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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed post-mortem inspection in ungulates (EFSA)

EFSA presented its opinion of 4 December 2020. It evaluates the potential effects of a 24 or 72-h delay in post-mortem inspection (PMI) of ungulates on public health and on the monitoring of animal health and welfare. Disease detection sensitivity at a delayed PMI is expected to reduce detection sensitivity to a variable extent, depending on the hazard and on the signs/lesions and organs involved. No substantial effect is expected on *Trichinella* and TSE detection. A 24-h delay in PMI could result in a small reduction in sensitivity of detection for tuberculosis, echinococcosis and cysticercosis. A greater reduction is expected for the detection of pyaemia and Rift valley fever. For chemical contaminants, a delay in meat inspection of 24 or 72 h is expected to have no impact on the effectiveness of detection of persistent organic pollutants and metals. However, for certain pharmacologically active substances, there will be a reduced effectiveness. Two Member States asked for a revision of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2019/627 based on the outcome of the opinion. The Commission will reflect on next steps and invited other Member States for their views.

A.02 EU One Health 2019 zoonoses report (EFSA)

EFSA presented the report of the EFSA and the ECDC on the results of zoonoses monitoring activities carried out in 2019 in 36 European countries (28 Member States (MS) and eight non-MS). The first and second most reported zoonoses in humans were campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis, respectively. The EU trend for confirmed human cases of these two diseases was stable (flat) during 2015–2019. Of the 26 MS reporting on *Salmonella* control programmes in poultry, 18 met the reduction targets, whereas eight failed to meet at least one. Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection was the third most reported zoonosis in humans and increased from 2015 to 2019. Yersiniosis was the fourth most reported zoonosis in humans in 2019 with a stable trend in 2015–2019. The EU trend of confirmed listeriosis cases remained stable in 2015–2019 after a long period of increase. In total, 5,175 food-borne outbreaks were reported. *Salmonella* remained the most detected agent. Norovirus in bivalve molluscs was the agent/food pair causing the highest number of strong-evidence outbreaks. The report provides further updates on bovine tuberculosis, *Brucella*, *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus*, *Toxoplasma*, rabies, West Nile virus, *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) and

tularaemia. One Member States asked if the differences between prevalence detected by competent authorities and FBOs were statistically significant. EFSA replied that they were and have been observed in food and live animals (poultry).

A.03 Presentation on Covid-19 and food safety (EFSA)

EFSA presented an overview of publications on the food safety risk after one year of the pandemic. It referred to its work on susceptible species, in particular minks and other mustelids. Infection in food-producing animals has not been demonstrated. There is general agreement on person-to person respiratory transmission and there is no evidence of faecal-oral transmission (sewage water, possibly used for irrigation after treatment). Publications on persistence on surfaces and inactivation by biocidal agents were summarised, as well as survival in refrigerated or frozen food. An overview of risk assessments provided by EFSA, national agencies and FAO, WHO and ICMSF was provided together with risk management recommendations by the EU and others. EFSA ended its presentation by repeating its position that there is no evidence that food is a source or transmission route and by indicating its intention to keep on monitoring scientific literature on this topic. One Member State raised a question on the risk from food packaging and food presented unpacked. EFSA repeated its position on the absence of evidence on a risk.

A.04 Information point on EU-UK readiness and preparedness as from 1 January 2021

One Member State asked whether the Commission could ensure that the recently voted Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 and granting UK derogation from *Trichinella* testing in meat of domestic pigs raised under controlled housing conditions, will apply from 21 April 2021. The Commission confirmed that this is indeed the intention. The text is expected to be published beginning of April and will enter into force three days later.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prohibition to feed non-ruminant farmed animals, other than fur animals, with protein derived from animals

The Commission presented the main adjustments made in the draft since its initial presentation at the Committee, on 10 December 2020, to take into account the comments resulting from the inter-service consultation process or received from the Member States. Several delegations confirmed they could support the proposed draft but urged the Commission to prepare additional future steps, including to allow feed mills with one single line for the production of feed for poultry and pigs to use processed animal protein (PAP) derived from pigs and poultry respectively. A formal tour de table to collect the voting intentions showed a strong support of the Member States to the measure. The initiative has been published for feedback, the consultation terminates on 6 April 2021.

France asked to include the following statement:

“Les autorités françaises regrettent que la Commission procède au vote formel sur cette proposition de Règlement de manière anticipée, sans attendre la fin des consultations engagées par certains Etats membres. Il n'y a en effet pas d'urgence à statuer, qui plus est par procédure écrite, sur un projet de texte dans ce domaine sensible socialement, économiquement et pour la sécurité du consommateur, prévoyant

des évolutions significatives du cadre existant dont certaines ont été ajoutées récemment."

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion

M.01 Health certification of fishery products caught by community freezer vessels in international waters and exported to third countries by reefer vessels

Italy presented a point concerning the health certification of fishery products caught by community freezer vessels in international waters and exported to third countries by reefer vessels. In particular Italy requested if it was possible, on demand of the competent Authorities of the third Country of destination, that the competent Authority responsible for the approval of the EU freezer vessel, could sign a health certificate for export of fishery products based on its knowledge of the vessel and on the Captain declaration. The Commission considered that the case was covered by Article 88 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and, if all the requirements of that Article were respected, the practice should be allowed.