy
 - accounts for 40,300 Mio Euro
- 3rd World exporter \Rightarrow $\frac{3}{4}$ of produce!



International food safety & veterinary context

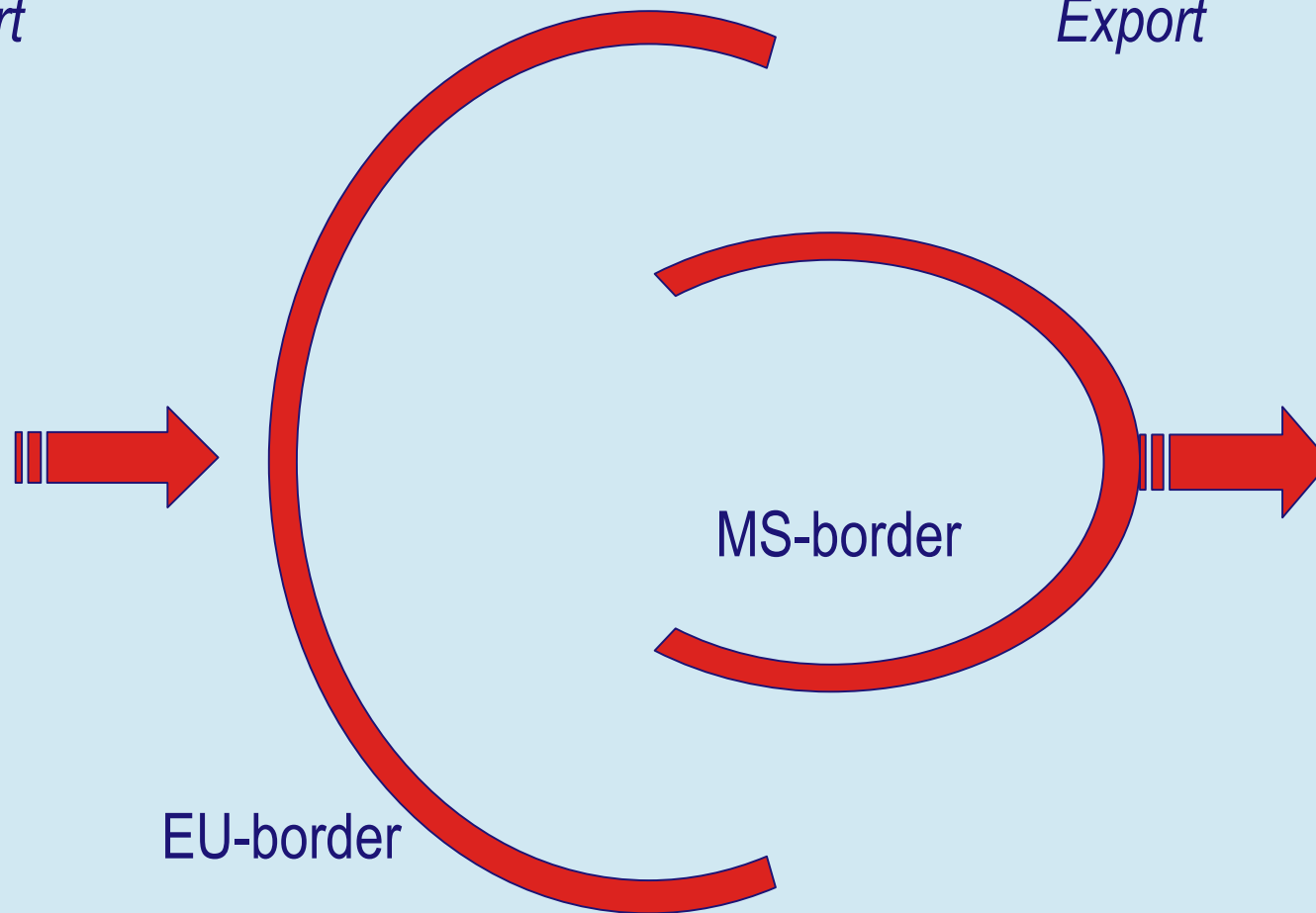




Trade conditions EU–MS-3rd countries (harmonised products)

Import

Export





Historical context:

EU : 1959 : free trade, one market

- internationalisation → increase of trade volumes
- events: BSE, dioxin, MPA, CSF,

