EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*

14 October 2019

CIRCABC Link: *https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/7ff6b07d-4900-4fda-8d3f-f21d4ddc58a2*

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Presentation by the Commission of summarised data on food irradiation for the years 2016-2017.

The Commission presented to Member States the main findings of the report on food ionisation for 2016-2017 and informed them of the state of play of the ongoing external study on the retrospective evaluation of the food ionisation Directives. The Commission invited Member States to reply to the Open Public Consultation that will be launched in November 2019 on this subject.

A.02 Update on intended planning for the preparation of the future decision on the monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in food and food producing animals covering the period 2021-2027.

Based on EFSA opinion, and as provided for by the EU action plan on AMR adopted in June 2017, the Commission intends to repeal its Implementing Decision 2013/652/EU and adopt a new Decision on the monitoring of AMR in food and food producing animals to apply as from 2021. The Commission informed the Committee on the intended planning for the preparation of the future decision. The first draft will be discussed at the working group meeting on AMR in food of 6 November 2019. Discussions will continue monthly with the aim to a presentation in PAFF in March 2020 for an adoption by the Commission by the summer.

A.03 Discussion and possible endorsement of a revised guidance document on bottled water coolers submitted by watercoolers Europe.

Watercoolers Europe proposed this guide, developed in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) NO 852/2004 (general food hygiene), in a working group meeting on food hygiene on 30 November 2018. Several rounds of consultation were organised. Further to additional comments by Member States, the Commission will relay those to the stakeholder for addressing them. The resulting revision will be circulated to Member States for endorsement. The guide will be considered as endorsed if no further remarks are made on the revised version.

A.04 Information from the Commission on the Commission Notice providing guidance on food safety management systems for food retail activities, including food donations.

A Commission Notice has been finalised on the issue to support retailers in implementing EU requirements on good hygiene practices and HACCP. It includes hygiene guidance in case of food donations at retail and is based on two recent EFSA opinions. Some further editorial changes will be made. Several Member States thanked the Commission for this work. The Notice will be adopted by the Commission and published in the Official Journal by the end of 2019 or beginning of 2020.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission on the changes to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 due to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2019/1243 adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission informed the Committee on the main changes resulting from the alignment to the TFEU. As regards Regulation (EU) No 853/2004, they concern the procedure to authorise a decontaminating substance and to amend Annexes II and III to the Regulation. The procedure to be applied is that of Delegated Acts.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626 concerning lists of third countries and regions thereof authorised for the entry into the European Union of snails, gelatine and collagen, and insects intended for human consumption.

The Commission explained the reasons for proposing a draft Implementing Regulation that adds additional species and Armenia to the list of third countries authorised for entry into the EU of snails, extends the list of third countries authorised for entry into the EU of gelatine and collagen and lays down a specific list of third countries authorised for entry into the EU of insects. While no Member State commented on the amendment as regards Armenia and gelatine and collagen, several Member States expressed reluctance on the proposal for listing third countries authorised to import insects and the extension of species of snails. In summary, those Member States insisted on clarity with regard to hygiene rules and novel food applications before laying down the lists. The Commission explained the difference between the novel food authorisations which are on products themselves (when authorised they can be produced in any MS and imported) while this Regulation lists countries based on guarantees provided for official controls/compliance with EU rules. Both apply independently from each other. As regards hygiene rules, the same rules (only general ones or also specific ones e.g. laid down in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) apply to the same products, independently whether they are produced in the EU or imported. A favourable opinion was provided by qualified majority.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Ecuador, Serbia and a region of the United Kingdom.

The Commission presented the Draft Decision to Member States for discussion which objective is to bring EU legislation in line with the latest resolution of OIE, as regards the categorisation of countries or regions according to their BSE risk. In May 2019, OIE updated its classification to include Serbia in the list of countries with a negligible BSE risk status and to include Ecuador and Scotland in the list of countries and regions with a controlled BSE risk status. No questions were raised by Member States on the objective of the measure. The vote was postponed for administrative reason.

Vote Postponed

M.01 Post-mortem inspection (PMI) - concerns of Ireland

Ireland expressed its concerns that Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 becomes more strict than Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, in particular by introducing cases where the post-mortem inspection (PMI) must be carried out by the official veterinarian (OV) while it can currently happen under the supervision of the OV. Several Member States shared the concern of Ireland. Other expressed the views that they considered that official auxiliaries can carry out the PMI in the situations described in Article 8. The Commission is willing to discuss this issue in an expert group meeting. Any amendment to the Delegated Regulation is however excluded by 14 December 2019.

M.02 Cost/benefit analysis on toxoplasma controls - presented by The Netherlands

The Netherlands presented a cost/benefit analysis on toxoplasma controls that demonstrates an overall (public health) benefit when freezing systematically certain meat in the Netherlands. The study was welcomed by Member States though a number of them insisted on prudent considerations before extending the study to the EU. The Commission indicated that an extrapolation to the EU might not be easy e.g. by different eating habits, focus on other strategies (e.g. education) to control toxoplasma and possible risk of enhancing bacterial growth by freezing and thawing. An EFSA opinion might estimate a possible public health impact but will have to be completed by a cost-benefit analysis. Member States were asked to further reflect on the way forward.

M.03 State of play of the court case T-568/19 R - request of Belgium

At the request of Belgium, the Commission informed the Member States on the state of play of the court case T-568/19 R (Listex) where Micreos, the company marketing Listex, applied for the annulment of the so-called Commission's decision (in fact two letters) to prohibit the placing on the market of Listex as a processing aid and as a decontaminant. Micreos also sought for interim measures pending the main case, which the Court dismissed.