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

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**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A.01 Special guarantees concerning *Salmonella* spp. laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 to meat derived from poultry in primary production and poultry products intended for Iceland.**

The Icelandic Government informed Member States about Iceland application in July to the EFTA for special guarantees concerning *Salmonella* spp. in poultry meat and eggs as the revised 4th edition of the Icelandic *Salmonella* control programme is equivalent to the Finish and Swedish programmes and complies with the '*Guidance document on the minimum requirements for Salmonella control programmes to be recognised equivalent to those approved for Sweden and Finland in respect of meat and eggs of Gallus gallus*'.

**A.02 Discussion on a proposal of FEDFA Guidelines for deer kept by men for purpose of the venison production and sales.**

A request for the development of "*Guidelines for deer kept by men for the purpose of venison production and sales*" submitted by the Federation of European Deer Farmers' Association (FEDFA) to the Commission was discussed with the Member States. Though the guide would be welcome, the Commission and several Member States expressed concerns on its proposed scope. It was concluded that FEDFA should be informed to stay within the scope of Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 (harmonised good practices for hygiene).

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council.**

The Commission presented a draft based on the outcome of the last Working Group meeting held on 24 September and some further comments received after that date. The discussion focused on the production limit for the derogation to the timing of post-mortem inspection, being a reason for certain Member States not to support the

text, while indicated as essential by others to support. One Member State also triggered a discussion on the definition of low-capacity slaughterhouse and game-handling establishment. It was agreed that the Commission would attempt to make the definition clearer on the basis of the current understanding (and current application of discontinuous slaughter) that should stay untouched. Further to ongoing stakeholders consultation and forthcoming SPS notification, the draft should be planned for vote at the end of the year.

Technical agreement with qualified majority.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing lists of third countries and regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of products of animal origin intended for human consumption and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/759.**

The Commission presented a draft based on the outcome of the last Working Group meeting held on 24 September and some further comments received after that date. Final changes included the listing of countries allowed to import insects and the relation with novel food authorisation. Further to ongoing stakeholders consultation and forthcoming SPS notification, the draft should be planned for vote at the end of the year.

Technical agreement with qualified majority.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down model official certificates for the entry into the Union of certain animals and goods.**

Final minor amendments were presented by the Commission. Some Member States requested to keep for clarity reasons "intended for human consumption" in several certificates. Some overlap of recitals on the captains' declaration were signalled. Further to ongoing stakeholders consultation and forthcoming SPS notification, the draft should be planned for vote at the end of the year.

Technical agreement with qualified majority.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards certain methods, the food safety criterion for *Listeria monocytogenes* in sprouted seeds and the process hygiene and food safety criteria for unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices (ready- to-eat).**

One Member State still had comments on the text and requested a few clarifications in it, notably in relation to third parties validation or the definition of pasteurisation. No other Member State commented and agreement was finally reached unanimously on the text.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulations (EU) Nos 200/2010, 517/2011, 200/2012, 1190/2012 as regards certain methods for *Salmonella* testing and sampling in poultry.**

The text had been extensively discussed on previous occasion. The Commission presented the last minor amendments made on the recitals and the draft was supported by a qualified majority of Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls of food of animal origin.**

The Commission explained that all requirements with regard to official controls should be deleted from Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as they will be introduced in the delegated or implementing Regulations prepared in accordance with Article 18 or Article 90 (for model certificates) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Requirements addressed to both the competent authorities and the food business operators will be amended to limit their application to food business operators in Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005. The draft did not call for any comment of the Member States.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation possibly revising Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards TSE eradication measures in goats and endangered breeds.**

There was consensus among Member States on the need to include provisions that take into account the genetic resistance of certain genotypes in goats. Two Member States proposed to go further in the case of movements of resistant animals from holdings subjects to movement restrictions. Some other Member States expressed however concerns regarding this relaxation. The document will be re-discussed with experts in the next TSE Working Group meeting.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation possibly revising Annex IV and Annex X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards the export conditions of fertilisers and soil improvements containing processed animal proteins derived from ruminants and the use of discriminatory Western blotting.**

The Member States reiterated their concerns on traceability for the export of fertilisers containing ruminant PAP. The Commission recalled that the current epidemiological situation in the EU had to be taken into consideration, with 24 Member States and part of another now having reached a negligible risk status and no case of classical BSE detected in the EU since 2017. With regard to the performance of the discriminatory Western blotting only in the index cases, some Member States underlined the possibility to have different strains present in the same outbreak and thus questioned the limitation of the discriminatory Western blotting to such index cases. The Commission recalled however that BSE in sheep has never been detected naturally and the likelihood of detecting it in a non-index case is negligible.

**C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Regulation revising Regulation (EC) No 2017/186 as regards sampling procedures and reporting requirements by EU Member States**

The draft received the support of the delegations. The need to ensure consistency with the methods for *Salmonella* testing and sampling in poultry was underlined. One Member State proposed different weights for practical reasons, when categorising consignments for sampling. The draft will be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group on microbiological criteria.

**C.05 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation revising Commission Implementing Decision expanding further the safeguard measures against Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).**

The Commission presented the rationale for the draft measure to take account of the detection of a positive case in Finland, both from an animal health and public health perspective. All Member States took the floor. Some expressed concerns on the proportionality of the measure, others invited for a scientific assessment. A third of them could support the measure while another third did not have a position yet. The Commission confirmed that EFSA had been asked to update its opinion on Chronic Wasting Disease with a deadline for the autumn 2019.

**C.06 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the monitoring programme for chronic wasting disease in cervids in the European Union Member States.**

The Commission explained that further to one case of Chronic Wasting Disease discovered in Norway in a red deer, the surveillance programme in cervids should be extended to all Member States. Several Member States considered that this single case in Norway did not justify the implementation of surveillance in all EU countries having a red deer population, while a few were favourable to it.

**C.07 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional measures for the application of public health requirements of imports of food containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin.**

The Commission proposed to extend the transitional measures for the import of composite products, applicable for the time being until 31 December 2020, from that date to 21 April 2021 (when the Animal Health Law will enter into force) to ensure that both public health and animal health conditions become applicable on the same day. The approach was not questioned by any Member State.

**M.01 Results of an audit carried out in India on the control of residues and contaminants in aquaculture, in live animals and animal products.**

A Member State drew the attention of other Member States on the discussion held in another Section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on the results of an audit carried out in India on the control of residues and contaminants in aquaculture, in live animals and animal products including controls on veterinary medicinal products and called for more testing at the border inspection posts on the presence of undesirable residues in consignments exported to the EU.