

Risk Management and Crisis Coordination



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I - Legal Framework and Essentials

II – Practical Experience

III - Lessons Learned

IV - Summary and Perspective

- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002; Art. 55 - 57
- Decision 2004/478/EC concerning the adoption of a general plan for food/feed crisis management
- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004; Art. 13
- German Food and Feed Code (LFGB); Art. 40, 49, 75
- General administrative provision on the framework of control (AVV RÜb); Art. 23 - 25

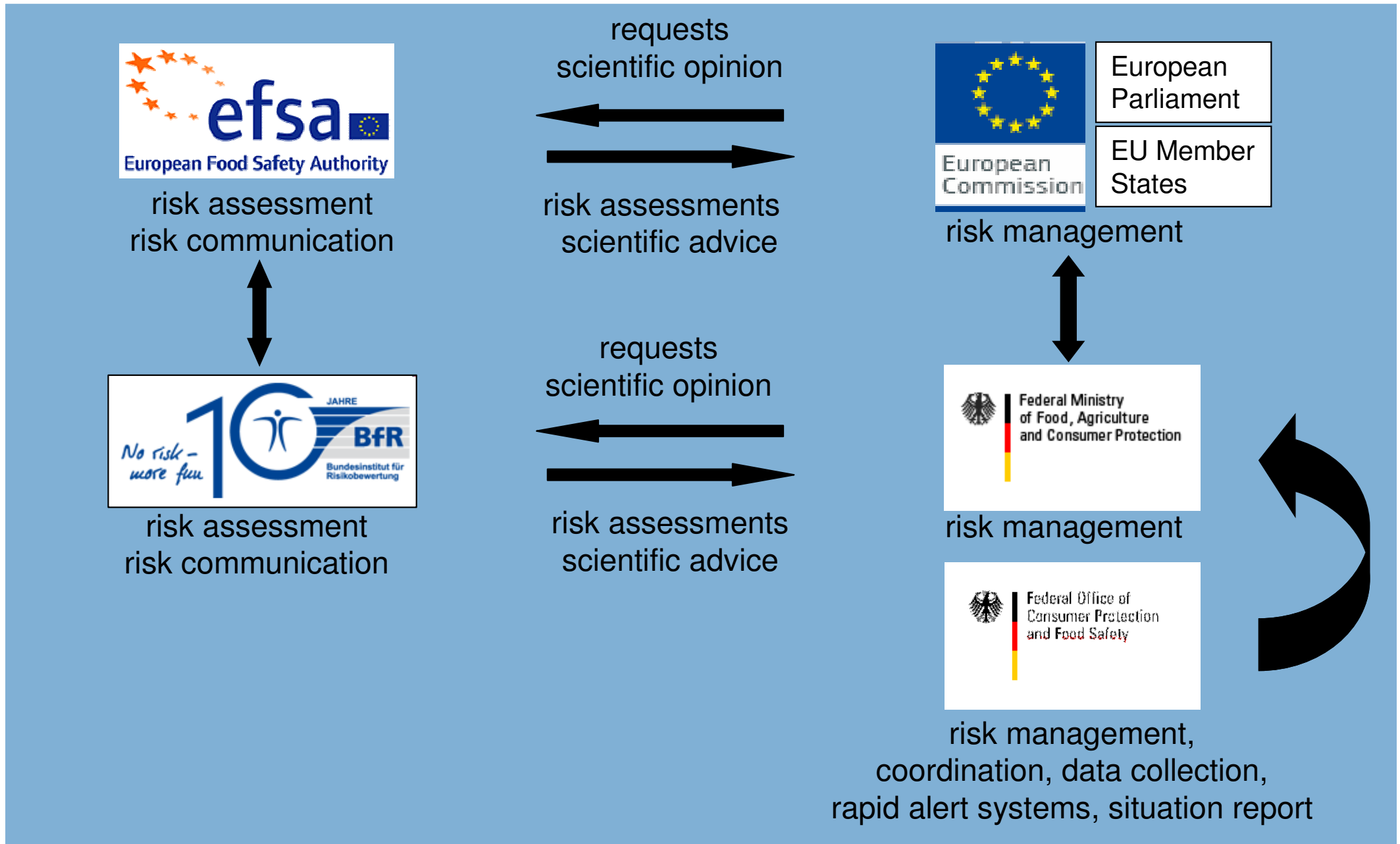
Definition (Reg. [EC] No. 178/2002, Art. 55 [2])

