



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*
27 May 2020

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/987421a0-b406-4a44-826e-3e08ef20a7bb>

SUMMARY REPORT

As mentioned in the invitation to the meeting sent out to the Committee members on 13 May 2020, the meeting was **held via Web Conferencing (WebEx)** due to the situation regarding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

A.01 Discussion and possible endorsement of Guidelines for Good Hygiene Practice BOTTLED WATER COOLERS (Water Extraction, Bottling and Distribution)

Last minute comments were made by several Member States, some being substantial. The endorsement was thus postponed and further comments are expected in writing by 12 June. They will be submitted to the stakeholders' organisation.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible vote of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Serbia

The draft Decision grants to Serbia the status of country with a negligible risk of BSE, in line with the OIE resolution of 2019.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible vote of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards further examination of positive cases of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in ovine and caprine animals

The draft Regulation will limit the obligation to implement discriminatory testing in sheep and goats to the TSE index case only in an infected flock or herd, instead of all subsequent positive results as well, as currently applicable. One Member State informed the Committee that it was not in a position to support this provision. Additionally, the draft will repeal the list of laboratories currently designated to carry out secondary molecular tests and provide to the EURL-TSE the necessary flexibility to design this secondary molecular testing on a case-by-case basis.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as regards uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin

The Commission presented the amendments introduced since the working group meeting based on comments made by Member States. As regards official control on meat, comments were made by one Member State on the amendment on health marking and will be considered. As regards the modifications proposed for marine biotoxins tests (the mouse test for the detection of Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) will not be allowed anymore for compliance with animal welfare rules) Member States asked for a transitional period before suspension of the biological method. The Commission cannot grant any transitional period as the alternative methods for the detection of PSP are available since three years. The deletion of pectenotoxins from the list of marine biotoxins to be tested appears supported. The Commission will launch its internal consultation process, prior to requesting technical agreement in a forthcoming PAFF committee, so to launch both the two-month SPS notification and the four-week feedback consultation. Final vote expected in autumn.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending the Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs as regards food allergen management, redistribution of food and food safety culture

The draft, unchanged since the last discussion in working group, aims at introducing requirements on the prevention of allergens, redistribution of food for donations and food safety culture. Allergen control and food safety culture aim at alignment with new/revised Codex standards which are expected to be adopted this Summer. A few Member States questioned the need for these requirements, while others fully supported them. Some technical suggestions made during the meeting will be further considered. The Commission will launch its internal consultation process, prior to requesting technical agreement in a forthcoming PAFF committee, so to launch both the two-month SPS notification and the four-week feedback consultation. Final vote expected in autumn.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 as regards the reference method for detection and import conditions related to *Trichinella* control

The Commission informed that no changes were made since the last working group meeting. The revision aims at amending importing requirements because of the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (new Animal Health Law) and replacing the EU reference method for detection of *Trichinella* by a reference to ISO 18743:2015. The Commission replied to technical comments made by one Member State, as well as to the request on a transitional period for moving to the ISO method. Some remarks on sampling will be discussed with the EURL. The Commission will launch its internal consultation process, followed by a four-week feedback consultation. Final vote expected in autumn.