 *food scares*

 *call for action:* 2000 White Paper
2002 General Food Law

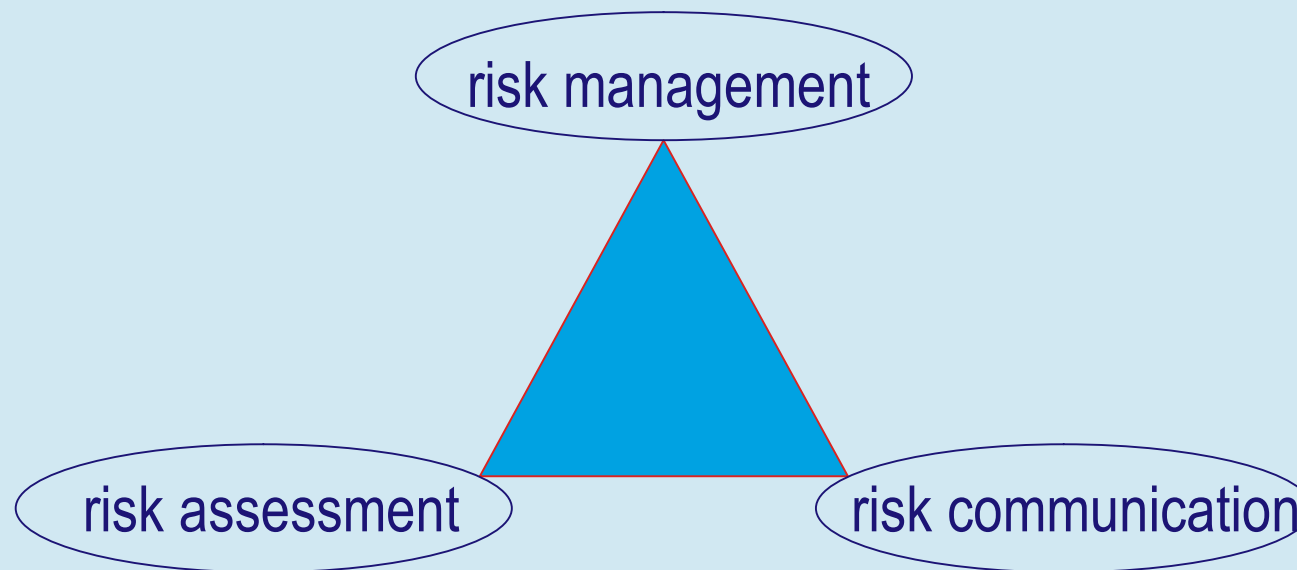


EU Regulation 178/2002 ⇒ General Food Law

- principles:
 - high level of safety
 - free trade
 - uniformity
- food + feed
- transparency & independence (legislation, control, advice)
- tracking & tracing
- European Food Safety Authority
 - scientific advice
 - independent information channel
 - food/feed/animal health & welfare/plant health



Risk analysis in food law:



(FAO/WHO 1995, GFL 2002)



Risk assessment:

systematic and objective evaluation

of all information pertaining to food hazards

(identification,

characterisation,

exposure assessment,

risk characterisation)



Risk management:

weighing of policy alternatives

in the light of results of risk assessment

if required,

selecting and implementing

control options

and regulatory measures.



Risk communication:

exchange of information and opinions

among risk assessors,
managers,
consumers
etc.

with the aim to control and reduce risks.



Principle functions in a food safety organisation





Structures in The Netherlands

Min. Agriculture, Nature
& Food Quality

Policy depts

Min. Public Health, Welfare
& Sport

Natl Reference labs

Universities





VWA Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

Mission:

