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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*

11 February 2019

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Exchange of views and possible endorsement of an amendment to the EURL *Listeria monocytogenes* guidance document on shelf life studies (temperatures at retail).

The EU Reference Laboratory for *Listeria monocytogenes* (EURL Lm) presented for endorsement a draft amendment to its Technical Guidance Document for conducting shelf-life studies on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. The changes concern the storage temperature of the test units at retail level to conduct a challenge test assessing the growth potential of *Listeria monocytogenes*. The draft amendment was endorsed by all Member States present.

A.02 Presentation by Poland on the recent case of illegally slaughtered cows.

Poland made a comprehensive presentation of the history of the case and summarised the measures it has taken in follow-up.

The SANTE F auditors reported on their last week visit on the spot, highlighting the main shortcomings identified, which will be the subject of discussion with Poland prior to finalisation and publication of the audit report. Member States took note of the report by Poland and asked for clarification on the investigations undertaken by the Polish authorities. A Member State expressed worries on the animal health consequences that could result from such fraudulent activities. The delegations from countries which have been recipients of the meat from the Polish slaughterhouse confirmed withdrawal/recall of the meat from their market, while for two of them, the quantity appears to have been consumed before competent authorities were informed on a possible risk. The Commission thanked Member States for their rapid reaction, insisted on the need in this case, as well as more generally, to rapidly notify other Member States in the rapid alert systems of any incident. It stressed that speed of reaction was crucial to properly organise the recall/withdrawal of products with a view to ensure the safety of consumers. It called on Poland to give due attention to the audit recently conducted and called for rapidly addressing the shortcomings identified.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation possibly revising Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards TSE eradication measures in goats and endangered breeds.

The Commission informed about comments sent by its Legal Service on the draft. Though they only affect the form but not the substance of the draft text, Member States requested to postpone the vote to have the time to properly consider them. Member States will provide their comments (if any) before 28 February 2019. The draft will be presented as B point in the next PAFF meeting.

Vote postponed.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex IV and Annex X 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.

The Commission explained the new form of the document further to its Legal Service recommendation, now split in two texts, one for the authorisation of exports of organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing ruminant processed protein and the other for the discriminatory testing of TSE positive samples from small ruminants. Due to the recent changes brought to the draft and the need for Member States to consult again their experts, the vote was postponed. Member States comments (if any) should be submitted by mid February to allow for a possible vote on 25 February 2019.

Vote postponed.

B.03 Exchange of views of the Committee and a possible technical agreement on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards *Salmonella* in reptile meat.

Further to some editorial corrections made on the draft, all the Member States gave their technical agreement, paving the way for a notification to WTO.

Technical agreement.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls of food of animal origin.

Discussion postponed.

Vote postponed.

B.05 Exchange of views and technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards specific hygiene requirements for insects intended for human consumption.

The Commission presented a draft further to the discussions held in Working Group in 2018. Member States raised several questions regarding the approval of establishments, the need of listing of establishments in third countries, the definition

of primary production for insects and already applicable legislation regarding the feeding of insects. It was agreed to further discuss the draft in a Working Group.

M.01 Freezing of meat before the expiry date

Greece referred to a RASFF notification as regards the receipt by another Member State of beef meat from USA which was frozen one day before the expiry date. Member States and Commission pointed out that according to EU legislation freezing must be conducted to fresh meat without undue delay and not few days before the expiry date.

M.02 Special purpose slaughterhouses

Greece presented a draft Ministerial Decision for the approval of the minimum requirements for special purpose slaughterhouses operating for a limited period of time and carrying out religious slaughters, which it intends to formally notify to Member States and the Commission.

M.03 State of play Delegated and Implementing Regulations official controls in products of animal origin

At the request of a Member State, the Commission clarified that the Delegated Regulation (based on Article 18(7) of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625) was submitted to the European Parliament and Council on 11 February 2019. Translations of the Implementing Regulation (based on Article 18(8)) will be ready beginning of March. Further to Member States demand to receive the translations, the Commission accepted to provide them, but insisted that Member State only signal errors of substantial nature in order not to delay adoption and publication. Subject to European Parliament and Council views, publication is expected between the second half of April and June as, because of cross-references all acts, including those on import conditions, should be published together.