



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 14 OCTOBER 2014
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/29656b87-868c-4d8b-a997-4d62f82b4dff>

A.01 Final report on the tracing of foodstuffs linked to a multinational foodborne outbreak of Hepatitis A.

The European Food Safety Association (EFSA) presented the main findings of the tracing back and forward exercise carried out on berries linked to Hepatitis A outbreaks published on 8 September 2014. Notifications on contaminated batches of berries and epidemiological information were shared through RASFF. The most probable source are redcurrants processed in a certain area in Poland and blackberries from Bulgaria, but due to the complex contamination pattern, no single source was identified.

A.02 Presentation of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

The Commission presented the final draft of the RASFF SOPs and explained that two documents (WI 2.1 and 2.2) were however not yet included as they are still under discussion. The Commission welcomes written comments from the members of the PAFF Committee and seeks to get their endorsement of the RASFF SOPs at the meeting in November.

A.03 Presentation and discussion on a publication investigating the nature of evidence for implicating food vehicles in food-borne outbreaks reported to EFSA.

A presentation was provided on the content of the publication, using data from the ECDC/EFSA annual reports on zoonoses monitoring. It was ensured that no country specific data would be published. The Committee agreed on the publication subject to verification by the Commission on the final draft if confidentiality has been fully respected.

A.04 Endorsement of Composite Products guidelines.

No discussion on this point.

A.05 ESSA guideline on good hygiene practices for the production of sprouts.

The scope and content of the European Sprouted Seeds Association (ESSA) guideline on good hygiene practices for the production of sprouts were presented. The Committee expressed its support to the development of the guide and made a few suggestions on its content such as the inclusion of guidelines for the application of microbiological criteria on the end product.

A.06 Modification of the list of approved facilities for the treatment of food and food ingredients with ionising radiation.

A list of approved facilities for the treatment of food and food ingredients with ionising radiation was presented, modifying the Notice from Member States published on 1 September 2012. The modification concerns a new facility in Spain and the change of name of a German facility. Member States were requested to double-check the list by the end of the week after which it will be published in the Official Journal.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the EP and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

The Commission presented a draft Commission Regulation aligning EU rules with international standards of the OIE as regards the absence of Specified Risk Materials (SRM) removal obligation for Member States with negligible BSE risk status. The Commission highlighted the need to remove the existing discrimination between Member States with negligible BSE risk, which must remove and destroy SRM, and third countries with negligible BSE risk status, which can export those tissues to the EU. A discussion took place and the draft will be presented again for discussion and possible opinion at the next PAFF Committee on 13 November 2014.

Vote postponed

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

The Commission presented a draft Commission Regulation amending the list of bovine Specified Risk Materials (SRM) based on the February 2014 EFSA opinion on BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery. The draft would remove the duodenum, the colon and a large part of the small intestine of bovines from the SRM list. Member States welcomed the draft and asked for time to consult.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing specific transitional measures for the introduction into the European Union of products of animal origin destined to EXPO 2015.

There was no discussion on this point.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards model documents for food chain information and lists of approved food establishments Article 7(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Article 31(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

The Commission presented the draft which would simplify the information to be provided in the food chain information documents. This simplified version would however need at the same time, an amendment of the requirements laid down in Annex II, Section 3 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. The Commission asked therefore, if Member States would like to amend Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 first. Almost all Member States expressed their views not to amend the requirements and go back to the initial version. The Commission asked the Committee to consult their farming associations on this issue.