



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2018)4227248

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*
3 July 2018

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

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Presentation by ESSA (European Salmon Smokers Association) for a possible endorsement by the Member States of a European guide to good practice for smoked fishes and/or salted and/or marinated.

ESSA presented its guide that takes into account all the comments received from the Commission and the Member States. Poland asked to postpone the adoption as they are doing scientific studies to demonstrate the safety of the using the so called stiffening technological step (where the fish temperature is lowered at -10°C for allowing an easy cutting) for storing the products. Editorial comments from other Member States. The United Kingdom asked to take into account some comments presented. The guide was endorsed. Remaining comments will be taken into account before the publication.

A.02 Draft Commission Implementing Regulation revising Regulation (EC) No 2017/186 as regards sampling procedures and reporting requirements by EU Member States.

Regulation (EC) No 2017/186 lays down specific conditions applicable to the import of certain food from certain third countries due to microbiological contamination. The proposed measure intends to fix sampling procedures applicable both for the third country when carrying out 100% analytical checks prior to export to the EU and for EU competent authorities when checking the imports at the designated points of entry. In addition, for simplification reasons, the reporting by Member States is reduced to once a year, with the provision of aggregated data on all consignments for a given food and country of origin. The draft has been presented in the Working Group Meeting on Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 of 22 June 2018. The Commission informed Member States of the outcome of the meeting. Member States expressed general support of the draft.

C.01 Exchange of views 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 Commission presented the revised draft Commission Regulation, which takes into account the comments received from Member States. Concerns were expressed about the sensitivity of the alternative *Salmonella* sampling methods and about the application of Annex D of the *Salmonella* reference method. As regards the remaining technical questions sent by Member States, the Commission will provide written replies after experts consultation.

C.02 Exchange of views 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).

The draft Commission Regulation was presented by the Commission. The document is under public consultation which will be concluded in July. Member States expressed general support to the proposal and thanked the Commission for addressing their comments. The draft proposal should be tabled for vote at the PAFF Committee of October 2018.

C.03 Exchange of views 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 discussion focused on Article 13 (delay of post-mortem inspection) and article 18 (post-mortem inspection in poultry). On the former, several Member States expressed appreciation to Commission on its efforts to find a compromise and could accept it. Some concerns were expressed on the high threshold and the possibility to adapt at national level. A debate took place between Member States on the possibility to allow the post-mortem inspection also by the official auxiliary, and not only by the official veterinarian. On the latter, specifically on poultry, comments were received on the conditions to allow "batch inspection - representative sample". A lot of Member States asked for more detailed criteria when this can be applied. The Commission proposed to consider this aspect further after internal discussion. The rest of the text did not lead to substantial comments. Since the Commission introduced ante-mortem inspection and post-mortem inspection in reptile meat, it indicated that it does not intend to introduce at this stage a dedicated section in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

C.04 Exchange of views 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.

Several Member States requested to include live snails and frogs. The Commission however indicated that they are not products of animal origin and no specific requirements at primary products are laid down. Recent amendments were presented

regarding casings, poultry minced meat and mechanically separated meat. Some Member States expressed concerns on the lists of countries for live insects. The Commission explained the background (based on Eurostat data with currently major imports), emphasised the need for objective criteria to list countries and indicated that, as the intention was to maintain existing imports which could be reviewed based on audits' outcome. A Member State did not support the broad listing of "other products of animal origin" and asked that such products be at least accompanied by an import certificate. The Commission explained the rationale for creating such a category ie, if not listed some products may no longer be imported because of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004).

C.05 Exchange of views 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.

Some Member States commented the draft, inviting to include live snails and frogs.

M.01 Listex.

Belgium and the Netherlands asked the Commission to clarify the state-of-play on the application (a bacteriophage that could be used as decontaminant on ready-to-eat foods). Several Member States took the floor to indicate that they were contacted by the applicant company. The Commission indicated that it is attentive to all aspects when considering the authorisation of de-contaminants, as they are perceived as a disincentive to invest in hygiene at all steps of the food production. It reminded Member States of the discussions both at working group and at Committee level and, in light of the numerous comments received and the difficulty to find support, stopped the discussion on this application. The company has been informed by the Commission accordingly.

M.02 Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2006/766/EC.

The Commission informed the Committee about the preparation of the amendment of Annex I of Decision 2006/766/EU which establishes the list of third countries from which import into the EU of certain fishery products for human consumption are permitted. The proposed amendment would add to Decision 2006/766/EU two States (Massachusetts and Washington) of the USA to the list of third countries complying with EU import. Similarly, the USA are in the process of authorising two EU Member States (the Netherlands and Spain). As a result, this should resume trade of those products between the EU and the U.S.