



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 NOVEMBER 2011
(Section: Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

Chair: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were represented.

1. Presentation and possible endorsement of the annual reports on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for 2009 and 2010

The Commission presented the two annual reports on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the years 2009 and 2010. For the 2010 report, a couple of Member States noted that their data needed to be amended. Once these corrections have been made, the Commission will publish the two reports.

2. Exchange of views on, and possible endorsement of, a guidance text on viable parasites in fishery products

The Commission presented the most recent version of the guidance text dated 11 November 2011. In the fourth paragraph of point 3.2 the first sentence was replaced by text from the previous version of the document, specifying "... it is sufficient to refer to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) risk assessment for that kind of production, the procedures applied and have a generic monitoring programme at national level to ensure that the information on which the favourable risk assessment was based does not change". The Guidance text was endorsed subject to this change and to the insertion of relevant references in a few additional places.

2A. Discussion on the possible development of an EU Guide to Good Hygienic Practices for the production of food grade salt

The Commission presented a request from the European Salt Producers Association to agree on the scope of an EU guide for good hygiene practices in the production of food grade salt that it wishes to develop. In the absence of any comments, the request was accepted.

2B. Presentation of EFSA opinion on seeded sprouts

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the outcome of the scientific opinion on the risk posed by Shiga toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) and other pathogenic bacteria in seeds and sprouted seeds. It was announced that the opinion had been published on 15 November 2011.

3. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2009/861/EC as regards the processing of non-compliant raw milk in certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria (Doc. SANCO/12420/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 second subparagraph of Article 12 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 9)

Commission Decision 2009/861/EC provides for certain derogations from the requirements set out in subchapters II and III of Chapter I of Section IX of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 for the milk processing establishments in Bulgaria listed in that Decision. That Decision is to apply from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011. Accordingly, certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex I to Decision 2009/861/EC may, by way of derogation from the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, process compliant and non-compliant milk, provided that the processing of compliant and non-compliant milk is carried out on separate production lines. In addition, certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex II to that Decision may process non-compliant milk without separate production lines. Bulgaria has been authorised to continue with this derogation until 31 December 2013.

Vote: Favourable opinion by unanimity.

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2009/852/EC as regards the list of certain milk processing establishments in Romania subjected to certain transitional measures (Doc. SANCO/12334/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 second subparagraph of Article 12 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 9)

Commission Decision 2009/852/EC allows certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex I to that Decision to be granted a time-limited derogation from the structural requirements laid down in Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and (EC) No 853/2004. Moreover, certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex II to that Decision should be allowed, by way of derogation from Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, to continue to process compliant and non-compliant milk, provided that the processing is carried out on separate production lines. In addition, certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex III to that Decision should be allowed to continue to process non-compliant milk without separate production lines. In September 2011 the Romanian Authorities officially informed the Commission that, starting from 1 January 2012, all milk processing establishments listed in Annex I to that Decision will be in compliance with the structural requirements laid down in Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and (EC) No 853/2004. Romania has been authorised to continue with the

processing of non-compliant milk in certain listed establishments until 31 December 2013.

Vote: Favourable opinion by unanimity.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision 2011/402/EU on emergency measures applicable to fenugreek seeds and certain seeds and beans imported from Egypt (Doc. SANCO/12565/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Article 53(1)(b)(i) and (iii))

Certain lots of fenugreek seeds from Egypt have been identified as the causative agent of an outbreak of Shiga-toxin producing Escherichia coli bacteria (STEC), serotype O104:H4. Commission Implementing Decision 2011/402/EU of 06 July 2011 on emergency measures applicable to fenugreek seeds and certain seeds and beans imported from Egypt introduced a ban on imports of products of specific tax codes listed in the Annex. However, dried split leguminous vegetables, broken beans or broken oil seeds and oleaginous fruits have been recognised as not able to be used for sprouting. Dried split leguminous vegetables, broken beans or broken oil seeds and oleaginous fruits imported from Egypt should no longer be considered as a food safety risk and should be reauthorized for import. The emergency measures in Decision 2011/402/EU should therefore be reviewed based on this new information, and the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision 2011/402/EU has been modified.

Vote: Favourable opinion by unanimity.

6. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Denmark and Panama (Doc. SANCO/12605/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: third subparagraph of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001)

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2007/453/EC in order to bring this Decision into line with the latest OIE Resolution N°17 adopted in May 2011, which classified Denmark and Panama as negligible BSE risk countries. The Member States did not comment on the draft. The document will be put to the vote at the next SCFCAH on 13 December 2011.