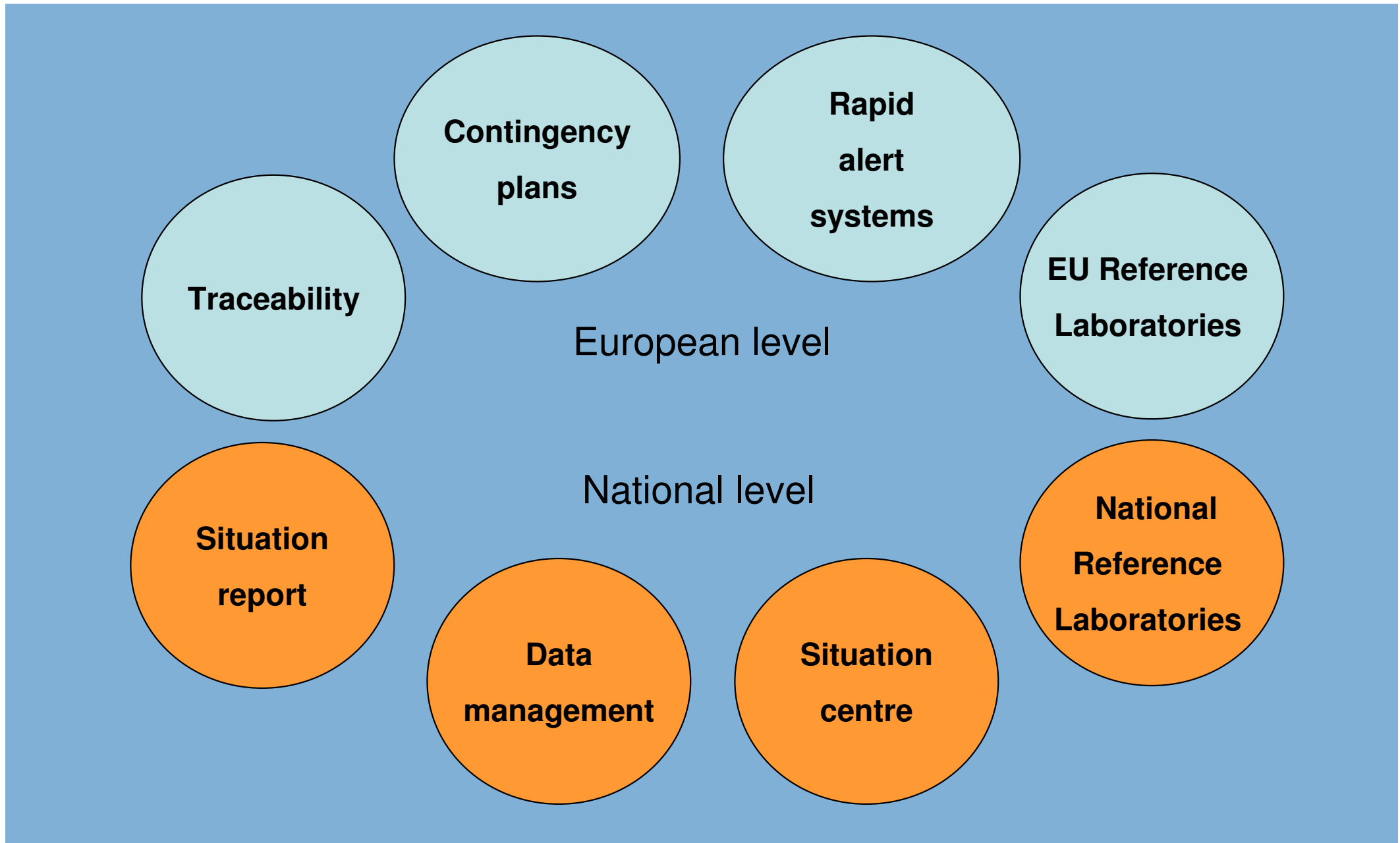
“direct or indirect risks to human health deriving from food and feed which are not likely to be prevented, eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by provisions in place or cannot adequately be managed solely by way of the application of Articles 53 and 54.”

