



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 13 DECEMBER 2016
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

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

A.01 Update from Norway as regards Chronic Wasting Disease.

Norway presented an update on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) situation in Norway. 5 positive cases have been detected so far out of 9,115 tests carried out in 2016 (data until 2 December 2016), with no new positive case detected since September 2016. Only 2 areas are involved in these 5 positive cases, Nordfjella and Selbu. Norwegian authorities are currently reflecting on the design of the 2017 surveillance programme. A second report of the Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety is expected for March 2017.

A.02 Presentation and possible endorsement of the revised "Guidelines for the validation of apparatuses for the detection of Trichinella larvae".

An update of the Guidelines for validation of new methods for the detection of Trichinella larvae in meat samples was presented. The European Reference Laboratory (EURL) for parasites updated the guidelines in order to exclude false results during validation due to errors by laboratory staff. Despite the (favourable) consultation of all national reference laboratories by the EURL, three Member States provided comments. They will be discussed with the EURL. Endorsement was thus postponed.

A.03 Presentation of the revised version (Rev. 5) of the European guidelines for good hygiene practices in artisanal cheese production.

The revised version was presented by the Commission. A few comments were made at the meeting, namely on the need to better address the hazards STEC and E. coli. This revised version was endorsed by all Member States subject to corrections being made to the final version.

A.04 Presentation of the revised version (Rev. 1) of EU hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting issued by ESSA - European Sprouted Seeds Association.

The revised version was presented by the Commission. A few comments were made at the meeting, namely on clarification brought to Listeria and editorial issues. This revised version was endorsed by all Member States subject to corrections being made to the final version.

A.05 Presentation of the revised version (Rev. 3) of the Commission Notice on Guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruit and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene.

The revised version was presented by the Commission. A few comments were made at the meeting, namely on corrections of footnotes and clarification of water-related issues. This revised version was welcomed and endorsed by all Member States subject to corrections being made to the final version.

A.06 AOB - Update on the outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis MLVA 2-9-7-3-2

Poland presented an overview of the actions taken on eggs and in flocks of laying hens, including laboratory testing. Salmonella enteritidis has been detected in 68 flocks on 14 holdings so far, depopulation is in progress and table eggs from infected flocks are blocked (heat-treated as egg product or destroyed). Irregularities were detected in one laboratory. Data are systematically submitted to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

A.07 AOB - Presentation by Poland of the results of the implementation of the EU co-financed Salmonella control programme

Poland provided an overview of the number of flocks covered by its national control programme on Salmonella in breeding and laying flocks of Gallus gallus, in broilers and in breeding and fattening flocks of turkeys. A reduction of prevalence was observed throughout the years. The Commission co-financed 1 761 504 € in 2014.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Annexes X, XIV and XV to Commission Regulation (EC) No 142/2011 as regards processed animal protein.

The Commission presented the draft text, for which the main objectives are:

1. to authorise Processed Animal Protein (PAP) from insects in feed for aquaculture animals, lay down requirements for the production of such insect PAP in the EU as well as import conditions which reflect these EU internal rules
2. to lift the existing ban on export of ruminant PAP subject to certain conditions
3. to clarify the rules for the export on non-ruminant PAP and compound feed containing such PAP

4. to allow other establishments than slaughterhouse and cutting plants to provide raw materials for the production of non-ruminant PAP, provided that the establishment is dedicated to non-ruminants or uses separate production lines
5. to lay down requirements for the storage of PAP and compound feed containing PAP in order to avoid cross-contamination with feed intended for ruminants

The Commission summarised the feedback received from stakeholders on this draft text:

- support given to the authorisation to use insect PAP in feed for aquaculture animals and encouragement for a possible authorisation of insect PAP in feed for poultry and pigs, and possible authorisation of other substrates of animal origin to feed the insects, such as former foodstuffs containing meat or fish.
- the lifting of the ban on ruminant PAP was welcomed and the financial impact of the existing ban was highlighted.

