



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 16 SEPTEMBER 2016
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/0804013c-f799-43fd-97f9-b9e0efa78819>

A.01 Presentation and possible endorsement of the draft EU “Food Donation Guidelines” developed by the European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA), Food Drink Europe and Euro Commerce.

Representatives of the stakeholders' organisations explained how comments made after the June Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) meeting have been addressed. The link with the guidelines developed by the Commission was explained. Two Member States asked for more time for possible comments. The guidelines will be considered as endorsed by the Committee if no further remarks are received by the end of September.

A.02 Presentation of the revised version (Rev. 3) of the European guidelines for good hygiene practices in artisanal cheese production.

The 4th revised version was presented by representatives of FACE (Farmhouse and Artisan Cheese and Dairy Producers European Network). Many comments were made at the meeting, namely on the need to include the hazard STEC and E. coli, mycotoxins and the cost of the number of tests required. Final comments for inclusion in a new version can be submitted until the end of September 2016.

A.03 Presentation of the EU Guidelines for Good Hygienic Practice for Distributors and Operators of Plumbed-in POU (Point of Use) issued by Water Coolers Europe.

The revised version was briefly presented by the Commission which included the latest round of comments from Member States. No comments were made at the meeting and the guide was endorsed by all Member States.

A.04 Presentation of the EU hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting issued by ESSA - European Sprouted Seeds Association.

The revised version was presented by representatives of ESSA. Comments were made at the meeting, namely on the need to include check lists, clarification in the definitions and the chemical parameters of water. Final comments for inclusion in a new version can be submitted until the end of September 2016.

A.05 Information on the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Food and Food Ingredients treated with Ionising Radiation for the year 2015.

The draft report on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2015 was presented by the Commission, as required by Article 7(4) of Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation. This report covers the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. One Member State intervened to inform the Commission that its data will be double-checked.

A.06 Information on the updated list of approved facilities for the treatment of foods and food ingredients with ionising radiation in the Member States

The draft list was presented by the Commission, according to Article 7 (4) of Directive 1999/2/EC. It will replace the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union C 51/09 of 13 February 2015. An EFTA country asked to be added to this Member States list.

A.07 AOB:

Update on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) situation in Norway:

The delegate from Norway presented an update on the CWD situation in Norway. Since the detection of the first CWD case in April 2016, 2,041 tests have been carried out, and 4 came out positive. Thus, in total, 2 cases were detected in reindeers in Laerdal, Southern Norway, and 2 cases were detected in moose in Selbu, central Norway. Norway adopted a measure on 11 July prohibiting the export of live cervids from Norway with some derogations; prohibiting the import, sale and purchase of cervid urine; requiring authorisation of the veterinary service to move live cervids from one county to another within Norway; and prohibiting the use of salt licks for cervids in Norway. Norway plans to carry out about 15,000 tests in the autumn of 2016. An opinion of the scientific committee for food safety was published on 30 June 2016.

Update on the issue of temperature conditions during storage and transport of meat:

A Member State requested a brief update on the issue of temperature conditions during storage and transport of meat. The Commission outlined the state of play further to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) opinion on spoilage bacteria modelling published on 29 June 2016 and indicated that this would be discussed with Member States in a forthcoming working group meeting.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on transitional measures for the application of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the accreditation of official laboratories carrying out official testing for Trichinella.

The Commission proposed a prolongation of Regulation (EU) No 702/2013 allowing derogation from the accreditation of official laboratories carrying out Trichinella tests in pig slaughterhouses and game handling establishments, subject to certain conditions. This derogation is considered essential for small slaughterhouses to avoid a disproportionate administrative burden. A permanent derogation is foreseen in the draft revision of the Regulation on Official Controls. Pending the application of this permanent derogation, a prolongation of the transitional derogation is needed. Four Member States expressed disagreement taking into account that they have done huge efforts to ensure all laboratories are accredited and sufficient time was given to achieve this.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional measures for the application of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission proposed a prolongation of the transitional measures:

- Allowing inspection of imported composite products at border inspection posts to be limited to the most risky products;
- Allowing the imports of products of animal origin for which no harmonised EU conditions have been established;
- Allowing the direct supply by the producer of small quantities of meat products and meat preparations of poultry and rabbits in derogation to EU hygiene rules on products of animal origin.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards the introduction into the Union of gelatine and collagen for human consumption and treated raw materials from Taiwan.

Regulation (EU) 2016/759 splits the lists of non-EU countries allowed to import collagen or gelatine according to the species of origin of raw materials. Taiwan was removed from the list of countries allowed to import collagen and gelatine derived from poultry and treated raw materials for the production of gelatine and collagen derived from poultry, despite extended consultation of private stakeholders and Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain safeguard measures in relation to chronic wasting disease.

The Commission presented the draft text and indicated that it would be further amended following ongoing discussions with Norway, Finland and Sweden, in order to provide stronger animal health guarantees in relation to the derogations included in the draft text distributed before this meeting. The draft was therefore not put for a vote.

Italy called for a stricter approach on CWD, considering the difficulty to eradicate this disease once present on a territory, looking not only at movements of live cervids but also at cervid products. Finland indicated that it would be ready to live without the derogation concerning sportive and cultural events and that the derogation for seasonal grazing was not needed as far as Finland is concerned, considering the fence at the border between Finland and Norway. Sweden was still reflecting on the new approach proposed by the Commission and would try to come back to the Commission during the week following this meeting.

Vote postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes IV and X 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 the draft text whose main objective is to authorise the use of fishmeal produced from certain starfish and farmed aquatic invertebrates for feeding non-ruminants animals, and highlighted that this amendment will be accompanied by a similar amendment to the definition of fishmeal in the Animal-By-Product legislation, which is intended to be submitted for vote probably in November 2016.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down specific conditions applicable to the import of certain food from certain third countries due to microbiological contamination and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2016/166 and amending Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.

The draft was presented by the Commission. The purpose of this measure is to establish a framework for listing certain foodstuffs from certain third countries following multiple findings of microbiological contamination of imported food of non-animal origin. The consignments would have to be accompanied by a health certificate (annexed to the Implementing Regulation). A specific measure has already been taken for betel leaves from India (Regulation (EU) No 2016/166). This text would repeal relevant previous individual acts.

Six Member States provided technical comments on the text, to which the Commission responded. It was agreed that Member States may send their written comments to the Commission by the end of September 2016. A revised version will be prepared for vote.