Perception of crisis

- Public → influenced by media
 - ➔ “Dioxins in feed fat“ versus “STEC O104:H4 in sprouted seeds“
- Politics → reaction depends on media coverage
 - ➔ influence on crisis communication
- Scientific opinion
 - ➔ risk communication

I - Risk Management / Risk Assessment EU - GER





I - Legal Framework and Essentials

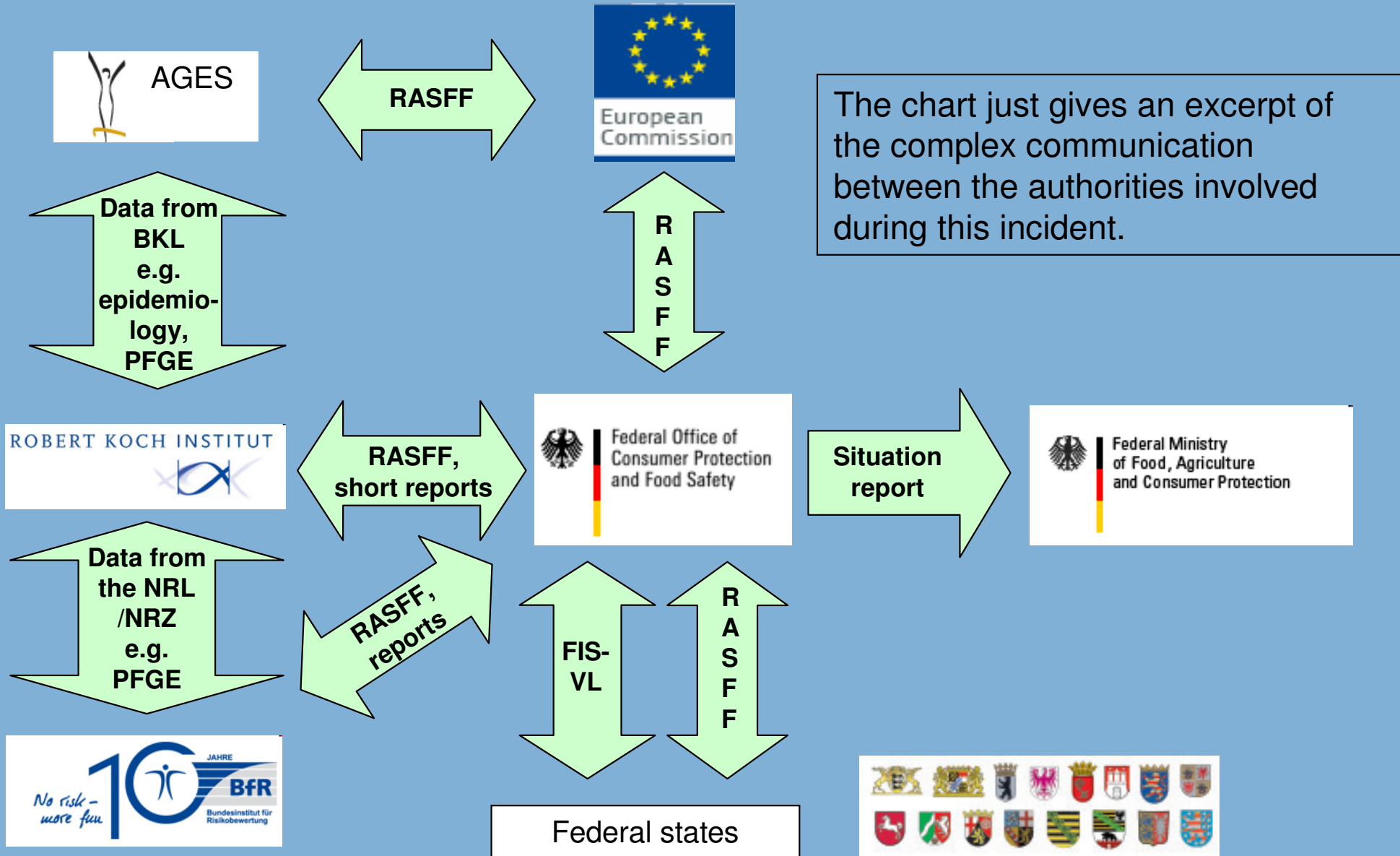
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II - Crisis Coordination - An Example