contribute to

safe and wholesome food,
safe products and
healthy animals

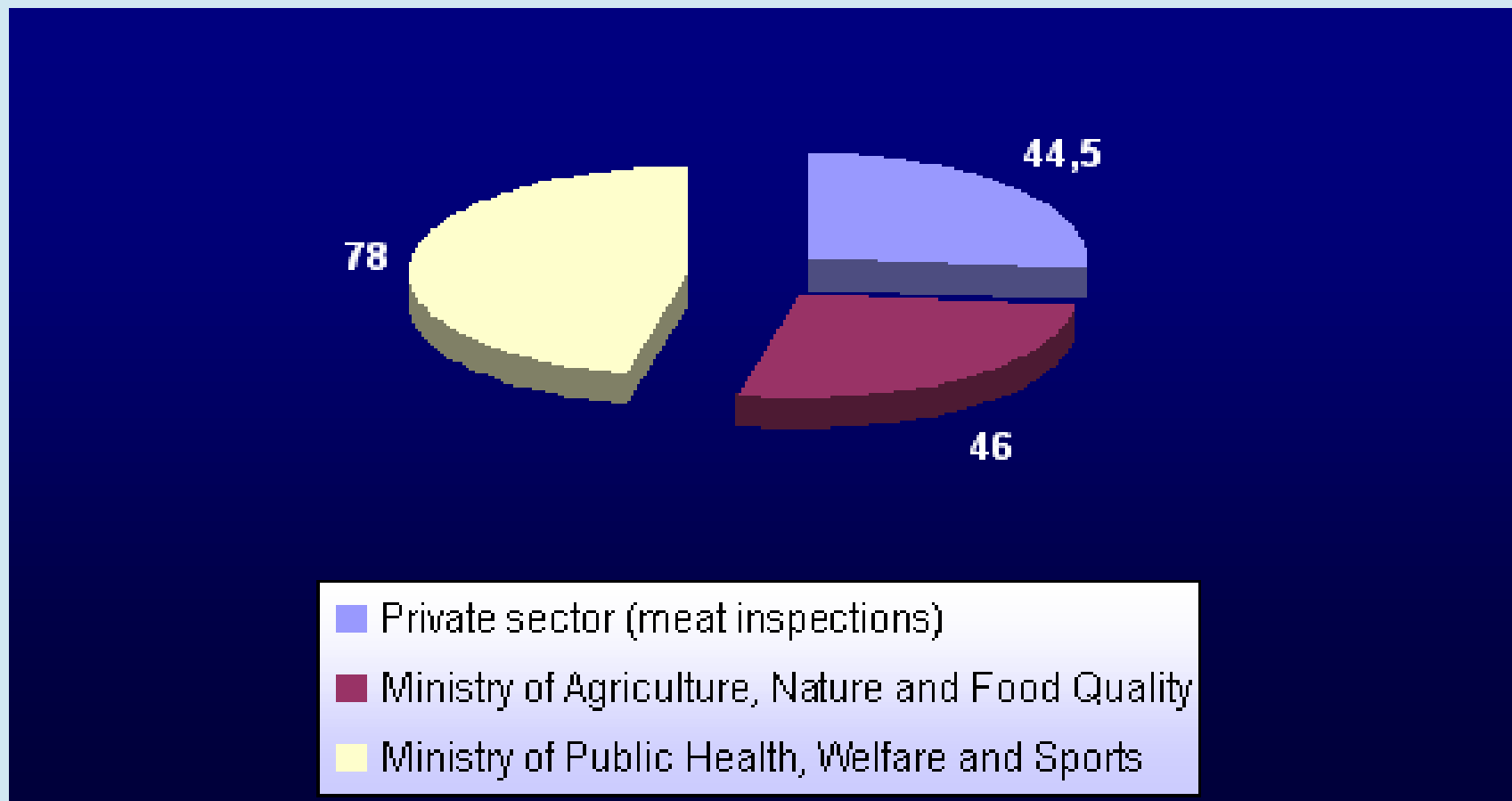
through

identification,
evaluation,
communication
and control

of risks



Funding (Euro million)





