EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2020)3923208

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*
29 June 2020

CIRCABC Link: ***https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/539522e1-c343-44ad-bff4-4349d699d601***

SUMMARY REPORT

The meeting took place via videoconference due to measures taken to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion (technical agreement) of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as regards uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin

The Commission presented the revision aiming at addressing a number of requests from Member States and stakeholders to provide more clarity on certain legal provisions related to official controls as a consequence of experiences on the practical implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2019/627 from 14 December 2019 on, in particular on post-mortem inspection and health marking. It includes also the suppression of the mouse test for the detection of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning marine biotoxin. No comments were received on the revisions related to post-mortem inspection and health marking. As regard the method for detection of PSP toxins two Member States requested a transitional period before to stop the mouse test. Comments on the application of the proposed CEN method especially related to the accreditation of the national laboratories. Commission will not grant any additional period before stopping the mouse test taking into account the stringent animal welfare rules applicable.

Vote Postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion (technical agreement) of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending the Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs as regards food allergen management, redistribution of food and food safety culture

The Commission presented the revision aiming at adapting the Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs to introduce preventive measures to avoid cross-contamination by allergens in food, to facilitate safe food donations (part of Farm to Fork strategy) and to introduce a food safety culture in food businesses in line with new Codex standards. The Commission update on the progress of work at Codex level,

expecting the adoption of the standard on allergens and the revision of the general principles on food hygiene, in September or October 2020. Some Member States stressed the importance of further guidance on food safety culture, which the Commission promised one this Regulation is adopted. One Member State opposed due to the proposed solutions for the transfer of food after the date of minimum durability, due to the national provisions in force. All other Member States (except Malta being absent), supported the technical agreement. The draft will now be sent to the World Trade Organisation and uploaded for public consultation.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex VI to Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 laying down the methods of analysis for the determination of constituents of animal origin for the official control of feed

The Commission briefly provided a historical perspective of this draft and explained that the main purpose of this initiative is to amend the protocol for light microscopy described in Annex IV to align it with the general provisions of Annex II, particularly as regards the number of determinations to be performed: only 1 determination will have to be performed when a positive result matches the declared content, instead of 2 currently, thus decreasing the burden. The amendment is also the opportunity to make technical adjustments bringing increased clarity to the light microscopy method.

One Member State mentioned it still has issues with technicalities; unless they are resolved in the meantime, it will abstain when the text is put to vote.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria and repealing Commission Implementing Decision 2013/652/EU

The Commission presented the draft Decision aiming to update the technical requirements applicable, as from 1 January 2021, to the harmonised monitoring and reporting of AMR in zoonotic and commensal bacteria in food and food producing animals in the EU. This draft is largely based on the latest EFSA scientific opinion on the subject (June 2019) but also on the field experience acquired since 2014 by Member States. Several Member States underlined the necessity to have clarity on the co-financing of the measures before the vote can take place. The Commission clarified the process on this aspect. Two Member States expressed their concerns for monitoring AMR at import due to the uncertainty on the number of consignments to be tested when Brexit occurs and asked for more flexibility. The Commission will consider how to improve the text on this particular point. One Member State requested to enlarge the legal basis for including AMR monitoring in plants and environment. Several Member States announced they will send written comments. Deadline for written comments was set up on 17 July 2020.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation replacing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626 as regards lists of third countries and regions thereof authorised for the entry into the European Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption with regard to food safety requirements

The Commission presented the main amendments in comparison to Regulation (EU) 2019/626: (1) inclusion in the Annexes of lists for products that will not be subject anymore to animal health requirements after entry in force of Regulation C(2020)416 (e.g. fresh meat of solipeds); and (2) removal of third countries not having an approved residue monitoring plan from certain lists, in application to Regulation 2019/625- Article 4- point f).

Some issues were raised regarding the special situation of Iceland and Switzerland, as well as regarding the use of some terms that need to be better defined and/or match the definitions applied in the acts being referred to (i.e. Decision 2011/163). The Commission is aware of these issues and is currently working on it. An amended version will be presented in the coming months to the MS. Comments from MS on the presented draft are welcome in written form before 17 July 2020.