



# Multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella* Agona infections linked to infant formula

**23<sup>rd</sup> EURL-Salmonella Workshop**

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# OUTLINE



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- Background – Published ROA
- Human data
- Info on food and environmental investigations
- Conclusions



**JOINT RAPID OUTBREAK ASSESSMENT**

**Multi-country outbreak  
of *Salmonella* Agona infections  
linked to infant formula**

16 January 2018



# Multinational Outbreak investigations

## Assessment

**ECDC:** human data, inquiries, advice for treatments

**EFSA:** to assess food/animal data, Consumers' advice, investigation to source

## Management

**DG SANTE:** Based on assessment: measures, trade restrictions, negotiations with third countries

**Joint Rapid Outbreak Assessment**

**EURLs network:** analytical methods, molecular testing

Techn. support

Techn. support



# MEMBER STATES' BODIES

# Epidemiological and microbiological investigation of human cases



FR launched on 6 Dec 2017 an EPIS FWD urgent inquiry reporting an outbreak of *Salmonella* Agona infections linked to consumption of infant milk formula

15 countries replied: BE (4 cases of *S. Agona* in infants/children), DE (2), EL (1), NO (1), ES (2), SE (1) and UK-Scotland (2). AT, DK, FI, IE, LU, NL & SI no suspected cases.

As of 11 January 2018, the outbreak had affected 39 infants (children <1 year of age).

- **FR:** 37 cases in infants with onset of symptoms April – 2 Dec 2017. 36 interviewed: 35 consumed one of the implicated formulas. 1 exclusive breast-feeding. 36 isolates same WGS cluster
- **ES:** 1 case, onset in Oct 2017, that consumed product. Match with WGS.
- **EL:** 1 case, onset in Oct 2017, that consumed product. Isolate shares the unusual biochemical profile of the outbreak strain (WGS pending).
- All other cases reported in EPIS did not present the biochemical trait or did not match by WGS.

## MICROBIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS OF FOOD

Information on food and environmental investigation were provided by involved countries:

- Through RASFF and EPIS-FWD, or directly to EFSA



A **RASFF notification (alert 2017.2095)** was issued by France on 4 Dec 2017. The ROA contains info up to 15 Jan 2018 (fup 40).

Investigation identified **7 infant formula brands produced in a processing company in France as the vehicle of infection.**

As a precautionary principle, all products manufactured or processed in the company since 15 February 2017, including products other than infant formula were withdrawn and recalled.

The recalled products have been distributed to **67 countries**, including 13 EU countries .

The processing company is carrying out investigation at the production site to identify the origin of the contamination.

## UPDATE ON MICROBIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS OF FOOD

*information not included in the published ROA, as provided after the finalisation of the assessment.*

- On 12 January 2018 the French processing company extended the withdrawal and recall measures to **all products manufactured in the plant, without distinction for lots and dates of production.**
- **Aim:** This measure was decided to ease the implementation of the withdrawal and recall measures and was not an additional health safety measure.
- This further withdrawal concerned products distributed to additional EU and non-EU countries

## Cases in Greece

Salmonella Agona positive

1 case

Retail  
Country: EL

## Cases in France

Salmonella Agona positive

35 cases

Retail  
Country: FR

- On 2/12/17 withdrawal and recall of 12 batches
- On 10/12/17 withdrawal and recall of 620 batches
- On 13/12/17 withdrawal and recall of 8 batches
- On 22/12/17 withdrawal and recall of 720 batches

Processing company A  
Country: FR

• Brand F

- Brand A
- Brand B
- Brand C
- Brand D
- Brand E

• Brand G

• Production from 15 February 2017

## Cases in Spain

Salmonella Agona positive

1 case

Free sample provider  
Country: ES

### Legend



Analytical result



Food business operator/  
food provider



Human case



Trace back



Additional information



Trace forward



Infant formula brand

### Distribution to EU countries

Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Cyprus  
the Czech Republic  
France  
Greece  
Ireland  
the Netherlands  
Romania  
Slovenia  
Slovakia  
Spain  
the United Kingdom

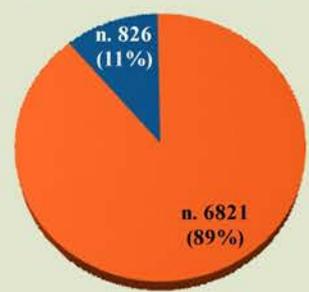
Distribution to several third countries



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# - Trace Forward - RASFF info as of 25 Jan 2018

