



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

## Food Safety in Turkey in the Process of Negotiations with the EU



# Biopic – E. Güher ÇELTEK

- Born in Yalova- Turkey (1977)
- **BSc in Food Engineering** (1999, Middle East Technical University, Turkey)
- **MSc in Food Safety, Hygiene and Management** (2006- University of Birmingham, UK)
- **BA in Business Administration** (2007, Anadolu University, Turkey)
- January-October 2000 > **Sales Engineer** (in an Engineering and Consultancy Company)
- Since 2000 > **EU Expert** (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Foreign Affairs and EU Coordination Department)
- Since October 2009 > **Director of Turkey-EU Economic and Technical Relations Section** of Foreign Affairs and EU Coordination Department



# PRESENTATION OUTLOOK

- Why and How to regulate Food Sector?
- Regulation of Food Sector in Turkey
- Food Safety in Turkey
  - EU Accession
  - National measures



# FOOD...

- **Safe**

- free from any physical, biological and chemical hazards (toxins, pesticides, chemical and physical contaminants, microbiological pathogens that can cause illness)

- **Quality**

- acceptable by the consumer due to its various characteristics and attributes

- **Nutritious**

- contains significant amounts of essential nutrients needed by human



# Why to Regulate the Food Sector?

- **Ensure food safety and security**
  - production of safe and adequate food, ensure access for all
  - safety and quantity
- **Protect the consumer health and interests**
  - fraudulent practices and unsafe food products



# How to Regulate?

- **Policy**

- All stages of production, processing and distribution

- **Legal Framework**

- laws and regulations

- **System**

- competent authority, enforcement, self regulation of food businesses



# Actors...

- **Government**
- regulation of the sector (policy, legislation, enforcement)

- **Producers and Industry**
  - production, processing and distribution

- **Consumers**
- Preferences, purchase, preparation and consumption

- **Media**
- Risk communication, information and awareness



# Regulation of Food Sector In Turkey





# The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)

- **The competent authority for regulation of**
  - Animal and Plant Production, Support Mechanisms, Marketing & Trade;
  - Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary;
  - Fisheries;
  - Rural Development;
  - Agricultural Research & Extension Services.....
- **Responsible for;**
  - Policies development
  - Legislation
  - Enforcement



# The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- **New Proposal for a Structural Change**
  - to be discussed at the Parliament
- **Ministry of Food and Agriculture**



**MINISTER**

**UNDER-SECRETARY**

**DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARIES**

**PRIVATE SECRETARIAT**

**MINISTRY  
CONSULTANCY**

**AUDITS AND  
ADVISORY UNITS**

**STRATEGY  
DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD**

**LAW COUNCELOR  
UNIT**

**HIGH COMMISIONERS  
BOARD**

**PUBLIC & MEDIA  
RELATIONS UNIT**

**OVERSEAS  
AGRICULTURAL  
CONSULTANCY**

**CENTRAL SERVICE  
UNITS**

**DG AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH**

**DG AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**DG SUPPORT AND  
ORGANIZATION**

**DG PROTECTION AND  
CONTROL**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
AND EU  
COORDINATION**

**DEPENDENT/  
RELATED ESTABLISHMENTS**

**DIRECTORATE OF  
ATATÜRK FARM**

**DG AGRICULTURAL  
REFORM**

**TEA ASSOCIATION**

**TURKISH GRAIN  
BOARD**

**DG AGRICULTURAL  
ESTABLISHMENTS**

**MEAT AND FISH  
ASSOCIATION**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT  
INSTITUTE**

**LOCAL UNITS**

**PROVINCIAL  
DIRECTORATE**

**DISTRICT  
DIRECTORATE**

**RESEARCH INSTITUTES**

**PRODUCTION  
STATIONS**

**PROVINCIAL  
CONTROL LAB.S**

**AGRI. QUARANTINE  
LABS.**

**WAREHOUSE AND  
CUSTOMS VET.  
DIRECTORATES**



# MARA...

- **5** Central Service Units
- **81** Provincial Agricultural Directorates
- **>800** District Agricultural Directorates,
- **39** Provincial Control Laboratories
- **8** Veterinary Control and Research Institutes
- **4** Plant Quarantine laboratories
- **3** Plant Protection and Research Institute
- **1** Seed Testing and Registration Center
- **1** Food Control and Central Research Institute



## RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FOR CENTRAL SERVICE UNITS

### GD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**Researches** on animal husbandry, animal and plant health, food and feed, aquaculture...etc.

