STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Directive establishing requirements for the determination of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feedingstuffs (SANCO/3397/01 –rev4).

The draft Commission Directive lays down requirements for laboratories, sample preparation, the analytical procedures and the reporting of the results to be used for the official control of the levels of dioxins and the determination of dioxin-like PCBs in feedingstuffs.

The draft Directive foresees that monitoring for the presence of dioxins in feedingstuffs can be performed by a strategy involving a screening method in order to select those samples with levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs that are less than 30-40 % below or exceed the maximum level. The concentration of dioxins in those samples with significant levels needs to be determined by a confirmatory method.

The draft Directive provides for requirements for screening methods as well for confirmatory methods.

The vote has been taken and a favourable opinion by unanimity was expressed.

1bis. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Directive laying down the sampling methods and the methods of analysis for the official control of dioxins and the determination of dioxin-like PCBs in foodstuffs. (SANCO/3432/01 –rev4).

The draft Commission Directive lays down requirements for sampling, laboratories, sample preparation, analytical procedures and reporting of the results to be used for the official control of the levels of dioxins and the determination of dioxin-like PCBs in foodstuffs.

The draft Directive foresees that monitoring for the presence of dioxins in foodstuffs can be performed by a strategy involving a screening method in order to select those samples with levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs that are less than 30-40 % below or exceed the maximum level. The concentration of dioxins in those samples with significant levels needs to be determined by a confirmatory method.

The draft Directive provides for requirements for screening methods as well for confirmatory methods.

The vote has been taken and a favourable opinion by unanimity was expressed.
2 Discussion and possible request for opinion on a Draft Commission Regulation concerning the provisional authorisation of a new additive in feedingstuffs (SANCO/10159/02)

The draft Commission Regulation was presented and discussed. It concerned the authorisation of the preservative blend of sodium benzoate, propionic acid, and sodium propionate.

A vote was taken: unanimous approval.

3 Setting timetables for additives (Article 4)

3.1 Microorganisms: “Yea Sacc” – *Saccharomices cerevisae* (N°5) – extension to the following animal category: Horses, Rapp. B (clock 1, Day 0: 04 April 2002 end of sixty days period formal check as foreseen under article 4, paragraph 4: 03 June 2002).

3.2 Enzymes: “Belfeed B 1100 MP” (No. 51) – endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8 produced by *Bacillus subtilis* - clock 3: start of the second evaluation period – Art. 4 par. 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC - Rapp B - Extension for use: Pigs for fattening. The clock has been stopped the 24 June 2002.

“Bio feed phytase” (N°50)– 6-Phytase (EC 3.1.3.26) – clock 3 Art 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC, the clock was started the 22 May 2002 – start of the second evaluation period - Rapp DK - Extension for use for sows..

“Natuphos” 3-phytase; EC 3.1.3.8 produced by *Aspergillus niger* CBS 491.94 (FTU-11) extension for use: Ducks, Geese, *Salmonidae* and Channel catfish (Art. 4 par. 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) Rapporteur: NL. The first clock has started the 24 of June 2002. The end of the sixty days period will be the 23 August 2002.

“Quatrazyme” (N°24) preparation of endo 1,4-beta-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) and endo 1,3(4)-beta-glucanase (EC 3.2.1.6) produced by *Aspergillus niger* (CNCM I-1517), extension of use: Turkeys for fattening, Rapp: F; end of the first evaluation period (Art 4 par 6 Directive 70/524/EEC)

The first evaluation period was stopped 24 June 2002.


“Kokcisan” Salinomycin sodium - animal category chickens for fattening. Rapporteur UK. The clock has been stopped the 24 of June 2002

4. Setting timetables for additives

4.1 Microorganisms:“Levucell” SB 20” *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CNCM I-1079 extension for use for a permanent authorisation to the animal category of piglets. Rapp: F
4.2 Enzymes: “Endofeed DC” Endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.6 Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8 animal category: chickens for fattening. Rapporteur SP.

Application for permanent authorisation

5. Categorisation for the purposes of the feedingstuffs regulation of supplementary feedingstuffs containing protected trace elements (Carbosan, SQM) and peat substrate. Continuation of the discussion

Discussion centred on whether peat has to be considered as feed material or as additive. The Committee did not arrive at a final conclusion on that issue.

However, regardless if it is to be considered as feed material or as additive, it appears that the combination of peat with Carbosan or SQM products for animal feed as it was put into circulation or fed to animals is not in accordance with the provisions of Community legislation on animal nutrition.

