EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2020)6226252

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

CIRCABC Link: ***https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/889d6e58-3fa0-48e4-b8bf-ca436cffe391***

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Discussion and possible endorsement of the PROFEL Hygiene guidelines for the production of frozen vegetables in control of Listeria Monocytogenes

The Commission recalled the background of the Guide, which was initiated in follow-up to the 2018 Listeria outbreak due to frozen vegetables and introduced the main aspects of the guide. Further to several round of comments, the guide presented by PROFEL was ready for endorsement by the Committee. Two Member States last comments led to few editorial changes from the previous July version and were presented to the Committee. Two Member States asked for further time to look at those changes with their experts. The PROFEL hygiene guidelines for the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in the production of quick-frozen vegetables were endorsed by the Member States, while the two Member States asking for a further check (The Netherlands and Latvia) were given until 23 October to react. Should they raise substantial issues, the document as amended further to PROFEL consultation will be re-tabled to the Committee.

A.02 Presentation of the data on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the years 2018-2019, and state of progress of the evaluation of the EU legislation on food irradiation

The Commission summarised the data submitted by the Member States on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the years 2018-2019.

Further to a Member State (Finland) question on whether the EU legislation request Member States to ban or restrict the entry on their territory of irradiated foodstuffs which do not appear on the EU list or on their national list, the Commission clarified that the EU legislation allows Member States to ban or restrict the entry on their territory of irradiated foodstuffs which do not appear on their national list, but does not force them to do so.

A.03 Presentation of the draft study report of the European Listeria Typing Exercise (ELiTE) by EFSA

ECDC presented the results of the ELiTE study, conducted by ECDC, EFSA and EURL for Listeria monocytogenes, and whose objectives were to explore the diversity of patterns of Listeria monocytogenes strains obtained from ready-to-eat foods and

humans and to evaluate the utility of combined analysis of human and food Listeria monocytogenes molecular typing data at EU level for the purpose of detection and investigation of multi-country foodborne outbreaks.

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

The Delegations did not raise any question.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 Commission summarised the objective of the draft which adapts Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 by introducing preventive measures to avoid cross-contamination by allergens in food, a chapter on redistribution of food and a chapter on food safety culture in food businesses in line with new Codex standards. Since the technical agreement of the Committee on 29 June, SPS notification and public consultation for feedback were finalised. While no reaction was received through the SPS notifications, 27 stakeholders provided feedback during the public consultation. On allergens and food safety culture, reactions were rather mixed but mostly favourable. Those having concerns, mainly referred to the need for more guidelines on the practical implementation and verification. The CODEX Guidelines on allergens and the Codex revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene were adopted during the meeting in September-October of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. One Member State (Poland) opposed the amendment as it questions the possibility of food donation after the date of minimum durability as not every food business operators has adequate knowledge to assess the safety of the food concerned and discrepancy between the position of the food business operators and the official control bodies may occur. Another Member State (Germany) stated its concern on the risk of making complicate the redistribution procedure further to the need to ensure traceability according to the provisions of Regulation 931/2011, and asked that detailed rules be drawn up in specific guidelines to address this issue. The Commission explained that this Regulation is already mentioned in the EU guidelines on food donation and that it has not received feedback from the members of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste as to any difficulties encountered in this regard. While the subject can be raised at a future meeting of the EU Platform, the revision of the guidelines is however not currently envisaged. It also confirmed its intention to revise the 2016 Commission Notice on Food Safety Management Systems to address the concerns raised by some Member States and during the public consultation. The draft received a favourable opinion with a qualified majority after a minor editorial change/clarification.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion (technical agreement) of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation replacing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/626 as regards lists of third countries and regions thereof authorised for the entry into the European Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption with regard to food safety requirements

The Commission presented the amendments made to the draft since its last presentation in June. They take into account the feedback from the Member States and resulting

from intra-Commission consultation. Member States appeared satisfied with the new version of the draft and therefore gave their technical agreement for further consultations. A final version is intended to be submitted for vote end of November, for a publication in January and an entry in force in April 2021.

Vote Postponed

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 informed that after the technical agreement of 29 June, consultation for feedback and SPS notification were only launched recently as it was considered opportune to launch them with the revision of Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. Some further editorial changes in the recitals were introduced at the request of the legal services. No further comments or changes were proposed as regards the amendment related to official controls in red meat. Some Member States (Spain, Ireland and France) prefer that the official method for detecting PSP toxins be that of the SOP proposed by the EURL on marine biotoxins rather than the EN 14526 proposed by the Commission. Though the Commission disagreed as the latter method is an official EU method, it agreed with those Member States to look at the differences between the two methods before making a final decision. A Member States (Ireland) will also send a written proposal as regard contaminants in wild catch fishery products. The Commission intends to present this draft for a vote in December.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes III, V, VII and IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the genotyping of positive TSE cases in goats, the determination of age in ovine and caprine animals, the measures applicable in a herd or flock with atypical scrapie and the conditions for import of products of bovine, ovine and caprine origin

The Commission presented its draft Regulation for targeted amendments of four annexes of the TSE Regulation. The amendment in Annex III introduces the compulsory genotyping of all TSE cases in goats and immediate reporting to the Commission of any case in an animal supposed to be genetically resistant to classical scrapie; this provision was omitted in the course of drafting of Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/772 which acknowledged that some alleles provide resistance to classical scrapie in goats. The amendment in Annex V is to repeal the possibility offered to the Member States to approve a method, other than dentition and the official animal ID system of course, to identify the sheep and goats older than 12 months subject to the withdrawal of Specified Risk Materials, as no Member State is interested in using it. The amendment in Annex VII is to repeal the compulsory two-year intensified surveillance in flocks/herds after confirmation of a case of atypical scrapie, considering that it is not justified anymore. The amendment in Annex IX aims at closing a loophole in the conditions applicable for the importation of ruminant products from a country with controlled BSE risk, derived from animals originating in a country with undetermined BSE risk. There was no comment from the Member States.

M.01 Accompanying documents for farmed salmon from Norway in order to attest the absence of parasites

A Member State (Italy) raised a point on accompanying documents for farmed salmon from Norway in order to attest the absence of parasites (and the resulting non necessity to freeze products destined to be consumed raw, i.e. sushi/sashimi). It indicated that the batches of salmon from Norway destined to Italy are not accompanied by a declaration that the batch is free from parasite (after authorisation by the competent authorities). Some Member States indicated that they ask for such attestations while others consider it non necessary taking into account the fact that salmons are farmed. The Commission recalled that the legislation is clear on that point: batches of farmed fishery products to be consumed raw must be accompanied by an attestation of the operator according to Section VIII, Chapter III point D.4(d) of Annex III to Regulation 853/2004.