VWA's key values

- **Transparency**

 - Insight in policy, inspections, effect and accountability of data

- **Integrity**

 - Respect and care for people and balance between public and government

- **Reliability**

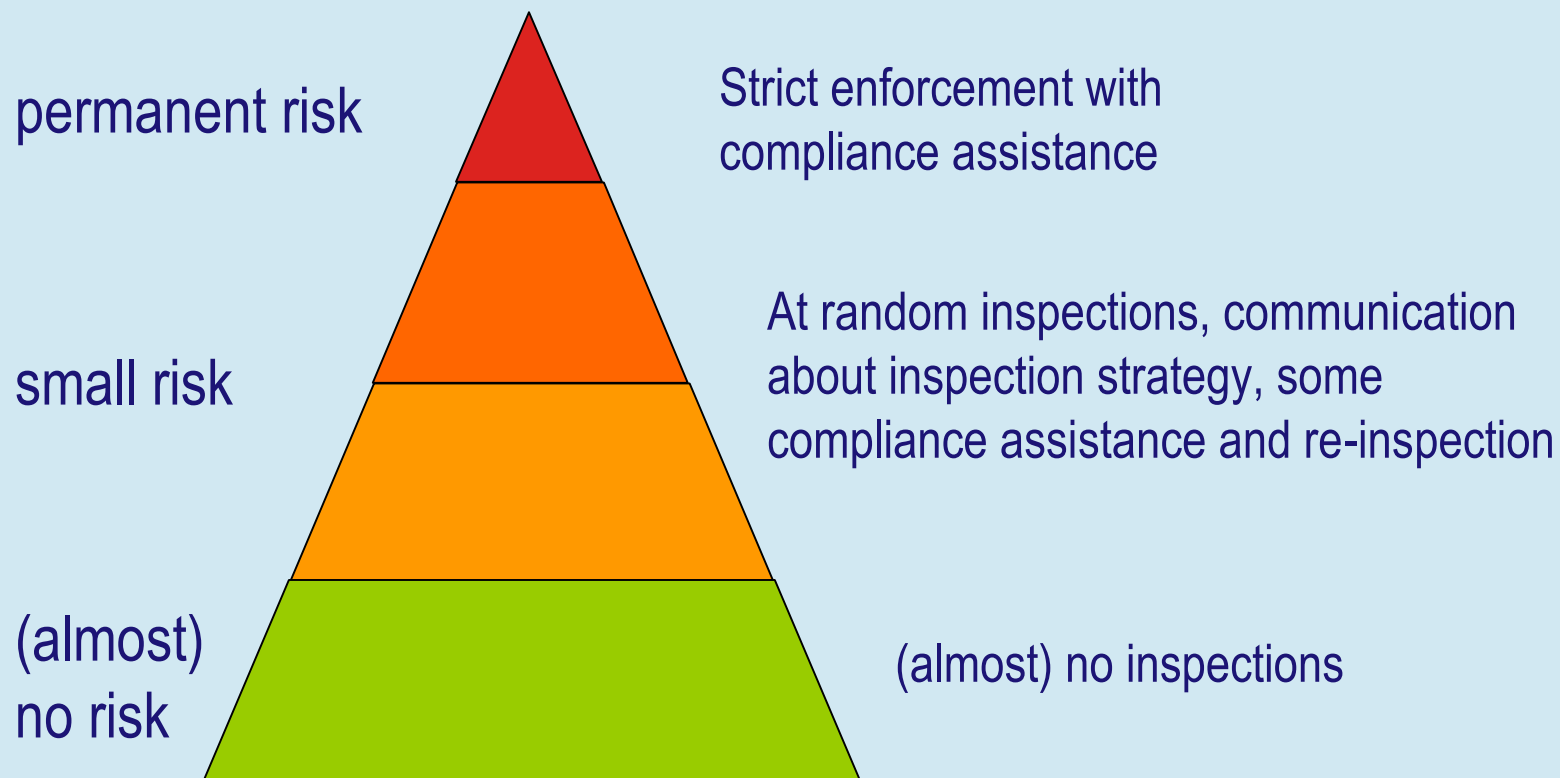
 - VWA is trustworthy authority in the protection of people and animals

- **Professionalism**

 - VWA works with the right attitude on important issues



Risk based inspections





Instruments for the VWA

- **Legal sanctions**

Like closing of premises, publication of sanctions, penalties

- **Administrative sanctions**

Like ban on transport or trade of goods, ban on import, withdrawals from market, special administrative financial punishment

- **Other instruments**

Like special communication to 'warn' businesses, publication of inspection data, compliance assistance



Integration of Inspection Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

- Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)
- Plant Protection Service (PD)
- General Inspection Service (AID)



International cooperation VWA

- European Commission, EFSA
- FLEP
- ProSafe
- ICPHSO
- FAO/WHO
- Codex Alimentarius
- OIE
- Many bilateral contacts

