



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 JULY 2015  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

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

**A.01 Presentation of the 2014 annual report on RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) activity.**

The Commission presented the RASFF annual report 2014 which was published on 30 June. The report highlights that in 2014, 751 alerts concerning a serious health risk were reported, representing a 25% increase compared to 2013. An overall number of 3,157 original notifications gave rise to 5,910 follow-up notifications - a new high in the history of RASFF - marking a 15% increase. Among the most notified risks are mercury in fish, aflatoxins in nuts and Salmonella in poultry.

**A.02 Update on 5 year Action Plan against AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance).**

The Chair added this point to the original agenda:

The Commission presented an update of the Action Plan against AMR, focussing on the actions in the veterinary field. For the purpose of the interpretation of the results of the monitoring AMR 2014, and in order to define the ECOFFs (epidemiological cut-off values) in Commission Implementing Decision 2013/652/EU, the Member States agreed to send, through EFSA and EURL-AMR, the results of the relevant aggregated/anonymized data to the European Committee on EUCAST (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing).

**A.03 Presentation by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the EU database on molecular data from food borne pathogens.**

The Chair added this point to the original agenda:

EFSA gave an update on the progress made to establish a database on molecular data from food borne pathogens at EU level. The collaboration agreement between the stakeholders (EFSA, ECDC and the relevant European reference laboratories) was

discussed. The Commission explained that a kick-off meeting will be organised in the autumn of 2015 to explain the details of the procedures to be followed in the exchange of data. Member States will be asked to nominate official data providers .

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of the Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC so as to take into account the latest recommendations of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) as regards the classification of countries according to their BSE risk status. Based on the OIE Resolution No 21 of May 2015, as updated, 5 countries have obtained a negligible BSE risk status: the Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, which should be reflected in Commission Decision 2007/453/EC.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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, tunicates and marine gastropods 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.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system ('AAC system') pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.**

Delegations made a number of comments on the latest draft of the Commission Implementing Decision to establish and regulate the use of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system. In particular, some Member States wanted the data of application of the decision to start on 1st January 2017. However, one Member State was not satisfied with the proposed rules on the exchange of information involving the competent authorities at regional level and requested a 3 level of exchange of information to be provided by the AAC system.

It was decided to postpone the vote to the next Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) in September to further clarify, within the dedicated Commission working group, any outstanding issues concerning the draft decision and consider whether the Commission could accept certain Member States' requests for amendments.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE).**

The Commission presented Revision 3 of a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, which provides three main elements:

- The deletion of the current legal obligation for a bilateral agreement with the third country of destination prior to the export of Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) of non-ruminants. Instead, the text provides for a mandatory sourcing of the non-ruminant PAP and compound feed containing such PAP in establishments with segregated production lines.
- The Revision 3 deleted the mandatory pre-notification by the operator of its intention to export, as the Commission considered it an important administrative burden with only limited added value. Controls prior to dispatch should be part of the normal controls carried out by the Member States;
- Amendments to Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 to reflect a transfer of the preparation of the EU TSE annual report 2013 from the Commission to EFSA.

One delegation asked to maintain the bilateral agreement. A limited number of delegations were in favour of maintaining the obligation of prior-notification by the operator of its intention to export, but most Member States were happy to leave it out. The Commission announced its intention to present the text for a vote at the PAFF Committee in September 2015.