



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 23 JUNE 2015
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/2c39f94a-eb37-4d18-bf81-73c109dbe798>

A.01 Information from Finland on derogating domestic pigs from Trichinella testing.

The Commission informed Member States that Finland indicated their intention to apply the derogation from Trichinella testing in domestic pigs originating from holdings or compartments officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions. The derogation is based on historical data demonstrating a prevalence below 1 in a million. Extracts from the 2014 zoonoses monitoring report, submitted to the European Food Safety Authority were provided. The Commission announced that they will publish this derogation on their website and encouraged other Member States to inform the Committee as quickly as possible, if they want to apply the same derogations for reasons of transparency, to other Member States and third countries.

A.02 Presentation of the updated Guide for Good Hygiene Practices by COCERAL/COGECA/UNISTOCK version 2015 2.2.

The Commission informed Member States on the updated Guide for Good Hygiene Practices describing the main modifications in line with Member States' comments from 2013 to 2015. The scope of this guide covers both the feed and food area, with a major focus on feed aspects. This guide was evaluated by several Member States in the Working Group (WG) which took place during last December's restricted working Group (WG) and comments submitted at the beginning of 2015. The Commission invited Member States to provide comments if any, before the end of the week following this Standing Committee, as it has been put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Committee (PAFF) Animal Nutrition section, on 9-10 July 2015.

A.03 Presentation of the 2013 annual report on monitoring of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) in the EU.

The Commission presented a summary on surveillance of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in the EU in 2013, in accordance with Article 6.4 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. The full report is available on the Directorate General for Food Safety (DG SANTE) website and it will be printed and distributed to Member States in the coming months.

A.04 Discussion on a possible revision of the register of national guides for good practice, introducing a more user-friendly approach.

The Commission requested the views of Member States on introducing a new electronic tool for submitting national guides for good hygiene practice and for making the register of these guides more user-friendly. This would facilitate searching which guides are available. Most Member States taking the floor very much appreciated the initiative. Some expressed some concerns on possible administrative burden. The Commission clarified that the burden is limited to 1-2 days of work once by one person, to introduce the existing guides into the new system. It was agreed to discuss the technical details in a working group meeting scheduled on 1 July 2015.

A.05 AOB

The Commission drew the attention of Member States to the end of the derogation by 1 July 2015 in the import certificate for sprouts and seeds for sprouting. The model certificate laid down in Regulation (EU) No 704/2014 must still be used after 1/7/2015 but the certification on sampling and testing of Enterobacteriaceae is no longer applicable.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion (technical agreement) of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards gelatine, collagen and highly refined products of animal origin intended for human consumption. (See point C.01 of the PAFF meeting of 21 April 2015.)

Please see B.02 below.

Vote postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion (technical agreement) of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down lists of third countries, parts of third countries and/or territories authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain food of animal origin, and health certificates requirements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and repealing Decision 2003/812/EC.) (See Point C.02 of the PAFF Committee of 21 April 2015.)

Points B.01 and B.02 are closely related. The purpose of the draft legal acts is to bring together lists of third countries allowed to import certain food of animal origin and certificates into one single act for reasons of consistency and clarity. In addition, specific requirements are laid down for treated materials for the production of gelatine and collagen, and for certain highly refined products, to avoid current confusion on which certificate to use. The updated and new specific certificates will reduce the

administrative burden for importers and border inspection posts by the simplification (only one certificate) and the clarity provided on the certificate to be used.

Technical agreement was reached on both drafts. They will now be notified to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (SPS) for consultation. A final vote is anticipated in September/October 2015.

Vote postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the work programmes of the Commission for the years 2016 and 2017 and on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union Reference Laboratories (Articles 30 and 36 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014). (See Point C.04 of the PAFF Committee of 21 April 2015.)

This draft Implementing Decision lays down a multiannual work programme in accordance with Article 36(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 and provides the basis for the annual work programmes of the European Union Reference Laboratories (EU-RL) in the years 2016 and 2017. The Commission explained that following the Commission Inter-Service Consultation, the text had been adapted to the comments provided by the Commission services in order to include the financing decision for year 2017 (not included in the initial version). Therefore, the actual proposed Implementing Decision has been modified accordingly and would now allow the multiannual financing of the EU-RLs (for 2016 and 2017). It has been also explained that the content, as regards the Work Programme for the EU-RLs, has not been changed. Comments received by Germany have been taken into account and detailed explanations have been sent to them after the Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Committee (PAFF) of 21st April 2015.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a codification of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005 laying down specific rules on official controls for Trichinella in meat. (See Point C.03 of the PAFF Committee of 21 April 2015.)

The draft was presented to the Committee for vote.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) status of the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of the Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. This draft amendment takes into account the latest

resolution of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) which classified these countries as having a negligible BSE risk status in May 2015.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption as regards certain requirements for live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods and Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs.

This draft Commission Regulation amends the current rules for the food safety criterion for E.coli in live-bivalve molluscs, echinoderms and tunicates to bring it in line with international standards laid down by Codex Alimentarius. The adoption of the Codex approach for end-product testing is considered scientifically more precise and it offers on average, broadly equivalent health protection and is more likely to detect non-compliant samples.

The Commission presented the draft and there were only minor comments from Member States. The draft Commission Regulation will be submitted to the Committee for a vote in July 2015 and a positive outcome is expected.