

FOOD SAFETY IN TERMS OF THEMATIC CONTROLS MADE BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION (NAPC)

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Abstract: Romania achieved some important progress in correlating national politics with EU regulations. In this paper are analyzed aspects regarding the controls on food made in 2011-2014 period, by the National Authority for Consumer Protection (NAPC), which is the most important authority in the domain. The presented results cumulate thematic inspections, performed at a national level, and the measures taken as a result of the control. The official information's provided by NACP were used for the present study.

Key words: food safety, protection of consumers, thematic inspections, NAPC

INTRODUCTION

Food safety considerations include the origins of food including the practices relating to food labeling, food hygiene, additives and pesticide residues, as well as policies on biotechnology and food and guidelines for the management of governmental import and export inspection and certification systems for foods.

In Romania, Decision No. 878/2014 regulates the organization and operation of the National Authority for Consumer Protection. NAPC's priorities are the consumer's access to public information and the transparency of national politics.

Also, NAPC is part of the RAPEX European System and it notifies the European Commission about the high risk products identified in Romania.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Documenting the work consisted in using data from the annual reports submitted by the National Authority (NAPC 2011-2014), legislation and some authors, associated with research, formed the basis of the analysis. The specific legislative elements used were accessed by means of the European or national databases.

RESEARCH RESULTS

In the studied period, the NAPC was focused on labeling and products conformity verification, in special regarding the following categories of products: mineral waters, frozen and traditional products, jam, fish, pre-packed bread and bakery products; juice and refreshments, milk and milk products, meat, olive oil, olives, wine, tomato paste etc. Also were monitored the specific marketing of Traditional Holidays.

The unconformity of food products reveals the following aspects: the frequent non-compliance with the weight written on the packaging, the limit consumption date which was exceeded or missing, the improper manner of indicating prices. In analyzed period, under these actions were taken samples of food products and were found failure to comply with legal provisions at 33-44% of them.

The share of thematic controls made by NAPC in food from total numbers of controls is presented in figure 1.

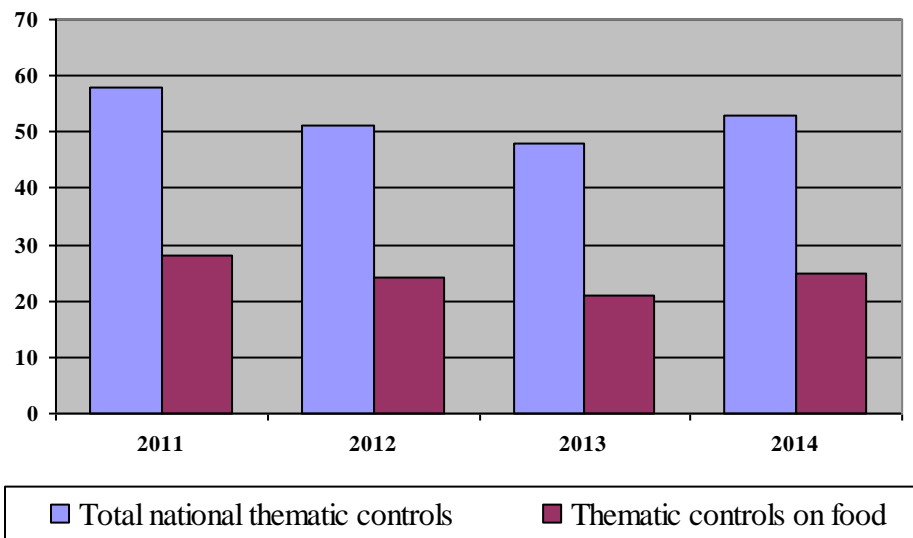


Figure 1. The number of national thematic controls made by NAPC

Source: Official information's provided by NAPC

The value of fines (lei), applied by NAPC for the violations of regulations regarding consumer protection, registered values between 75.333.050 in 2012 and 125.013.500 in 2011 (figure 2).

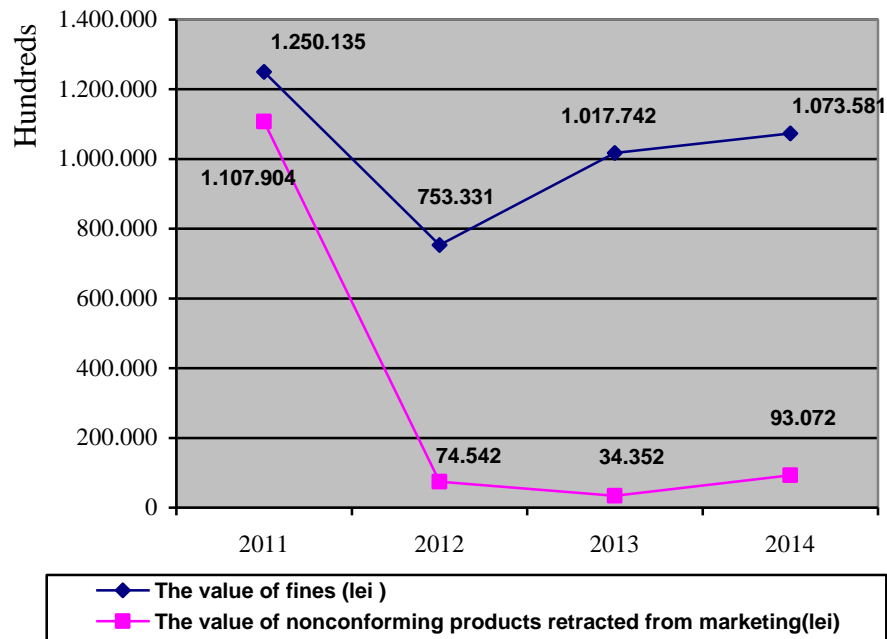


Figure 2. Activity indicators of NAPC.