L. monocytogenes in syrečky cheese (*Quargel* cheese) from Austria (2010)



II - Serious Incidences and Crises in 2011

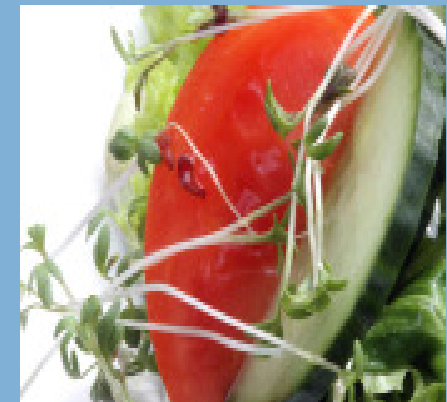
- Dioxins in vegetable feed fat for pigs and poultry
- Chloramphenicol in vitamin A/D3 premix from China
- Radioactive contamination in Japan
- **Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O104:H4 in sprouted seeds**

Reviewing the EHEC crisis

Total of 2.987 cases of EHEC gastroenteritis in Germany

885 cases of HUS

53 cases of death



Photograph by Lichtbild
Austria - pixelio.de

Beginning: second week of May 2011

End: July 5th, 2011

Challenges after 10 days investigation into the outbreak:

- STEC O104:H4 was not found in any of the food samples analysed
- Lack of a validated method detection of STEC in vegetables
- Risk-based inspections along the food chain without positive findings
- The usual food-borne outbreak investigations were not successful
- Pressure to find the STEC contaminated food rose steadily



Action taken: establishment of an EHEC Task Force

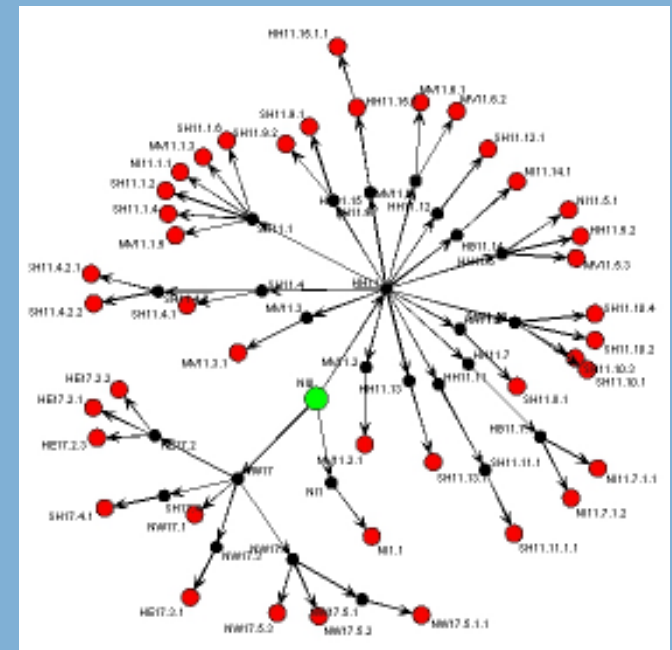
- to develop new approaches for outbreak investigation
- in close collaboration with all players in the outbreak investigation



