



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD ON 16 JUNE 2009 IN BRUSSELS  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All the Member States were present.

**1. Presentation of "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council with regard to the state of play on the control of food-borne *Salmonella* in the EU" (SANCO/3667/2009)**

The purpose of this Communication is to inform the European Parliament and to the Council on the state of play in implementing the Community provisions intended to control *Salmonella* and the results since adoption of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003<sup>1</sup> and of Directive 2003/99/EC<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission representative distributed an overview chart of *Salmonella* control in food production chain of animal origin. He provided detailed explanations on the Communication and on the overview chart.

The Commission has been successful in setting reduction targets for *Salmonella* as concerns primary production of poultry. Concerning pigs, some delay is caused due to the need to collect comparable prevalence data and to the carrying out of a cost/benefit analysis.

The Commission took additional actions such as providing training to the competent authorities in the Member States and third countries, convincing European stakeholders' organisations to participate, providing financial support.

Control of *Salmonella* has been integrated into a broad approach to control pathogens along the food chain, taking into account possible negative side-effects such as the increase of antimicrobial resistance. The risk from antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic agents including *Salmonella* will be assessed by the relevant scientific bodies. The assessment should be available by October 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> JO L 325 du 12.12.2003, p. 1

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:325:0001:0015:EN:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> JO L 325 du 12.12.2003, p. 31

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:325:0031:0040:EN:PDF>

**1A. Discussion on an EFSA request as regards the format of the Community Summary Reports on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents, Antimicrobial Resistance and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2008-2010 and the publication of the 2008 Report**

In its letter dated 9 June 2009, the European Food Safety Authority submitted a request for simplification of the Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents, Antimicrobial Resistance and Food-borne Outbreaks. The quantity of data and the number of reporting countries, 29 in total, have indeed increased considerably, making it difficult to analyse all the data in depth. This issue will be discussed at the Working Group on Zoonoses on 1 July 2009.

**2. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Community towards a survey on the prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in certain ready-to-eat foods to be carried out in the Member States (SANCO/5100/2009)**

Since 2001 a significant increasing trend in cases of listeriosis in humans has been observed. Ready-to-eat foods could be an important source of contamination. Therefore Member States are asked to carry out a survey to assess the prevalence of *L. monocytogenes* as well as the pH and water activity in these categories of ready-to-eat foods: fishery products, cheeses and heat treated meat products. They will collect and record all relevant information on the sampled foods according to the technical specifications proposed by the European Food Safety Authority in its report of Task Force Zoonoses Data Collection adopted on 22 May 2009<sup>3</sup>.

This proposal aims at determining the conditions for a Community financial contribution for implementing the specific requirements of the survey.

The text will be presented for vote at the July SCFCAH meeting.

**3. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision No 2008/908/EC authorising certain Member States to revise their annual BSE monitoring programme (submitted to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO 5511/2009 Rev. 3) (see point 4 of 19 May 2009 SCFCAH)**

Some Member States expressed their agreement on the latest version of the proposal. The United Kingdom asked whether Cyprus could not be included in the scope of the proposal. The Commission replied it was not possible as the mission by the Food and Veterinary Office in Cyprus has been postponed to end of June.

The proposal will be presented for vote at the July SCFCAH meeting.

**4. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional arrangements for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (SANCO/1733/2008 Rev. 4) (see point 5 of 19 May 2009 SCFCAH)**

The purpose of this proposal is to extend from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2013 certain transitional arrangements for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, 854/2004 and 882/2004.

Member States made many comments, in particular on the accreditation of laboratories conducting *Trichinella* testing. The accreditation procedure is indeed found to be complicated and expensive, especially for small laboratories. The Commission stressed the importance of accreditation and that the objective of full compliance with accreditation obligations for official controls laboratories remains. However this issue will be looked at in order to identify ways to facilitate the process. It also clarified that the provision applies only to laboratories located in a slaughterhouse or a game handling establishment.

The proposal will be presented for vote at the July SCFCAH meeting.

**5. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (SANCO/5999/2009)**

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 foresees that the slaughterhouse operator must request, receive, check and act upon the food chain information for all animals, other than wild game, sent or intended to be sent to the slaughterhouse. The smooth flow of information was facilitated by a transitional arrangement, which relaxes the obligation to supply the information 24 hours in advance of the animals' arrival at the slaughterhouse. On the basis of positive experience of the practice of providing the information together with the animals, it is appropriate to make that transitional arrangement permanent.

It is intended to present the proposal for vote at July SCFCAH meeting.

## Miscellaneous

- Following the rejection of the Commission proposal to allow the use of four antimicrobial substances to remove surface contamination from poultry carcasses, DG SANCO wishes to know what the situation in the Member States is. The Member States were requested to reply to a questionnaire on the **State of play on decontamination of food of non animal origin**. The questionnaire will be sent in electronic form with deadline for reply to 7 September 2009.
- At the request of Finland the Commission provided some clarification on the use and classification of **bacteriophages**. The Commission has consulted the European Food Safety Authority on this issue. Discussions are still ongoing. For the time being it is certain that the use of bacteriophages for decontamination of products of animal origin is banned.

*(signed)*  
Eric Poudelet  
Director