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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 22 OCTOBER 2018
(Section *General Food Law*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/069ff396-b8d8-401f-8b55-40a8abb2857>

A.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on the extension of the French Decree related to the origin indication of milk and meat used as an ingredient (Décret relatif à l'indication de l'origine du lait et des viandes utilisés en tant qu'ingrédient).

On 18 September 2018, France notified a draft Decree on the extension of their pilot project on origin indication of milk as well as of milk and meat used as an ingredient in certain foods.

The French authorities presented their notified measure as well as the reasons justifying it. In particular, they clarified that there was an error regarding the end date for the extension period: the correct end date is 31 March 2020. Furthermore, it was explained that the reasons justifying the trial measure from 2016 remain valid for the notified draft. The French authorities informed that the consumer's interest in origin indication remains high if not increased.

During the subsequent discussion, several Member States expressed a strong opposition on the notified draft. In particular, they raised concerns relating to the negative repercussions on the Internal Market and European food chain and to the lack of data supporting the extension of the trial legislation.

Other Member States observed that they could support the extension of the French measure only after its prior evaluation report and if the conclusions of the latter would justify it. Furthermore, certain national delegations observed that the extension of the French measure can only be considered once a decision is taken by the Court of Justice of the EU on the current preliminary ruling on the matter. Member States who have adopted similar national provisions on origin expressed their support for the French notified draft measure.

The Commission took note of the observations made and informed that the assessment of the notified draft is ongoing.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation providing derogations from Article 1(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on food for the use of certain generic descriptors.

This draft Commission Regulation was submitted to the Standing Committee in accordance with Article 1(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006. Article 1(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 stipulates that specific generic descriptors (denominations) which have traditionally been used to indicate a particularity of a class of foods or beverages which could imply an effect on health may be exempted from the application of that Regulation following an application by the food business operators concerned.

This draft measure aims at exempting from the application of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims certain generic descriptors which have traditionally been used to indicate a particularity of a class of foods or beverages and which could imply an effect on human health but consumers do not perceive them as nutrition or health claims within the meaning of the Regulation. More specifically, the applications subject to this draft measure related to five classes of foods/beverages and the following related generic descriptors are to be derogated: 'Biscotto salute', 'tonic', 'cough drops' and others.

Concerning the generic descriptor 'tonic', during the meeting, one delegation questioned the exemption of the term "tonique" (in French), as this is not being used to describe a non-alcoholic carbonated beverage containing the bittering agent quinine. Other delegations did not object to this comment. Following this remark, the draft measure was hence amended accordingly to reflect the above. The redrafted version of the measure was supported by all delegations present.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.