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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Review of the Honey Directive (2001/110): Commission implementing powers to lay down harmonised analysis methods to detect adulterated honey.

Review of the Honey Directive (2001/110): Commission implementing powers to lay down harmonised analysis methods to detect adulterated honey.

The Commission (DG AGRI) updated the MS on the recent review of the Honey Directive (2001/110), in particular on a task entrusted by the co-legislators for the Commission to come up with an implementing act within 4 years establishing harmonised analysis methods to detect honey adulteration with sugar.

MS' attention was also drawn to a newly created Honey Platform that is tasked with advising the Commission on honey authenticity and traceability. MS have been invited to designate a single contact point for the Honey Platform. The Commission representative announced that another directive laying down analysis methods on fruit juices might also be the subject of deliberations at the PAFF Committee but no specific timeframe has been set for this one by the co-legislators.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards *Listeria monocytogenes*

The Commission presented for an opinion of the Committee the draft text whose purpose was to ensure a higher level of consumer protection against *Listeria monocytogenes* by amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards the stage of the food chain where food safety criterion 1.2 applies.

The Belgian delegation asked during the meeting to include following statement in the report:

*"Belgium believes a zero risk policy is not appropriate for *L. monocytogenes* given the pathogen is ubiquitous in the environment and it is a psychrotrophic microorganism. We are convinced that the elaboration of clear recommendations to industry and to consumers is a more effective risk management approach to protect consumers' health, including the most vulnerable groups."*

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down laboratory analytical methods applicable to the official controls performed for the verification of compliance with provisions laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

The Commission presented for an opinion of the Committee the draft text whose purpose was to improve the reliability and consistency of official controls by establishing Union rules regarding analytical methods to be used by the official laboratories when they analyse official samples against criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as regards official verification of compliance with animal welfare requirements and health marking of products of animal origin

The Commission provided a presentation on possible amendments of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627. The purpose is to allow the replacement of the requirements on the form of the health mark by the requirement of the special health mark in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law), to replace in Annex II of the Implementing Regulation the abbreviation of “European Community” in the health mark by the abbreviation of “European Union” and to extend practical arrangements for official controls for ungulates and ruminants slaughtered on the holding of provenance. One Member State further commented on the health marking.

The purpose is also to amend certain requirements on the verification of animal welfare (AW), which were presented in the meeting of the AW Section of the PAFF in June.

The timeline and next steps were presented by the Commission, indicating that the opinion of the PAFF will finally be requested, probably beginning of next year, but the requirements on AW will only be discussed in a working group and PAFF meetings of AW colleagues. Several Member States asked to discuss the AW proposals also in a working group on food hygiene/controls in products of animal origin since related to meat inspection. The Commission stressed that duplication of discussion should be avoided but that close collaboration between AW and meat inspection experts is ensured at EU level and will also be needed at national level. The need for the organization of a working group food hygiene will be considered as work evolves.

M.01 Revision of Article 24 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627

A Member State asked on a possible change of Article 24 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627. The Commission indicated that it is open to include a revision for a more risk-based additional incisions and palpations at post-mortem inspection. Several Member States expressed support for such revision.