



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 15 DECEMBER 2015  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

*CIRCABC Link:* <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/bb48cb1b-2c77-4998-bd65-7dec387569d3>

**A.01 Discussion and possible update of the technical specifications in relation to the master list and the lists of EU approved food establishments and certain other specified food establishments.**

To promote the integration by the Member States of their food establishments into TRACES, the 3 possibilities to achieve this were presented:

- The development of WEB services between their national database(s) and TRACES;
- The publication of their establishments under the open-data technic;
- A manual management of their establishments through the interface after an initial upload of the lists.

Only one delegation commented, requesting that the listing into TRACES not be compulsory. An update of the technical specification for the listing of EU approved food establishments was presented. The update was needed as a new section of food establishments (producing highly refined products) was introduced in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (voted in the previous Committee). The update is considered as endorsed if no further comments are provided electronically.

**A.02 Information and discussion with Member States as regards the application of the flexibility rules foreseen in the hygiene package.**

Member States agreed on the Commission proposal to have dedicated Working Groups on the issue, involving Member State authorities, stakeholders and ONGS with the aim of a harmonised approach within Member States.

**A.03 Presentation for information of the UECBV (“Union Européenne du Commerce du bétail et de la Viande”) guidance document related to good practice dealing with slaughter hygiene (focusing on faecal contamination).**

UECBV's proposal to develop a slaughter hygiene community guide was introduced and the scope and subject matter were outlined. One delegation welcomed the document and another suggested inviting a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) colleague into the working group. UECBV have met with the FVO and participated in a workshop of FVO's slaughter hygiene project.

**A.04 Presentation for information and discussion on the 'Draft specific guidance document on the implementation of hygiene requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV) at primary production'.**

The Commission presented the rationale behind this draft guidance document on the implementation of hygiene requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV) at primary production targeted to growers, its scope, its target, its main objectives and challenges. This draft has been prepared in collaboration with some volunteered Member States, internal DG SANTE Units (Directorate General for Health and Food Safety) and other DGs Agriculture (AGRI) and Environment (ENV). Member States are invited to provide comments before mid-January 2016. Endorsement is expected by April 2016. One Member State intervened to congratulate the Commission on the hard work done and the huge improvements made to date to this guide.

**A.05 Presentation for information and discussion on ESSA (European Sprouted Seeds Association) hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting.**

A representative of ESSA (European Sprouted Seeds Association) presented the rationale behind this hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting drafted by this Association, the scope, the target, its main objectives and challenges. This draft has been circulated to all Member States for comments which are expected before end January 2016. It is expected to be endorsed during the first semester of 2016.

**A.06 Presentation for information and discussion on the findings identified during Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) missions in the seeds/sprouts sector.**

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) presented a summary of the main findings of the series of audits on primary production, explaining the history and main issues raised in both audits in Third Countries and Member States. Emphasis was placed on the level of non-compliance of the legislation specifically for sprouts and seeds for sprouting. The presentation identified the main areas of these deficiencies and delegates were encouraged to check these were adequately addressed in their respective Member State.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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.**

The purpose of the draft Implementing Regulation 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. 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.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down transitional measures as regards certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors in Croatia.**

The Commission presented the proposed decision which will extend the transitional period for the upgrading of food processing establishments granted in the Act of Accession of Croatia until 30 June 2016 for 7 establishments. A question was raised on the limited time scope of this decision and the Commission explained that the legal basis in the Act of Accession limits to 3 years after accession, the possibility to adopt measures allowing a smooth transition.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down specific conditions applicable to the import of foodstuffs containing or consisting of betel leaves (“Piper Betle”) from India and amending Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.**

The draft Commission Implementing Decision was discussed and the Commission announced its intention to present the text for an opinion at the next Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) in January 2016.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards Campylobacter in broiler carcasses.**

The Commission presented revision 1 of the draft amendment to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. The purpose is to lay down a process hygiene criterion for Campylobacter in broiler carcasses (no consequences for placing on the market of batches). The majority of Member States welcomed the document, only a few Member States were in principle, against. The revised text will be discussed in more detail at the next Working Group on microbiological criteria in order to address technical comments raised by some Member States.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards poultry meat inspection.**

The discussion was deferred pending further development of Campylobacter Process Hygiene Criterion legislation.

**C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the use of peroxyacetic acid solution to reduce microbiological surface contamination on poultry carcasses and skin-on parts.**

There was no discussion on this point.

**C.05 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II of Commission Decision 2000/572/EC as regards import certificate requirement for freezing of meat preparations.**

The draft text was presented and discussed. One Member State questioned why this change is being brought forward. An observer proposed a small amendment to the draft model certificate in I.21, 'Temperature of product' (adding an extra tick-box for 'chilled' alongside the current tick-box for 'frozen')" .

**C.06 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending the Annexes 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 draft modifies a number of Annexes to the TSE Regulation, to introduce more flexibility for scrapie intra-EU trade requirements, to adapt specified risk material (SRM) removal provisions following recent changes to the SRM list, to adapt EU BSE import requirements to cater for cases of triangular trade prior to export to the EU and to list Finland and Sweden as Member States with negligible risk of classical scrapie. The text was already discussed at two TSE Working Group meetings and has been discussed for the first time at Standing Committee level. No major comments were received from Member States.

**M.01**

The Commission informed the Committee about the conclusion at technical level of the long-running bivalve mollusc equivalence exercise. Differences in regulatory approaches by the EU and the US have meant that there has been no trade in mussels, clams and oysters between the two for a number of years. Following the necessary regulatory and legislative steps, EU shellfish producers will once again have access to the US market for their products. This will initially be limited to products from Spain and the Netherlands, with the possibility for additional EU Member States to join in a relatively short period.