### GD AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural land, **producer support**, animal husbandry, primary production of plant products, **aquacultural products**, seed, alternative production techniques, organic farming

### GD SUPPORT AND ORGANIZATION

Producer organizations, agricultural cooperatives, **extension services**

### GD PROTECTION AND CONTROL

**Food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary policies**, official controls, public health, animal movements, import and export controls

### DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND EU COORDINATION

Multilateral and bilateral **relations with foreign countries**, coordination and secretary of **EU affairs**



## General Directorate for Protection and Control

- **General Directorate for Protection and Control (GDPC)**
  - the main central service unit of the Ministry in charge of controlling and regulating food, veterinary and phytosanitary sectors
- **GDPC ; is the contact point for international institutions and agencies**



# GDPC- Tasks

- Legislation on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary
- Animal health, control and eradication of diseases
- Animal identification and registration system
- Animal movement controls and quarantine measures
- Protection of plant health
- Early warning system on plant protection, licensing machine and equipments for plant protection,
- Registration and production permission of plant protection products and veterinary Drugs,
- Registration, approval and control of food establishments,
- Risk based controls and inspections,
- Export and import controls,
- Laboratories



# ORGANIZATION OF PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATES

**GOVERNOR**

PROVINCIAL  
DIRECTORATES (81)

PLANT PROTECTION  
UNIT

AGRICULTURAL  
SUPPORT UNIT

EXTENSION SERVICES  
UNIT

ANIMAL HEALTH UNIT

PROJECT STATISTICS  
UNIT

CONTROL UNIT

ADMINISTRATION AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS UNIT

DISTRICT  
DIRECTORATES

**Responsibility : ENFORCEMENT AND OFFICIAL CONTROLS**





# LEGAL FRAMEWORK



## Primary Legislation

- Food Law (No 5179),
- Feed Law (No 1734),
- Law on Animal Health and Surveillance (No 3285),
- Law on Agricultural Combat and Quarantine (No 6968),
- Law on Animal Breeding (No: 4631),
- Law on Aquaculture (No 1380)
- Law on Seed Registration , Control and Certification. (No 308)

### Law No 5996 on

**“Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed”  
enters into force on 13 December 2010**



# Secondary Legislation

- **Implementing Regulations**
- **Turkish Food Codex Regulation**
  - Food Irradiation Regulation
  - **Communiqués** on;
    - Sampling and Analysis Methods
    - Food Contact Material
    - Food Additives (Flavourings, Preservatives, Colours, Sweeteners)
    - Product Specific Communiqués
    - Labelling and Nutritional Labelling
    - Dietary Foods for Special Medical Purpose
    - Energy Restricted Foods for Weight Reduction Purposes
    - Infant Foods - Infant Formulae,
    - Foods Intended for Particular Nutritional Uses
    - Gluten Free Foodstuffs
    - Foods for Sportsmen .....



# FOOD SAFETY AND EU NEGOTIATION PROCESS



# Turkey and the EU

## Alignment with the EU;

- Since 1995 → Customs Union
- Since 1999 → Candidate Country
- Since 2005 → Negotiations



# NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS

The MARA is responsible for **3 chapters** among 35 negotiation chapters.



