



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2018)793656

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 01 FEBRUARY 2018
(Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/1eea1092-8340-43ea-99cf-7160b381cc27>

A.01 Discussion and possible endorsement of a revision of the Technical specifications in relation to the Master List and the Lists of EU approved food establishments and certain other specified food establishments (SANCO/2179/2005 Revision 2018).

A revision was proposed because of the new section XVI (highly refined products in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on hygiene of food of animal origin). At the same time the possibility to add feed ban registration authorisation was inserted. Attention was paid to avoiding request for too many details but Member States may add additional information in their lists on a voluntary basis. The Commission highlighted the need to use a clear and easy to find approach. The revision was endorsed by the Committee.

A.02 Discussion and possible endorsement of Guidelines on minimum recommendations for official laboratory appointed for the detection of *Trichinella* in meat.

The European Union Reference laboratory for parasites developed minimum recommendations for quality insurance for certain official *Trichinella* laboratories derogated from accreditation in accordance with the new official control regulation.

Member States welcomed the guidelines which were endorsed by the Committee.

A.03 Exchange of views and possible endorsement on the "Draft EURL *Listeria monocytogenes* Guidance Document to evaluate the competence of laboratories implementing challenge tests and durability studies related to *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods".

The document could not be endorsed as further comments were made by Member States during discussion, which require further reflections.

A.04 Presentation and possible endorsement of the final revised version of Guidance on cheese as a raw material in the manufacture of food products (revised version of 7 November 2017) issued by European Dairy Association (EDA) and the European Association of the Dairy Trade (EUCOLAIT).

The Guidance Document was endorsed by the Committee.

A.05 Presentation and possible endorsement of the final revised version of the European Guide for the hygienic manufacture of Processed Cheese (revised version of December 2017) issued by ASSIFONTE (association of European producers of processed cheese and the natural platform and roundtable for the professional people within this industry).

The European Guide was endorsed by the Committee.

A.06 Presentation by EFSA of the EU Summary report on data of the surveillance of ruminants for the presence of TSEs in 2016.

EFSA presented the summary report on the surveillance for the presence of TSEs in 2016. The decreasing trend is confirmed for BSE, however CWD was detected in Europe for first time.

A.07 Update on EU/US agreement on live bivalve molluscs.

The Commission is working in parallel with the US on the administrative steps to finalise the mutual authorisation of exports of bivalve molluscs by second half 2018. As a first step two Member States (The Netherlands and Spain) will be allowed to export bivalve molluscs to the US and two US States (Washington State and Massachusetts) to the EU. Further States from US and Member States will be allowed to export without a compulsory on the spot audit but on the basis of a desk analysis.

A.08 Update on the multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella Agona* infections linked to infant formula.

Presentation of the EFSA, ECDC Rapid Outbreak Assessment and update from France on the investigation and measures taken.

A detailed presentation was given by France, which provided an update on the outbreak investigation and measures taken. A presentation on the Rapid Outbreak Assessment jointly prepared by EFSA and ECDC and an analysis of the trace forward data available in RASFF was given by the Commission.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation extending the special guarantees concerning *Salmonella* spp. laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council to meat derived from broilers (*Gallus gallus*) intended for Denmark.

The draft Regulation was presented for an opinion after SPS notification to the WTO. The Regulation requests testing for *Salmonella* spp absence in broiler meat intended for Denmark. Denmark must no longer test in case of trade to Finland, Sweden and Norway. The draft received the support of Member States by qualified majority. France made the following statement at the occasion of the vote:

'Les autorités françaises considèrent que, même si techniquement DK est légitime à accéder aux garanties spéciales, il est nécessaire de prendre en compte les inquiétudes formulées par les organisations professionnelles lors de la consultation publique et auprès de certaines autorités nationales sur le fait que l'introduction de telles dispositions puissent constituer une entrave au libre-échange, principe fondamental du fonctionnement de l'Union. Les autorités françaises demandent à la Commission d'établir, d'ici fin 2018, une étude d'impact de cette mesure prévue à l'article 8 du règlement (CE) n°853/2004 sur le marché de l'Union. Regrettant le refus de la Commission d'accéder à sa demande, la délégation française s'abstient considérant que la mesure prévue à l'article 8 du règlement (CE) n° 853/2004 peut constituer une entrave au libre-échange.'

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 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 European Parliament and of the Council as regards the requirements for the removal of specified risk materials from small ruminants.

The draft Regulation was presented for an opinion. It maintains the spinal cord in the list of SRM, in addition to the head, brain and eyes of sheep and goats above 12 months. Tonsils, spleen and ileum are removed from the list of SRM. The draft received the support of Member States by qualified majority. France made the following statement at the occasion of the vote:

'Les autorités françaises votent « contre » le texte présenté au vote, considérant que la liste des matériels à risque spécifiés (MRS) ainsi modifiée présenterait un risque potentiel accru en matière de santé publique en raison de l'augmentation du niveau d'exposition des consommateurs à des matières potentiellement infectieuses.'

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation possibly revising Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards certain methods and *Listeria monocytogenes* in sprouted seeds.

Further to the discussion with Member States in working group, this exchange of views on the draft focused on the transitional period until 1 January 2022 which aims at limiting burden on laboratories and on test kit manufacturers for the validation of alternative methods. Member States asked to carefully look at the timeline for publication to avoid that the regulation would be applicable when the EN ISO 16140-6 standard is not yet published. One delegation invited to take the opportunity of the revision to reflect on adapting rules for unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices which have undergone a bactericidal process equivalent to pasteurisation.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation possibly revising Regulations (EU) Nos 200/2010, 517/2011, 200/2012, 1190/2012 as regards certain methods for *Salmonella* testing in poultry.

Member States showed support to the draft that now includes a transitional period until 1 January 2022 which has the purpose to reduce burden on laboratories and on test kit manufacturers for the validation of alternative methods in accordance with the new EN ISO 16140-2.

C.03 Exchange of views 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.

Member States asked for more discussions at a technical level and for co-financing of such measures. The discussion will continue at working group level.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of a general plan for food/feed management in accordance with Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

The Commission informed the Committee about the ongoing discussions initiated for the general plan on crisis management in food and feed. The intention is to repeal Decision 2004/478/EC and replace it by a new Decision setting out a revised and updated general plan taking into account past experiences gained during a number of food- and feed-borne incidents. A crisis coordinators meeting is planned for 19 March 2018.

M.01 Meetings to discuss microbiological criteria on plant material

Belgium indicated that it would be useful to organise regular meetings concerning the microbiological criteria for food of non-animal origin. These discussions could be held once per year.