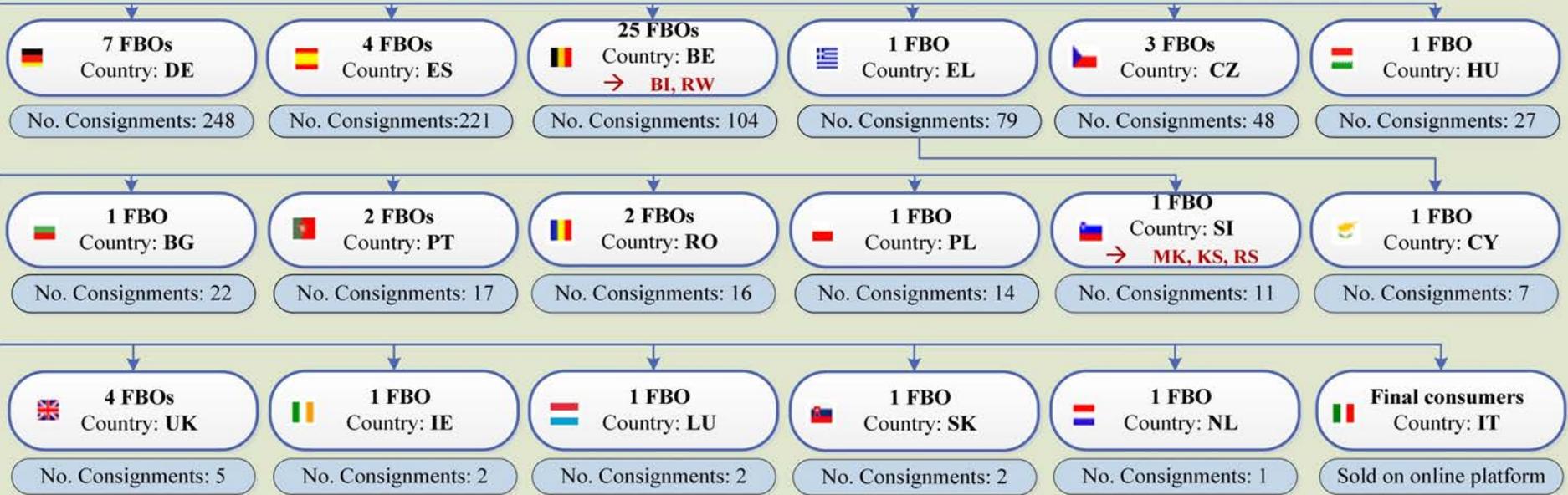
**Producer**  
Country: FR



Distribution involving **64** Non-EU countries and **2** transit countries (Mauritius and Switzerland)