**Chapter 11**  
Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development



**Chapter 12**  
Food Safety,  
Veterinary and  
Phytosanitary  
Policy



**Chapter 13**  
Fisheries



## CHAPTER 12

Food and Feed

Veterinary

Phytosanitary



# EU Food Safety



**Farm** → **fork!**



**Integrated Approach:  
Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary**





# EU FOOD SAFETY

- Farm to fork- integrated
  - Animal health and welfare, plant health, food and feed safety
- High level of protection
- Based on risk and transparent
- Primary responsibility: Food Business Operator

**DOES NOT ALLOW ANY PRACTICES THAT REDUCES THE HIGH STANDARDS!**

**EXPECTS ALL MSs and CCs COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS → ALIGNMENT**



# SCREENING PROCESS

Process	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
Explanatory Meeting	<b>2005</b> (5-8/12/2005)	<b>2006</b> (9-15/03/2006)	<b>2006</b> (24/02/2006)
Country Session	<b>2006</b> (23-26/01/2006)	<b>2006</b> (24-28/04/2006)	<b>2006</b> (3/03/2006)
Screening Reports	<b>2006</b> (13/10/2006 )	<b>2007</b> (February)	Not received
Opening Benchmarks	<b>2007</b> (24/02/2007)	<b>2007</b> (12/06/2007) Fulfilled	Not informed



# CHAPTER 12- PRIORITIES

## LEGISLATIVE ALIGNMENT

- EU-compliant legislative framework for food, feed and veterinary policies
- **“Law No 5996 on Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Feed” (from 13 December 2010) (farm to fork approach!!)**
- Detailed strategy for transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis on Chapter 12.
- **Strategy of the Republic of Turkey for The Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement of The EU Acquis In Chapter 12 Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy**



# CHAPTER 12- PRIORITIES

## • ANIMAL HEALTH

- Identification and registration of bovine, caprine and ovine animals
- Control of animal movements
- Eradication of FMD in Thrace region





# CHAPTER 12- PRIORITIES

- **Classification of Food Processing Establishments**
- Approved (meat, milk, fisheries, animal by products)
- Registered (retailers, sales points, mass consumption places)
- EU compliant/non-compliant





## CHAPTER 12- NEGOTIATIONS

- Turkey was officially informed on 25 June 2010 that the requirements for opening Chapter 12 were fulfilled.
- Accordingly, Turkey presented her negotiating position for Chapter 12 to the European Commission.
- Accession negotiations on Chapter 12 were opened on 30 June 2010 at the 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference with Turkey at Ministerial level.



## CHAPTER 12- PRIORITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- Implementation of EU-compliant I&R systems for animals
- Development and implementation of a national programme for the **upgrading of agri-food establishments**
- **Control and eradication of major animal diseases**
- Implementation of an effective system for the **control of TSEs**
- Transposition of EU **animal welfare legislation** and preparation of the sector for implementation
- **Set up of the relevant administrative structures for the implementation of EU-compliant official controls**



More...

- **Trainings**

- In service trainings /training of inspectors
- TAIEX Trainings (Regional Training Programme)
- DG SANCO trainings
- EFSA Trainings

- **Sector Guidelines (24) + Hygiene Guidelines (7)**

- **Food Call Line- 174 ([www.alo174.gov.tr](http://www.alo174.gov.tr))**







More...



- Food Safety Information System
- 2009 – “Food Year” -
  - “Safe Food Healthy Life Campaign” ([www.guvenilirgida.com](http://www.guvenilirgida.com))
- EU funded projects and bilateral projects (i.e. MATRA)
  - Restructuring and Strengthening of the Food Safety and Control System in Turkey
  - Support for the Alignment of Turkey with the EU Veterinary Acquis
  - Alignment of Phytosanitary Sector to the EU Acquis
  - .....

1 7 4  
ALO GIDA

#### 174 ALO GIDA HATTI

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GIDA  
TÜKET





# CONCLUSION

- MARA- Competent Authority
- Policies and Legislation- mainly EU driven
  - government commitment to EU membership
- Negotiation process- Chapter 12
- Further steps to enhance national food safety system



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**E. GÜHER ÇELTEK**

**[guher.celtek@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:guher.celtek@tarim.gov.tr)**



# Turkey



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Turkey  
what a feeling

  
TURKISH AIRLINES