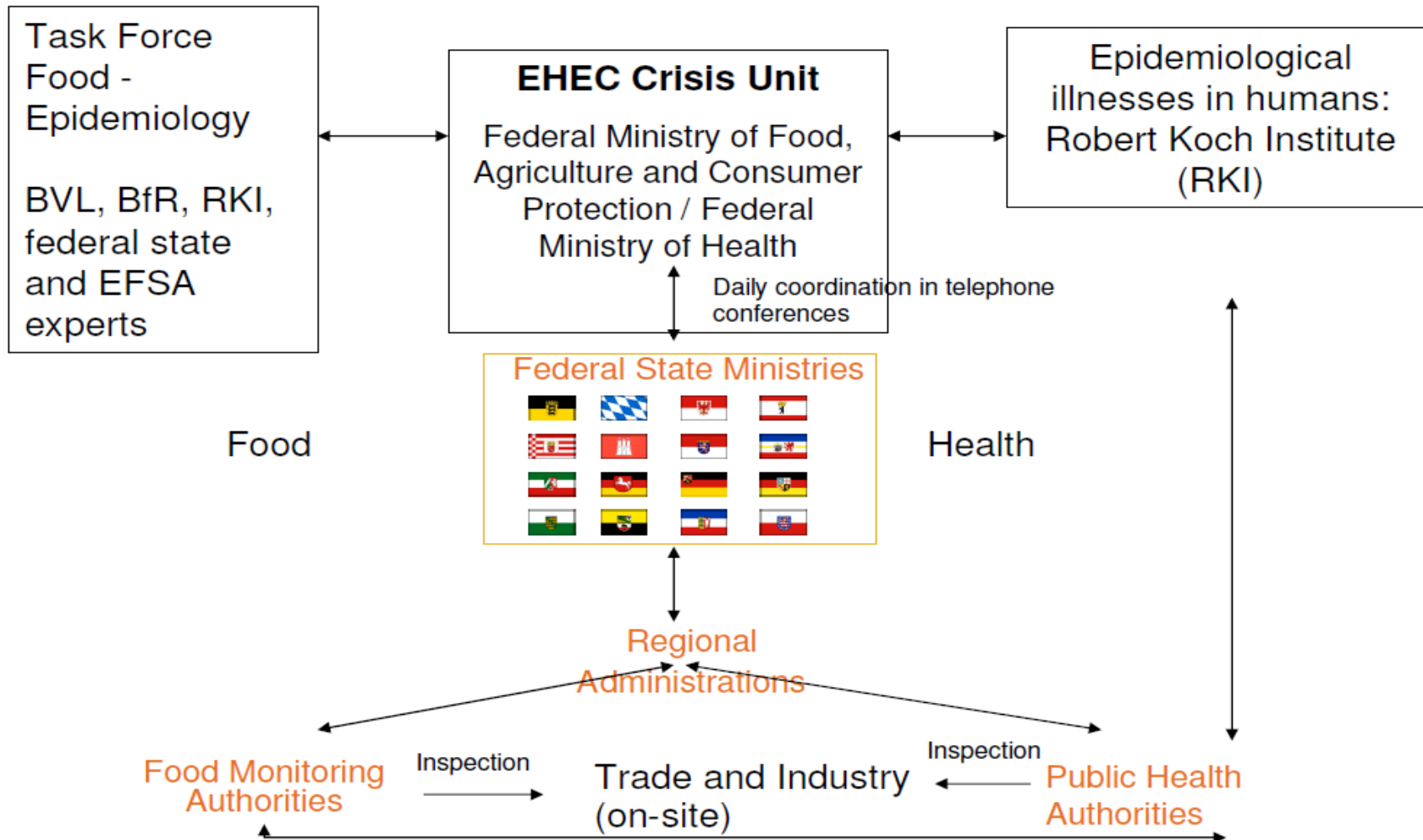
Solution: Improved tracing

- Detailed trace-back for five outbreak clusters
- Trace-forward approach from the suspicious sprout producer in Lower Saxony

