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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Controls and Import Conditions*
(part of PAFF Committee on Biological Safety of the Food Chain)

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SUMMARY REPORT

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 2006/766/EC as regards the entry for the United States of America in the list of third countries and territories from which imports of live, chilled, frozen or processed bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods for human consumption are permitted.

The Commission presented the amendment of Annex I of Decision 2006/766/EC which establishes the list of third countries from which import into the EU of certain fishery products for human consumption are permitted. The proposed amendment adds to Decision 2006/766/EUC the USA (two States only: Massachusetts and Washington) to the list of third countries complying with EU import requirements following an equivalence exercise and assessment conducted by the Commission. It was explained that, as a result, this will resume trade of those products between EU and US. Trade will initially be limited to the areas audited on both sides (Washington and Massachusetts for the US, and Netherlands and Spain for the EU) before adding new Member States/US States. SANTE highlighted that the most important feature of this specific equivalence agreement is that FDA agreed that additional EU Member States could be listed to export these products to the US on the basis of the guarantees provided by the European Commission i.e. without the need for FDA to carry-out on the spot audits before approving them.

One Member State requested that the "testing regime to be applied for the molluscan shellfish from US to be applied in the internal market". The Commission replied that all EU requirements will apply for the imports of those products and that the import conditions will be established in a health certificate that will accompany the consignments from the US. The respective Member State also asked for the report from the audit to the US that resulted in the equivalence.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 206/2009 as regards information to be provided in the posters to travellers and to the general public.

This agenda item had been presented before at the Committees held on 13 July and 19 September 2018. For this reason, the Commission presented a brief summary of the Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 206/2009 which contains the conditions for the introduction into the Union of personal consignments of products of animal origin. This Draft Regulation includes the obligation for the competent authorities and transport operators to inform passengers and the general public about those conditions and in particular the prohibition to introduce milk and meat and their products from third countries to limit possible animal health risks.

The information should at least consist of the posters published in Annex III of Regulation (EC) 206/2009. This proposal adds two new posters to this Regulation.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entries for Canada, Russia and the United States in the list of third countries, territories, zones and compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission presented a Draft Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entries of Canada, Russia and the USA in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union to Member States. In particular, the amendment concerns the deletion from the list of regions of Canada and the USA which were reauthorized for import more than two years ago and the suspension of imports of certain poultry commodities from Russia following the confirmation of a HPAI outbreak.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.