**A total of 83 countries** received products from the concerned French establishment.

■ EU countries ■ Non-EU countries

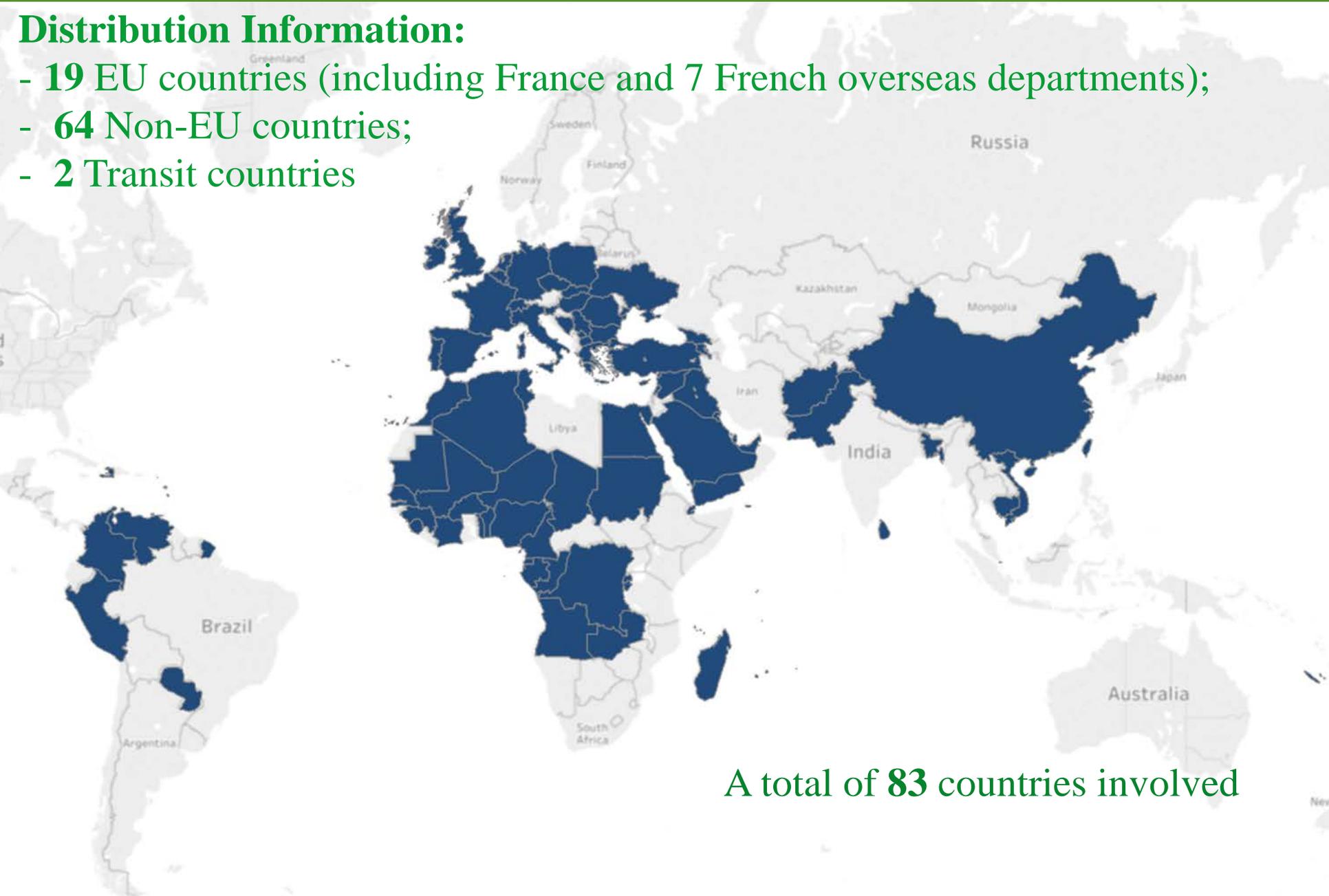


**Graphical representation of trace-forward information available in RASFF (25.01.18)**

- Trace-forward EU-countries
- Trace-forward Non-EU countries
- Re-distribution to Non-EU countries
- Food Business Operators
- Delivered consignments

## Distribution Information:

- **19** EU countries (including France and 7 French overseas departments);
- **64** Non-EU countries;
- **2** Transit countries



A total of **83** countries involved

# EFSA-ECDC recommendations

- Member States should consider providing the following advice to the public:
  - Not to use any of the infant formulas involved in this outbreak;
  - Hand washing before and after the preparation of the bottle;
  - Bottles should not be prepared in advance and contents should be discarded if not consumed within two hours.
- Caregivers of children who have consumed infant formula and develop diarrhoea should be advised to contact their healthcare provider.
- Cases of *S. Agona* should be notified to the national health authorities.
- New human cases should be reported to EPIS-FWD.
- ECDC and EFSA encourage the competent authorities of food safety and public health sectors to continue sharing information on the epidemiological, microbiological and environmental investigations in RASFF and EWRS

# Conclusions



- As of 11 January, 3 countries report **39 infants** associated with this outbreak (37 in FR, 1 ES, 1 EL)
- The date of symptom onset range from late Apr 2017 to 2 Dec 2017.
- Available evidence from epidemiological investigations in humans and food traceability identified 7 different brands of infant formula from a single processing company in FR as the **vehicles of infection**.
- Most of the batches involved have not yet passed their expiry date.
- Withdrawal and recall measures, export bans and a suspension of market distribution are likely to significantly reduce the risk of human infection.
- The possibility remains, however, that new cases may be detected.

# Conclusions



- Example of successful multi-sectorial approach and collaboration between public health authorities (follow-up human cases), food safety authorities (investigations to source), laboratories and risk assessors
- Systems and network in place to manage foodborne outbreaks
- Important role of molecular typing data supported by epidemiological and traceability information
- Strong collaboration between EC, EFSA, ECDC, EURLS at EU level + similar approach observed at national level of countries involved.



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Thank you very  
much for your  
attention!

Questions?