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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 OCTOBER 2017

(Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain*)

CIRCABC Link: *https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e7b68ee0-6dd6-407e-80cf-c3424b121fdc*

A.01 Presentation of the 2016 data on food irradiation collected according to Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation.

The Commission presented the 2016 data on food irradiation in accordance with Article 7 of the Directive.

A.02 Presentation and exchanges of views of the Committee of the revised version of Guidance on cheese as a raw material in the manufacture of food products" (revised version dated September 2017), issued by European Dairy Association (EDA) and the European Association of the Dairy Trade (EUCOLAIT).

The Commission presented a revised version of the guidance document, taking into account most of the comments submitted by Member States. The latest round of comments received from Member States prior to the meeting relate to retail level and laboratory returns and these will be reflected in a new version of the guide and circulated to Member States for possible final comments.

A.03 Presentation and exchanges of views of the Committee of the revised version of the European Guide for the hygienic manufacture of Processed Cheese (revised version dated of Sept 2017) issued by ASSIFONTE (association of European producers of processed cheese and the natural platform and roundtable for the professional people within this industry).

The Commission presented a revised version of the guidance document, taking into account most of the comments submitted by Member States.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the new EC Action Plan against antimicrobial resistance.

The Commission presented the new One Health Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adopted on 29th June 2017, explaining the main actions under its three pillars:

(i) Making the EU a best practice region on AMR;

(ii) Boosting research, development and innovation on AMR, and

(iii) Shaping the global agenda on AMR.

A.05 Presentation of a request from UECVB on the development of a Community Guide to Good Practice related to the maintenance of the cold chain during transport.

The Commission informed the Committee about a request from the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) and the Committee agreed to support the request. It was concluded that it may facilitate a harmonised implementation of the new rules on cold transport of meat.

A.06 Presentation of a request from ENFIT on the development of a EU guide for the Standardisation of Food Safety in the Supply Chain.

The Commission informed the Committee about the development of an EU guide for the standardisation of food safety in the supply chain by the International Tank cleaning Association (ENFIT) which will be available during the course of 2018.

A.07 Exchange of views on the harmonization of the interpretation of legislation on the use of bovine stomachs, classified as animal by-products, for the production of rennet.

Italy insisted on a harmonised implementation of import conditions of stomachs for rennet production. The shortage of rennet on the EU market was signalled. The Commission indicated that products outside the food chain (e.g. animal by-products (ABP)) cannot return into the food chain. This would be against the principles of the food law. Hence stomachs, imported as ABP cannot be used for the production of rennet for cheese production. The Commission reminded the Committee of its efforts to increase the yield of rennet by more flexible rules on the cleaning of stomachs. It also reminded the Committee of the import conditions, including a certificate, for rennet to be derived from food establishments and animals fit for human consumption following ante- and post-mortem inspection. More attention might be drawn to verification of correct implementation during the audits carried out by DG SANTE Directorate F.

A.08 Exchange of views on imports of food of animal origin (mammals and birds) from South Africa.

Germany informed the Committee that this issue was not discussed during the last Animal Health and Welfare section of the Committee due to lack of time. Germany explained that the audit, carried out in spring 2017 in South Africa, concluded with similar shortcomings to those found during the 2011 audit. In particular, Germany is concerned by the lack of knowledge of EU rules in the South African Competent Authority (CA) and highlighted the case of zebra meat as an example.

The Commission confirmed that the audit had concluded with multiple recommendations which had been communicated to the CA. For its part, South Africa has sent its reply to the Commission along with an action plan and these documents are currently being assessed by the audit team. No further comments were made by Member States.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1918 concerning certain safeguard measures in relation to chronic wasting disease (CWD).

The Commission presented the draft amendment to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1918, which aims at:

1. prolonging the CWD safeguard measures until 31 Dec 2020, and
2. in line with the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) recommendations, adding to the safeguard measures a prohibition on imports of deer urine hunting lures from third countries, on movement of urine hunting lures from cervids from Norway, and on placing on the market of urine hunting lures derived from cervids from the regions in Sweden and Finland which are regionalised for CWD in accordance with the current safeguard measures.

Norway made a comment proposing that, in line with EFSA's recommendation, the trade of lichen destined to feed cervids and originating from the area regionalised in accordance with the CWD safeguard measures be prohibited. The Commission noted that it would come back on this issue with a separate draft amendment, to cover all types of products which should be added to the safeguard measures.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Annex X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the European Union reference laboratory for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The Commission presented the draft text. Due to UK's notification in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the EU, the current EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for TSE which is located in the UK will be discontinued on 31 December 2018 and a new EURL TSE is to be designated. Following a call for interests, an Italian consortium between IZSPLVA and ISS has been selected to become the EURL TSE as from 1 January 2019. The draft text amends Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 in order to reflect this new designation. No comments were made by Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the European Union reference laboratory for monitoring the viral and bacterial contamination of bivalve molluscs.