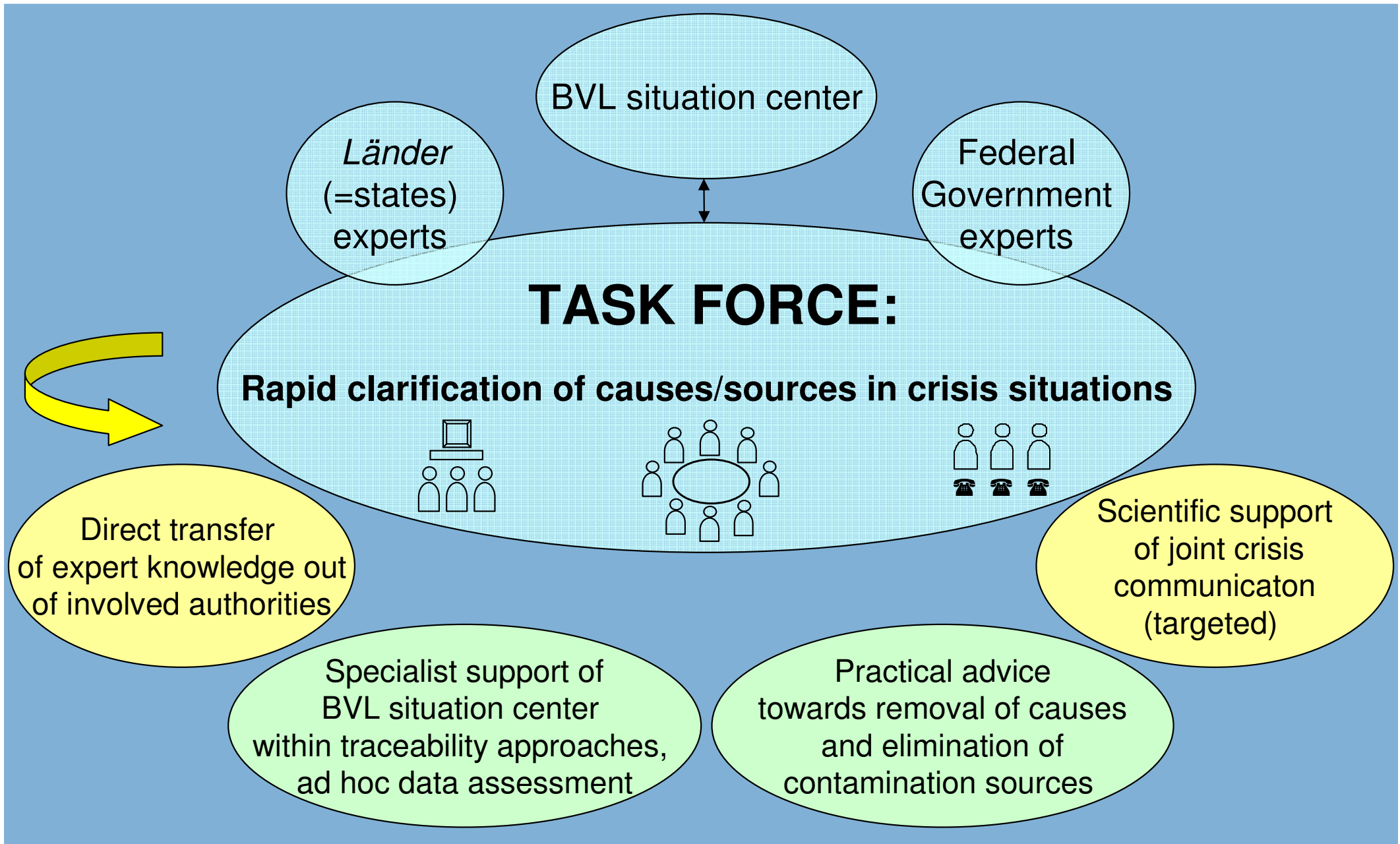
Challenge: Trace-back information for vegetable lots was only available on paper



Overview of Food Safety Crisis Management



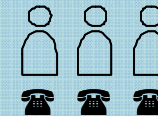
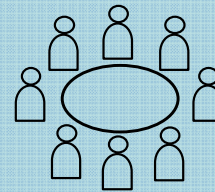
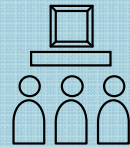
II - Main Issues of the Task Force Concept: Structure/Tasks



II - Main Issues of Task Force Concept: Requirements

TASK FORCE:

Rapid clarification of causes/sources in crisis situations



Quality management/
training courses

Securing availability
of expert networks

Coordination office
= securing of structural and
operational organisation

- location
- information and communication technology
- interface to situation center
- preliminary work (anticipatory)

Incident relevant
data and knowledge
management

Analysis/monitoring of
RASFF- hot spots

Practical crisis exercises to optimise
interagency coordination within
Federal Government and *Länder* level

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III - Improved Crisis Coordination - Requirements

Requirements of future crisis coordination:

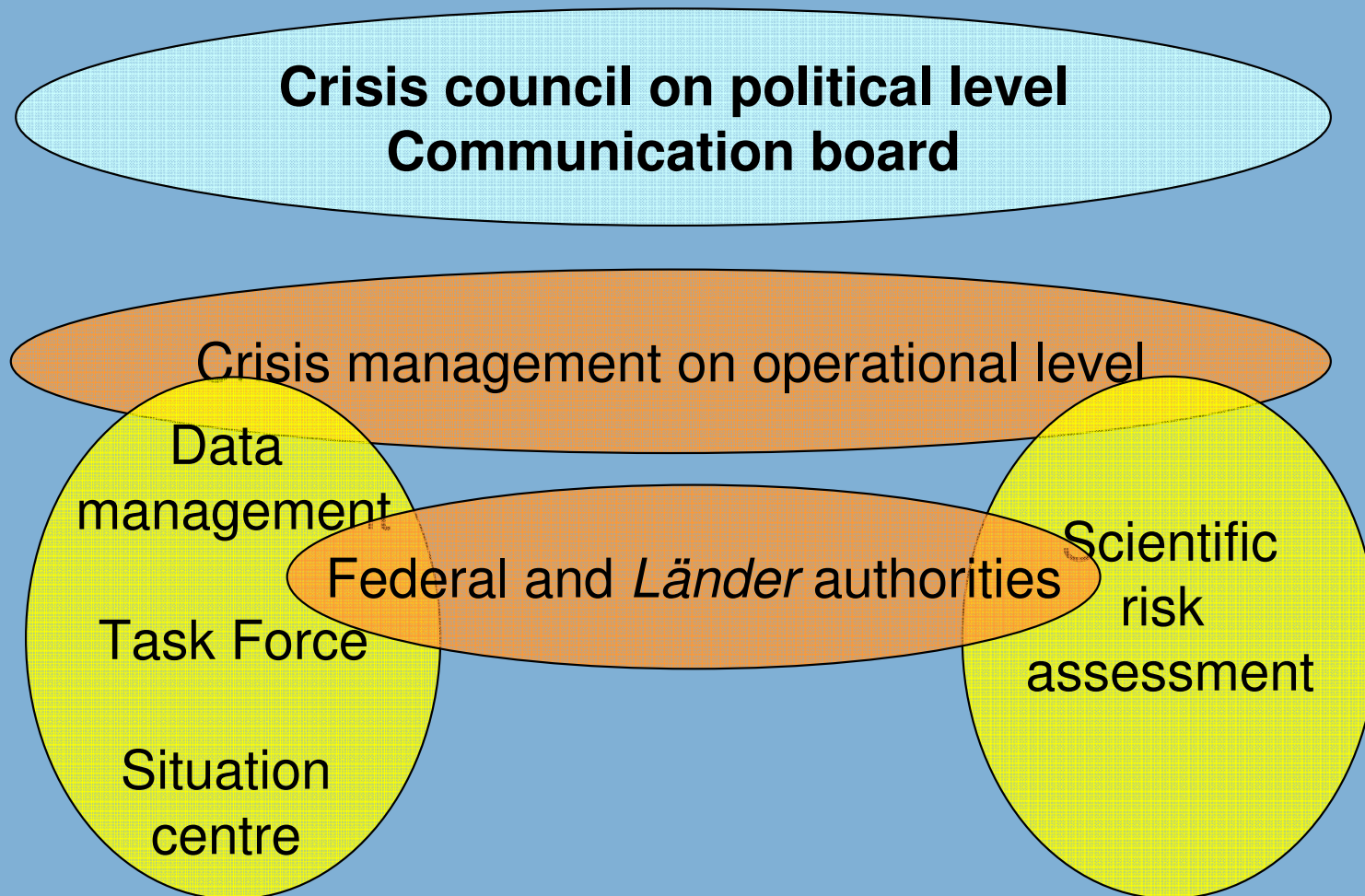
- Faster provision of data for the purpose of traceability across all stages
- Defining formats and systems of digitalisation
- Creating structures of information exchange among health and food control authorities on all levels
- Setting up the legal framework necessary for the given technical requirements (e. g., amending the IfSG [Act on Infection Control] and the LFGB [Food and Feed Code])
- Improvement of data management
- Further development of databases with early recognition tools

III - Further Improvement of Data Management in Germany - The Aims of the Pilot Project Nationwide Database (eFI)