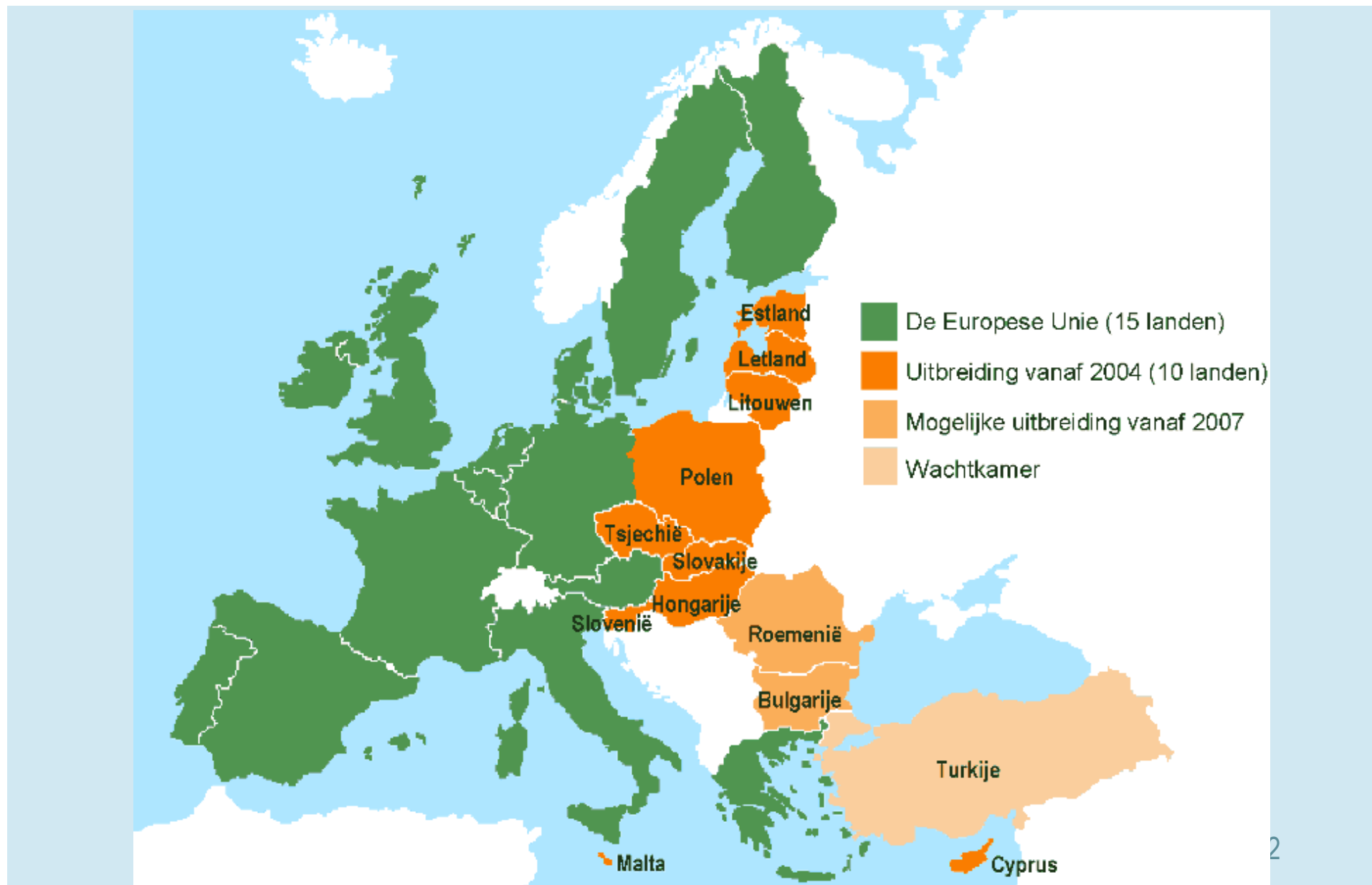




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International (accession) co-operation

by **VWA**





Cooperation context

- take aboard / align with the *acquis*
- implement
- rapidly moving target
 - more strict requirements
 - guarantees on whole chain
 - changing role of govt – control-on-control



Inspection & Control

- core business for government
- efficiency & efficacy
 - limited resources
 - targeted, risk based approach
 - stimulate sector to be safety oriented
- three levels of control in EU
- training => more methodology than content



Points of attention

- government structures
 - transparency/efficacy
 - responsability
- implementation strategies
 - compliance & quality of legislation
 - stakeholders' involvement
- efficient and transparent laboratory structure
 - national reference lab.



Working method

1. Establish working groups with explicit tasks
2. Assess present situation and what to be realised
3. Experts from MS's available for advise and discussion
4. Prepare implementation plans
5. Training
6. Workshops

strategy,
training,
organisational issues,
manuals & procedures



Co-operation

bilateral (Senter, courses)

EU

Twinningprojects:

Hungary, Romania (5), Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey

Egypt, Azerbaidjan,

in international consortia (Fr, Ger, Dk, Lt, Gr, etc..)

TAIEX



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Thank you

for your attention