



Illegal imports of wild meat in travellers' luggage  
Workshop on the illegal importation of wild meat  
Bruxelles on 12/12/2024

- 1. The General Directorate of Customs and Excise and COMINT2 office**
- 2. Customs controls**
- 3. The interministerial working group**

# 1. The General Directorate of Customs and Excise and the COMINT2 office

The DGDDI is a department of the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry

## Missions

- ✓ Regulation and control of foreign trade operations
- ✓ Supporting the economic competitiveness of businesses
- ✓ Implementing measures to protect public health and safety
- ✓ Taxation
- ✓ Border controls

## Role of COMINT2

### Trade Restrictions and Security

A diverse  
range of  
activities

Issues

Features

- ✓ Information for the public and services
- ✓ Embargo and crisis management
- ✓ Implementation of procedures

- ✓ Conservation of national heritage and biodiversity
- ✓ Personal safety and consumer protection
- ✓ Standards for industrial products and medical devices

- Customs application of non-customs regulations
- Inter-ministerial relations developed
- Restriction and economic mission through

## 2. Customs controls

### Constant seizures

Over the last 5 years, 23 tonnes of illegal meat have been seized each year by customs, including more than 600 kg of meat from wild species (monkey meat, pangolin, bat, porcupine, etc.)

This proportion is nevertheless underestimated, given the difficulty of identifying the nature of the meat



### 3. The interministerial working group

Led and coordinated by the Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation

Composition of the working group

Airport managers

Airlines companies

**Public Authorities :**

Customs, Civil Aviation, Agriculture, Environment, Police and National Gendarmerie, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

**Some environmental associations :**

WWF, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Fund for Animal Welfare...



Two working groups in 2023 and one working group in 2024

- April 20th, identification of possible for action
- September 29th, agreement on the content of the action plan
- June 21th, review of actions completed and ongoing

## The action plan

✓ Interministerial inspection mission



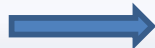
Identify potential new levers

✓ Raising awareness



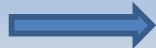
Communication plan  
Targeted control actions  
Cooperation with countries of origin

✓ Legal framework



Changes to the regulatory framework  
Reinforcement of follow-up controls

✓ Ressources



Experimentation with new control methods  
Procedure for placing seized animals

## Focus : Raising awareness among travellers

Development of tools

Coordinated communications

Exhibitions in partnership with airports and the private sector

New posters (EN/FR) bearing a QR CODE referring to the regulations

Videos (EN/FR with subtitles)

Exhibition at Lyon St Exupéry airport from 18 October 2024 to 04 November 2024 in the departure area for flights to African countries

Creation of a new web page [douane.gouv](https://www.douane.gouv.fr)





## Focus : Study of goods flows at Roissy airport

Actors



DGDDI and scientists

Targets



Draw up a practical guide for customs officers

Quantify traffic by origin and species

Taking tissue samples determines the pathogens ;

Compare the results of flows with those of 2008

Preliminary  
results



The increase in the importation of wild meat in baggage at Roissy appears to be correlated with the expansion of air traffic

## Focus: Actions on European Regulation

Make the Commission aware of the difficulty of applying the exemptions from veterinary inspection checks  
(Regulation (EU) 2019/2122)

In view of the situation, it is planned to mobilise all the Commission's departments  
(DG SANTE and DG TAXUD to :

- ✓ **Consider discussions between Member States to limit the risks associated with illegal imports of meat products in luggage**
- ✓ **Make the import control system more effective, in particular by simplifying the regulations.**



## Thank you for your attention

Benjamin BAUD  
General Directorate of Customs and Excise  
Deputy head of bureau COMINT2 – Trade restrictions and security,  
consumer protection, environmental and  
cultural heritage protection

11 rue des deux communes - 93558 Montreuil  
Tél: 01 57 53 45 03 - 06 08 51 71 58

[douane.gouv.fr](https://douane.gouv.fr)

[LinkedIn](#)