The Commission presented the draft text. Due to UK's notification in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the EU, the current EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for monitoring viral and bacteriological contamination of bivalve molluscs which is located in the UK will be discontinued on 31 December 2018. The activities of the UK EURL will be taken over by the EURL for the analysis and testing of zoonoses (salmonella), the EURL for Escherichia coli, including Verotoxigenic E. coli (VTEC) and the EURL for foodborne viruses, as regards the analytical tests for salmonella, E. coli and viruses respectively. The EURL for the monitoring of marine biotoxins will take over the activities related to the classification and monitoring of production areas for bivalve molluscs. Sweden underlined the risk of losing efficiency in that network with the proposal made by the Commission.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation extending the special guarantees concerning Salmonella spp. laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council to meat derived from broilers (Gallus gallus) intended for Denmark.

The Commission presented the outcome of the public consultation of stakeholders. France reported also the opposition expressed nationally by the Fédération Française des Industries Avicoles on the draft measure in line with the European organisation's position on that measure. The Commission asked for technical agreement of the Committee in view of notification to the World Trade Organisation under the SPS agreement. Technical agreement was obtained.

C.02 Exchange of views on the non-paper in view of a possible revision of Regulation 2073/2005 as regards certain methods and *Listeria monocytogenes* in sprouted seeds.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

C.03 Exchange of views on the non-paper in view of a possible revision of Regulations (EU) Nos 200/2010, 517/2011, 200/2012, 1190/2012 as regards certain methods for *Salmonella* testing in poultry.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards health certification at import into the Union concerning transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The Commission presented the draft amendment, whose main objectives are:

1. to align the TSE attestation in the health certificates for the import of animal by-products with the latest version of the EU TSE Regulation, and
2. to align EU rules for the import of ruminant Processed Animal Protein (PAP), and products containing such PAP, with the recommendations of the OIE Code.

For the latter, the Commission noted disagreement among the Member States on the opportunity of introducing derogation for petfood containing ruminant protein animal proteins (PAP). The draft text was therefore amended to limit this derogation to processed petfood packaged and labelled in accordance with EU legislation, in order to ensure that the products would not end up as feed for farmed animals. This was consistent with EU internal rules. One Member State noted that if the draft text would be presented for vote as it was, it would vote against due to this derogation which meant an incomplete alignment with the OIE Code. Three other Member States noted that they had some technical questions and remarks on the text which had been or would be sent in writing. The Commission invited all Member States to send any written comments by the end of October 2017, and noted that the text would be further discussed at the next TSE working group meeting, for which a date has not yet been fixed.

M.01 Meetings to discuss primary production issues

Spain indicated that it would be useful to organise regular meetings related to primary production issues at EU level, with a view to establishing a network between all contact points in order to discuss any matters concerning microbiological issues in primary production of food of non-animal origin. These discussions could be held either in a specific working group related to primary production or in an existing group such as the hygiene working group.

M.02 Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) guide on food chain information (FCI)

The Commission informed the Committee about the request of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) to accept an existing FVE guide on food chain information as an EU guide in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. The initiative of such a guide was welcomed but it was concluded that FVE will be requested to revise its guide first, taking into account the format expected (more focus on recommendations, the ongoing discussion on the revision of meat inspection and the need to consult other stakeholders' organisations).

M.03 Update on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) situation in Norway

Norway updated the Committee on the CWD situation in Norway. More than 10,000 tests have been carried out in 2016 and more than 12,000 so far in 2017. Out of these tests, 10 positive samples have been found: 7 in reindeer in the region of Nordfjella, 3 in moose in the regions of Selbu and Lierne. Eradication of the reindeer population in Nordfjella (more than 2,000 animals) is ongoing in an attempt to eradicate the disease in reindeer.

M.04 Outbreak of S. Enteritidis

The Commission informed the Committee that an increased number of S. Enteritidis human cases have been reported and that it has requested ECDC and EFSA to follow-up the investigation and assess the source of the outbreak with the national Competent Authorities in charge of the public health and food investigations. The Commission requested Member States to provide the names of the contact persons in charge of the food investigation in particular for the following countries Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and Poland.