



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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 17 MARCH 2015
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e996236f-664e-4ce6-bbec-6df6b2a558fd>

A.01 Discussion on "dry aged meat" (requested by BE)

Questions posed: Can “dry aged meat” be considered as “fresh meat” or should it rather be considered as a “meat preparation” based on the definitions in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004?

Belgium presented the difficulties to classify dried and wet aged meat and indicated that some Member States considered it as fresh meat, some as meat preparations and others as meat products. There was agreement that, if additives have been added, the product can no longer be considered as fresh meat but must be considered as a meat preparation. The Commission referred to its guidance endorsed 2 years ago: a case by case assessment should be made when the product is placed on the market. If the whole product still contains the characteristics of fresh meat, it should be considered as fresh meat, if partly lost (e.g. superficially dried), it should be considered as a meat preparation and if completely eliminated (e.g. dried until the centre), it becomes a meat product.

B.01 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 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs), as regards Member States with BSE negligible risk status.

The Commission presented a revised version of the text, which, for Member States with negligible BSE risk, included a limited list of Specified Risk Material (SRM) for bovine animals (skull, including the brain and eyes, and spinal cord of bovine animals above 12 months) and maintained the current list of SRM for small ruminants pending an ongoing EFSA opinion. A delegation asked that an in-depth discussion on BSE control measures be organised in the coming months and that no new BSE amendments be proposed before this discussion has taken place. The Commission

announced its intention to organise before the summer 2015, a special Working Group meeting to have such a discussion and to report at a subsequent meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers on the outcome of this discussion.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Section E of Chapter V of Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain TSEs.

This draft Regulation removes the current obligation for a prior agreement with the third country of destination for export from the EU of processed animal proteins (PAP) of non-ruminant origin. Following a first discussion at the Committee in February, the Commission presented a revised version of the text, which included a requirement for pre-export tests to ensure that the Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) of non-ruminants and products containing such proteins, do not contain any prohibited ruminant materials and are exclusively derived from category 3 material. Several delegations asked that the text be modified to clarify that the pre-export tests have to be carried out by the operators. The Commission confirmed that such modifications would be done. A delegation proposed to introduce the obligation for the exporter to notify its export intention to the competent authority so that official controls could indeed take place prior to the export. The Commission stated it would reflect on this proposal as well as on other technical remarks made by other delegations, and would come back to the Committee with a revised version of the text.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on financing the 2015 work programme on training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the framework of the 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme.

The Commission presented the draft Decision which sets out the annual work programme of the Better Training for Safer Food initiative for 2015 and constitutes a financial decision for its implementation. No major remarks were made. A formal vote should be held in April 2015.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the use of recycled hot water to remove microbiological surface contamination from carcasses.

The aim of this regulation, based on EFSA advice, is to allow the use of recycled hot water for the decontamination of carcasses when it complies with certain defined criteria (temperature, renewal time). The current hygiene rules already allow the use of hot water but this is not an economically viable option. The proposed Commission Regulation will allow the water to be recycled when the necessary controls are in place to ensure that the quality of the recycled hot water maintains the microbiological and chemical characteristics of potable water.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation again (including Rev 1 of the Annex which includes the obligation to conduct the 2073-sampling before the hot recycled water application) but there are still technical questions raised by some Member States related to parameters (chemical contaminants/residues control and some microbiological). An amended annex will be sent shortly to all Member States with a view to a possible vote in April 2015.

M.01 • RASFF alerts on allergens in spices (Document SANTE/10302/2015)

The Commission informed Member States about the RASFF alerts received during 2015 related to undeclared peanut/almond contamination in spices (cumin and paprika). From January 2015, RASFF circulated 1 new notification and 8 alerts, 4 sent by the UK, 3 by Belgium and 1 by Denmark; 5 were related to undeclared almonds, 2 on undeclared peanuts, and 2 with traces of both products. A meeting with the industry has taken place to update the situation. The issue will be discussed on 20th March at the meeting of the Plant Protection Products - Legislation section of the PAFF Committee.