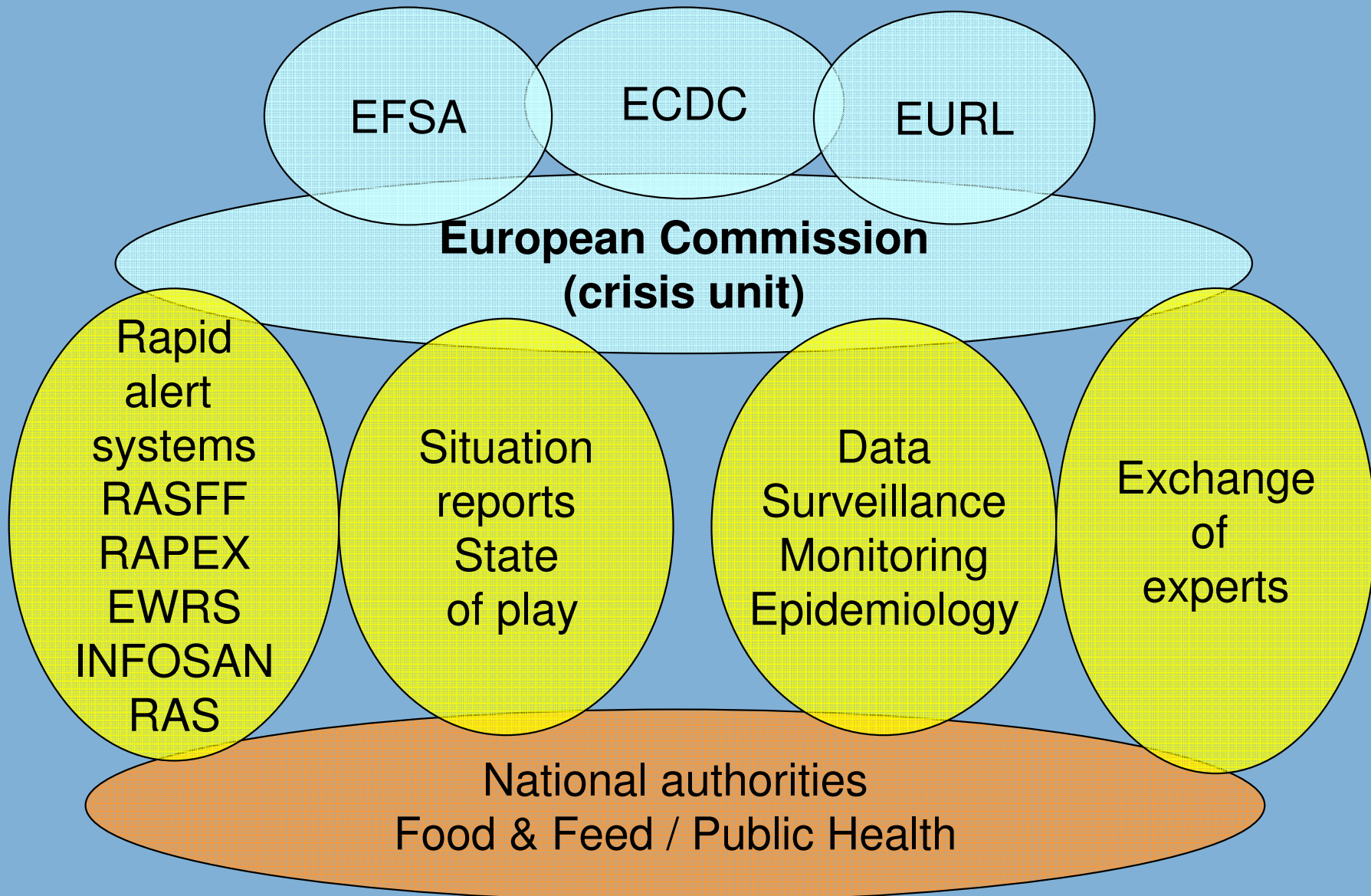
- Use of nationwide control data for early risk identification
- Supporting the preparation of situation reports in accordance with § 49 LFGB
- Development of indicators for operative goals in the area of control
- Simplified reporting
- Use of data for research
- Basis for consumer information



Crisis coordination (*Länder* and Federal Government level)



III - Cooperation with European Commission



I - Legal Framework and Essentials

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- Establishing coordinating structures
- Regular national / international crisis exercises
- Shortening action and response time
- Information exchange with food/feed industry
- Crisis communication

IV - Common Aims of Improved Crisis Coordination

Appropriateness

Definiteness

Promptness

Transparency

Cooperation

Definition of interfaces

Communication

**Thank you for your
attention!**

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