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**Risk management of contaminants in the EU. A policy based on risk analysis**

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The EU legislation on contaminants in feed and food fulfils two essential objectives: the protection of animal and public health and removal of internal barriers to trade within the EU.

Following the principles and objectives of the General Food Law, feed and food safety legislation shall pursue a high level of animal and human health protection. To achieve this objective, legislation shall be based upon 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, other factors legitimate to the matter under consideration and the precautionary principle where appropriate.

When international standards exist or their completion is imminent, they shall be taken into consideration in the development of any standard at EU level.

In the framework Regulations on contaminants in feed and food, it is foreseen that:

- contaminant levels shall be kept as low as can reasonably be achieved by following good practices at all stages of the production chain;
- in order to protect animal and public health, maximum levels for specific contaminants shall be established where necessary;
- the consultation of a scientific body (EFSA) for all provisions which may have an effect upon animal and public health is mandatory.

To reduce the presence of contamination in the feed and food supply, "prevention is better than cure". Therefore, there it is important to encourage preventive actions such as good agricultural practice, good manufacturing practices, good storage conditions, use of improved sorting procedures, etc.

Maximum levels are established at a reasonably achievable level, stimulating feed and food business operators to apply preventive actions all along the feed and food chain in order to avoid the contamination of the feed and food chain.

Besides the setting of maximum levels, several other risk management regulatory tools are applied at EU level to prevent and/or reduce the contaminant levels in feed and food.

The presentation will focus on some case studies, illustrating how the abovementioned principles and tools have been applied in practice.