Source: Official information's provided by NAPC

Analysing the figure 3 we observe that the total number of Romanian citizen complaints registered a continuous growth.

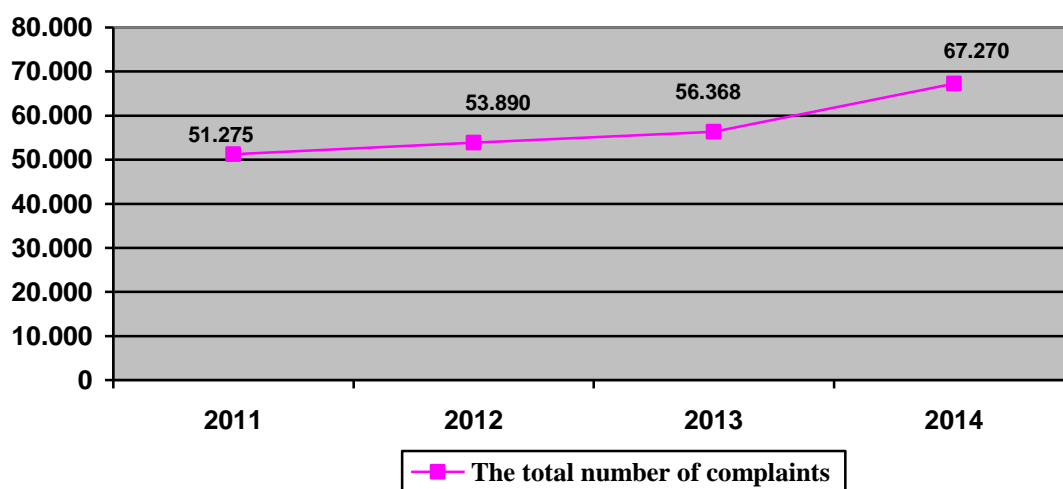


Figure 3. Total number of Romanian citizen complaints.

Source: Official information's provided by NAPC

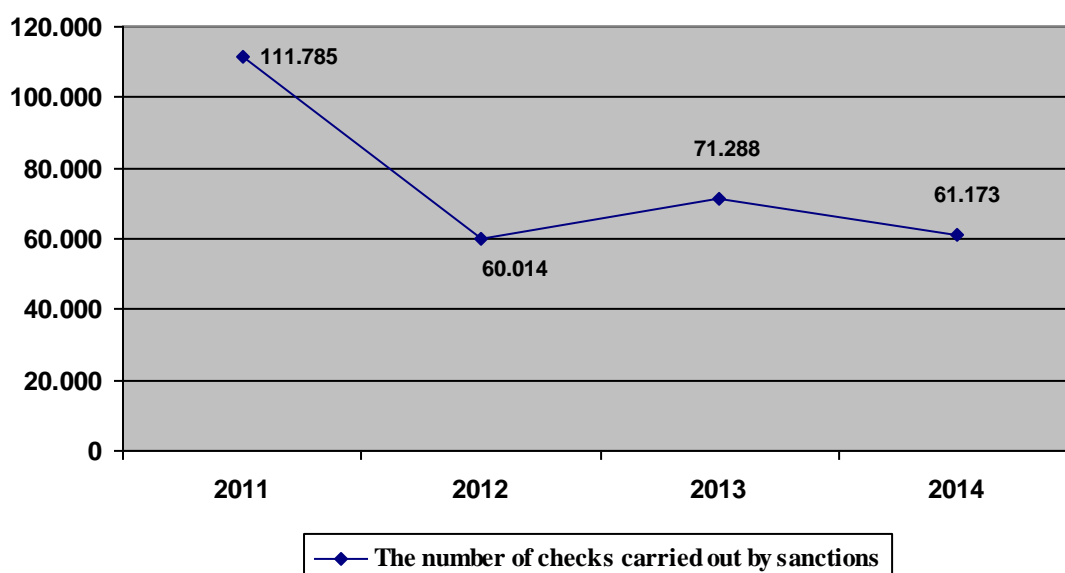


Figure 4. The number of checks carried out by sanctions

Source: Official information's provided by NAPC

CONCLUSIONS

Food safety considerations include the origins of food including the practices relating to food.

The thematic inspections, performed by NAPC at a national level reveal the nonconformity of food products regarding the following aspects: the frequent non-compliance with the weight written on the packaging, the limit consumption date which was exceeded or missing, the improper manner of indicating prices, etc.

In analyzed period, under these actions were taken samples of food products and were found failure to comply with legal provisions at 33-44% of them.

In 2011-2014 period, the total number of citizen complaints registered a continuous growth.

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