



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 15 MARCH 2016
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/0cd02680-aa3d-4595-bb8f-aeaf0fb3268c>

A.01 Presentation of the Commission notice providing guidance on the implementation of food safety management systems (FSMS) covering prerequisite programs and procedures based on the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) principles, including the facilitation/flexibility of the implementation in certain businesses and other initiatives, to facilitate the implementation of FSMS.

The Commission presented the document which is the result of extended consultations with Member States and all stakeholders' organisations of the Advisory Group for Food and which redrafts the existing guidance on HACCP by extending the scope of the guidance documents and better clarifying the flexibility for SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). There was some discussion on the application of ISO 22000 but in general the document received overwhelming support from the Member States. The Commission will now proceed with the translation and adoption of the document.

A.02 Information on possible measures suspending imports from Bangladesh of foodstuffs containing or consisting of betel leaves ('Piper Betle').

In the absence of guarantees from Bangladesh to address the serious risks to human health of betel leaves exported to Europe, Member States were informed about the preparation of a Draft Commission Implementing Decision to prolong the ban for two additional years which will be presented for opinion in a future Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) meeting.

A.03 Presentation of electronic tool for submission of national guides for good hygiene practice.

The Commission presented the electronic tool by which Member States can in future, submit information on national guides of good hygiene practice (new endorsement at national level or updates). This updates the present archaic system by enabling data

to be automatically entered into a register/database and by providing users with the possibility to consult and search the database for guides on specific items. More efficient use of available national guides and reduction of administrative burden will thus be achieved.

A.04 Information on Food Chain Information draft model document.

The Commission outlined the new way forward (placing FCI model document on TRACES for a trial period pending further reflection on THE Regulation) and a new model document, further adapted to TRACES. Several Member States commented, focusing in particular on the sections of the model document on veterinary medicines and animals' health status.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Romania.

The Commission presented a draft text recognising the negligible BSE risk of Romania, based on the OIE December 2015 decision to re-instate Romania's negligible BSE risk status.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending the Annexes 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.

The Commission presented a draft text amending Annexes II, III, V, VII, VIII and IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. The main changes made to these Annexes concern:

- the introduction of derogatory scrapie requirements for intra-Union trade for rare breeds of ovine and caprine animals, for ovine and caprine animals moved between zoos and for semen collection centres;
- the recognition of Finland's and Sweden's negligible risk status for classical scrapie;
- the adaptation of certain provisions concerning the removal of Specific Risk Materials;
- the adaptation of certain TSE requirements for the import into the EU of certain products of bovine, ovine or caprine origin.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/719/EC as regards the authorisation to Croatia to revise its annual BSE monitoring programme.

Croatia presented its application for a revision of its BSE annual monitoring programme. The Commission presented the outcome of its assessment of this application, the conclusions of the EFSA report published on 8 February 2016 on the revision of the BSE monitoring programme of Croatia, and a draft text authorising Croatia to revise its BSE monitoring programme under the same conditions as those granted to the 25 Member States currently listed in Annex to Decision 2009/719/EC. There were no comments or questions from the Member States.

M.01 Bulgarian Action Plan in the dairy sector

The Bulgarian delegation presented its action plan addressing certain issues in the dairy sector, especially in very small farms. No comments were received from the Member States.