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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 03 MAY 2018
(Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/b5943038-348f-4aaa-9081-8aa8fe022254>

A.01 Discussion and possible endorsement of a guidance on legal aspects related to High Pressure Processing.

The Commission presented guidance on legal aspects as regards high pressure processing. Requirements related to authorisation, novel food rules, general food law requirements, hygiene rules and official controls are addressed. Some final amendments (editorial or for clarification) were suggested by the Commission and some Member States. The guidance was endorsed by all Member States represented. It will be inserted in the existing Guidance Document of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

A.02 Discussion and possible endorsement of a guidance on identification (ID) marking.

The Commission presented guidance on identification marking of products of animal origin, including examples. Some final amendments (editorial or for clarification) were suggested by the Commission and some Member States. The guidance was endorsed by all Member States represented except Italy and Malta. Italy did not support because it did not agree that no (new) identification mark is needed if an establishment is just freezing. Malta supports the guidance, except the example on freezing. The document will be inserted in the existing Guidance Document of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

A.03 Exchange of views and possible endorsement on the "Draft EURL *Listeria monocytogenes* Guidance Document to evaluate the competence of laboratories implementing challenge tests and durability studies related to *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods".

The European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for *Listeria monocytogenes* developed a harmonised approach to evaluate the competence of laboratories conducting shelf-life studies (i.e. challenge tests and durability studies). This guidance document is a living document. Next revision of the document is expected to start in 2019 as soon as the Standard EN ISO 20976-1 on challenge tests will be published and will take into account the experience gained from the application of the current version of the guidelines. In addition the working group of EURL/National Reference Laboratories will discuss in details the comments provided by the United Kingdom, which could not be addressed in the current version as it would have required the

activation of the EURL/NRLs working group. The guidance was endorsed by all Member States represented.

A.04 Presentation by ESSA (European Salmon Smokers Association) of European guide to good practice for smoked fishes and/or salted and/or marinated.

The ESSA representative presented the structure of a revised guide on good practice for smoked fishes and/or salted and/or marinated. Comments by Member States will be sent to ESSA by end of May 2018. Member States showed support to the draft. A Member State asked to suspend it pending finalisation of studies by its own National Food Safety Agency. The guide will be presented for endorsement during the next meeting of the Biological Safety section of the PAFF Committee.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/88/EU suspending temporarily imports from Bangladesh of foodstuffs containing or consisting of Betel leaves ('Piper betle') as regards its period of application

The Commission emergency measures taken in 2014 against Bangladesh due to end on 30 June 2018 received the support of Member States for their prolongation until 30 June 2020.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Regulation possibly revising Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards certain methods and *Listeria monocytogenes* in sprouted seeds and unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices (ready- to-eat).

Member States showed support to the draft Regulation. The major change compared to the previous version was the deletion of ISO 16140-6 from the proposal as such standard is not yet published. The Commission clarified that to avoid postponing further the adoption of such proposal the reference to such standard was deleted. Nevertheless the intention to introduce ISO 16140-6 in article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 remains, as it would enable e.g. the use of molecular typing methods (such as whole genome sequencing) as alternative methods to *Salmonella* serotyping. A Member State proposed to clarify the wording used when adapting rules for unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices which have undergone a bactericidal process equivalent to pasteurisation.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Regulation possibly revising 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 draft Regulation in view of a possible revision of Regulations (EU) Nos 200/2010, 517/2011, 200/2012 and 1190/2012 as regards certain methods for *Salmonella* testing and sampling in poultry. The reference ISO 16140-6 was deleted from the draft as such standard is not yet published. Member States will send further comments on the introduction of alternative *Salmonella* sampling protocols to the Commission by the end of May in order to finalise the document.