Member States commented various aspects of the text. The Commission will explore the feasibility of developing detection methods for the identification of insect species in insect PAP, to support their control by Member States' competent authorities.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the removal of specified risk materials from small ruminants.

The Commission presented the draft text for which the main objective is to limit the list of Specified Risk Materials (SRM) of small ruminants to the skull, the brain and the eyes of ovine and caprine animals over 12 months of age, based on European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinions from 2010 and 2015.

The Commission summarised the feedback received from stakeholders on this draft text (including one slaughterhouse): general support for the text and that the same list of SRM for small ruminants be applied to all Member States and a view that SRM removal in small ruminants could be entirely stopped.

Several Member States provided comments on the text.

Vote postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards the official controls on fishery products caught by Union flagged vessels and

introduced into Union territory after being transferred in third countries and establishing a model of the health certificate for those products.

The draft Commission Regulation was discussed with Member States and the vote was postponed as despite overall agreement, the transshipment for fresh fishery products still required clarification. A technical vote before notification to SPS may be taken on 24 January 2017.

Vote postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 743/2013 introducing protective measures on imports of bivalve molluscs from Turkey intended for human consumption, as regards its period of application.

The proposal to prolong the application period by 1 year until 31 December 2017 of the restrictive measures on the import of live and chilled bivalve molluscs from Turkey was discussed.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down specific conditions applicable to the import of certain food from certain third countries due to microbiological contamination and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2016/166 and amending Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.

The draft was presented by the Commission. The purpose of this measure is to establish a framework for listing certain foodstuffs from certain third countries following multiple findings of microbiological contamination of imported food of non-animal origin. The consignments would have to be accompanied by a health certificate (annexed to the Implementing Regulation). A specific measure has already been taken for betel leaves from India (Regulation (EC) No 2016/166). This text would repeal relevant previous individual acts. Two Member States provided technical comments on the text, to which the Commission responded. France abstained from the vote and made the following declaration for the minutes of the meeting:

« La France soutient sur le principe l'adoption d'une mesure d'urgence transversale portant sur les risques microbiologiques de certaines denrées alimentaires en provenance de certains pays tiers et l'inclusion des graines de sésame originaires ou en provenance d'Inde dans celle-ci. La France regrette cependant que la rédaction retenue, en ce qui concerne la notion de « lot », ne soit pas alignée sur celle de la plupart des autres mesures d'urgence. Le fait de renvoyer à la définition établie par le règlement (CE) n°669/2009 conduit en effet à admettre la notification d'envois composés de plusieurs lots au sens des règles d'échantillonnage, accompagnés d'un seul rapport d'échantillonnage et d'analyse. Cela pose d'une part la question de la validité de tels rapports, d'autre part celle de la méthodologie qui devra être employée par les services de contrôle, dès lors qu'ils pourraient à l'instar des autorités indiennes être amenés à procéder à un seul prélèvement couvrant l'ensemble de ces lots, en

méconnaissance des règles établies par le règlement (CE) n°2013/2005. C'est pourquoi la France n'est pas en mesure de soutenir le texte tel que présenté au vote. »

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes III and VII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the genotyping of ovine animals.

The Commission presented the draft text, the objective being to remove the current obligation to carry out 100 or 600 tests per year for the random genotyping of sheep in each Member State, except for those Member States which have decided to 1/ implement a breeding programme for the promotion of genetic resistance to TSE in sheep, and 2/ extend this breeding programme to breeding rams in flocks other than those of high genetic merit. In the latter Member States (a minority of Member States are concerned for the moment), the random genotyping obligation is maintained in order to measure the impact of the Member States breeding programme on the general ovine population of that State, with a sampling of 1 650 sheep every 3 years, based on an EFSA opinion from 2006. Two Member States had questions and remarks which the Commission addressed. The Commission mentioned that the draft text was published for stakeholder feedback, and that the intention was to present the text for an opinion of the Committee at the meeting on 24 January 2016.