Indeed, if peat is to be considered as feed material, Article 3 point 2 of Council Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs provides that additives may only be incorporated in feed materials only as long as their use is expressly provided for in the Annexes. The use of trace elements in feed materials is not expressly provided for in the Annexes.

If peat is to be considered as additive, the mixture of peat and SQM/Carbosan products is a premixture. Premixtures are to be used exclusively in the manufacture of feedingstuffs and it is not allowed to feed premixtures directly to animals.

Furthermore, Carbosan and SQM products are trace elements with specific ingredients (seaweed, brewer’s yeast) resulting in a alleged higher bio-availability of the trace elements. The need for a specific Community authorisation before the putting into circulation and use of such products was discussed.

Given that several matters need further examination and clarification, the Committee decided to continue the discussions at their next meeting.

6. Contamination of Carbosan and SQM products by dioxins: Update and follow-up.

The Commission representative re-iterated to the Committee the different provisions in the Community legislation on animal nutrition which justify and form the robust legal basis for the actions with regard the Carbosan and SQM products contaminated by dioxins and feedingstuffs/products containing these contaminated products, as concluded at the meeting of the Committee on 19 March 2002.

No news from the US authorities with regard to the investigations on the identification of the source of contamination. The concerned plant is still closed.

The Committee was also informed that a request will be sent to the competent authorities to inform the Commission on the decisions taken with regard to the seized products in particular concerning the way of disposal (return, landfill, incineration, …).
The question was raised if the peat, containing the SQM and Carbosan products could be used as organic fertiliser. Several delegations expressed their reluctance. The Committee concluded that it is the responsibility of the environmental authorities to decide if these products can be re-used as organic fertiliser and to establish eventually the conditions therefore.

7. **Draft working document on the outcome of the Working Group concerning the requirements for the animal category “fish”.**

The Commission Representative presented a draft document on the outcome of the Working Group (11 December 2001) concerning the requirements for the animal category “fish”.


For the animal category fish, no specific rules are set concerning the study design, the efficacy parameters, possibly extrapolation within species, genders, and age groups.

The Member States were asked to send in their comments beginning of September latest.

8. **Canthaxanthin in feedingstuffs.**

The Commission Representative explained the outcome of the opinion of the SCAN, which has been adopted on April 2002, and which suggests lower dosages of canthaxanthin to be used in the feedingstuffs for food producing animals. In the near future the Commission will propose an amendment of the annex entries to the Directive 70/524/EEC concerning the use levels of canthaxanthin in feedingstuffs for those animal categories. Some Members States delegation pointed out that it could be a problem for the marketing of fish, whilst some Member States delegations are in favour of a lower dosage.

9. **Exchange of views on “mycotoxins binder”**.

Companies are more and more frequently asking the authorisation of different types of substances, which intend to “bind” or “metabolise” mycotoxins. The Standing Committee and the Commission felt that concerning the question of mycotoxins in first place efforts should concentrate on the fixation of maximum levels in the framework of the Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances. The use of mycotoxins binder or metabolisers may enhance bad manufacturing and storage practices which may induce moulting growing. The dossiers, which have been studied so far, are lacking in data on the fate of the bound mycotoxins in the gastrointestinal tract and the toxicity of the metabolites. Particular attention should be paid to claims, which might induce uses of these additives into error.

10. **Follow up of the exchange of views on coated forms of additives.**

The Standing Committee and the Commission agreed that, being the authorisation linked to an effect of an additive, whenever the effect changes, a new application for authorisation has to be submitted. The example of a preservative substance has been
mentioned: if a substance acts as a preservative for feed, and has an authorisation for this purpose, and after, through a coating it can also be demonstrated an effect in the animal, a new application for authorisation has to be submitted.


The Commission representative asked those Member States, which had not yet sent information regarding controls in 2001 to do so.

The Member States presented several proposals for the coordinated inspection programme for the year 2003.

12. **Investigations on the nitrofen contamination of the feed and food chain.**

The German competent authority gave an up-dated report on the tracing of feed and food potentially contaminated with nitrofen. Several farms that had been blocked have now been released, after negative results been confirmed. Investigations continue on the potential contamination of grain stored in 1999 and 2000

13 **Other business:**

A delegation raised the problem of presence of dioxins in fishmeal and fish hydrolysates and the coming into force of the maximum levels established by Council Directive 2001/102/EC of 27 November 2001 on 1 July 2002. A short exchange of views has taken place and a more in depth discussion will be held at a forthcoming Expert Committee meeting on monitoring for dioxins.

Dr. W. PENNING