SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal Nutrition Section
20-21 JANUARY 2003

1. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the provisional authorisation of new uses of additives in feedingstuffs: SANCO/2003/4303

The document was approved unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation amending the conditions for authorisation of an additive in feedingstuffs: SANCO/2003/4236.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.


Some delegations considered that the maximum level of lead proposed in the Draft Regulation required a careful examination before taking a decision.

A representative of the Commission invited the delegations to submit information, before 20 February, about the content of lead in manganese additives placed on the market.

4 Examination of a question submitted by Denmark: alternative methods of administration of feed additives. (top dressing and bolus). Letter of 29-09-02.

Directive 70/524 makes provision for administering additives by other means than through feed so that the bolus form is not excluded. So far no authorizations have been granted for the use of bolus. An exchange of views took place and decisions will be taken case by case.

5. Examination of a question submitted by Austria on rooting soil for piglets. Letter of 9-12-02

Some delegations indicated that rooting soil or peat could not be considered as feed material, given the absence of any nutritional or energy value for farm animals.

Other delegations were of the opinion that it could be considered as feed material in accordance with the definition in the feed legislation of a feed material.

Some delegations thought it would be appropriate to address the issue of the use of litter/bedding material in the animal feed legislation.

After discussion, the chairman concluded that litter/bedding material containing trace elements or any other additives fell anyway under the scope of the animal feed legislation and that acceptance/authorisation of the use of such materials had therefore to be examined in the frame of animal feed legislation.

6 Examination of a question submitted by Greece: classification of balancers. Letter
Balancers are mixtures containing feed materials belonging to the mineral category (calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide etc.), amino acids and additives (vitamins, trace elements etc.). If those substances are considered as pre-mixtures of additives then they need approval according to Directive 95/69/EC. If they are considered as complementary feedingstuffs then only registration is required.

The majority of delegations agreed that those products were complementary feedingstuffs according to the definition laid down in Directive 79/373/EC.

Some delegations thought it difficult to check on the use by farmers of these complementary feedingstuffs. A maximum limit for complementary feedingstuffs in compound feedingstuffs and, in particular, mineral feedingstuffs should be established, as is already the case for premixtures of additives.

7. Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding: preparation of the meeting and state of play of the European Community comments.

The Commission distributed to the delegation document SANCO/151/03: Draft European Community comments on Codex Circular letter CX/AF 03/05. This document had been submitted to the Council in order to prepare the common position.

Delegations were invited to submit before 20 February their opinion on future tasks for the Task Force and sensitive issues that require better co-ordination. A document would be prepared for the meeting at the Council in the first week of March.

8. Dioxins


It is of major importance for the public and animal health protection that the maximum levels for dioxins established by Council Directive 2001/102/EC of 27 November 2001 and which have been in application since 1 July 2002 remain in force.


As the scope of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and Council, in comparison with Council Directive 1999/29/EC, has been extended to cover additives, it is appropriate to incorporate the maximum levels of the additives belonging to the group
“binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants” in the Annex. Furthermore, additives belonging to the group “trace elements” authorised for use in feedingstuffs have been found contaminated by dioxins at levels endangering public and animal health. The establishment of a maximum level for dioxins in these additives is necessary to protect public and animal health.

At the request of some delegations, clarification was given that it is the intention to transfer the specific provisions regarding the presence of undesirable substances in additives as provided for in the Annex of Council Directive 70/524 of 23 November 1970 concerning additives in feedingstuffs to the Annex of this Directive from 1 August 2003 onwards.

Given the period needed for transposition into national legislation, some delegations asked if it was not possible to propose the provisions in a Regulation instead of a Directive. The Commission representative indicated a favourable attitude towards this approach, but that the question would be put to the Commission's Legal Service for advice. An alternative solution would be to provide a longer transposition time for the new provisions concerning trace elements and premixtures.

With regard to the proposed provisions concerning the maximum level of dioxins in trace elements and premixtures, some delegations said they needed to examine the measures in more detail before being able to give a definitive opinion.

8.2. Carbosan and SQM products: update of the situation and conclusion

The US authorities have officially informed the Commission that the production method for Carbosan and SQM products has been modified with the consequence that dioxins are no longer formed at unacceptable levels during the production process. Evidence has been submitted indicating that the products under the new production method have dioxin levels significantly lower than 1 ng PCDD/F WHO-TEQ per kg.
The Commission representative regretted that the US authorities had not submitted a full investigation report identifying precisely the source/production factors resulting in the very high dioxin contamination. This information would have enabled competent authorities to take measures to avoid using similar production processes for the production of trace elements (or other additives/feed materials/feedingstuffs), potentially resulting in a similar contamination.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee came to the conclusion that SQM and Carbosan products could be brought into circulation only if the company concerned
- is able to provide scientific evidence that the ferrous sulphate - monohydrate, cupric sulphate – pentahydrate, manganese sulphate – monohydrate and zinc sulphate, monohydrate remain chemically unchanged in the Carbosan and SQM products and that the specific production method results only in physical protection of the trace element.
- the company makes a clear commitment to submit in a well defined period of time a dossier supporting the claim of increased bio-availability as a consequence of the specific production method. Until the authorisation is officially granted, the company is prohibited to advertise a claim one way or another.

With regard to the use of Carbosan and SQM products in peat for piglets, the Committee noted that
- if peat is considered as being a feed material (see point 5), mixing of Carbosan and SQM products with peat products is not allowed under Article 9 k) 3 of Council Directive 70/524 as this use is not expressly provided for in the authorisation regulation
- if peat is not be considered as a feed material but rather as an additive or carrier, mixing of Carbosan and SQM products with peat results in a premixture which is intended for the manufacture of feedingstuffs and cannot be fed directly to animals.


- analytical uncertainty
The Commission representative indicated that a restricted working group of experts will be convened to work out in more detail the aspects concerning the quantification of analytical uncertainty. It was proposed to discuss the issue in more detail in the Committee once the restricted working group has come to conclusions.

- fish protein hydrolysates
As a consequence of a specific production process for fish protein hydrolysates and the fact that they had a higher fat content than fishmeal, the company asked whether, for the high fat containing fish protein hydrolysates, the maximum level of 2.25 ng PCDD/F WHO-TEQ/kg could be established instead of the current 1.25 ng PCDD/F WHO-TEQ/kg.
Some delegations indicated a positive attitude to this request while others, including the Commission representative, expressed reservations.
Following the Expert Committee meeting of 29 July 2002, the International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation (IFFO) have submitted a proposal for a uniform approach with regard to the fate of non-conforming lots. The Commission representative indicated dissatisfaction with the proposal but promised to send the proposed approach to the delegations for their consideration.

9. Discussion on the use of hydrogen peroxide in feed production

The status of hydrogen peroxide used in feed production was discussed. A majority of the delegations of Member States agreed that this product should be considered as an additive in feedingstuffs belonging to the preservatives group, and which is currently not authorised under Directive 70/524/EEC.

10. Exchange of views on a draft harmonised model for the annual report on official feed controls.

Delegations congratulated the Commission on the progress made with this document. Discussion focused on amendments proposed by Member States. Further comments are expected to be sent in writing by national competent authorities. This draft document will be reviewed in light of the suggested changes.

12. SETTING TIMETABLES FOR ADDITIVES

12.1 Enzymes

“Avizyme Ducks” (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase 3.2.1.8; endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase 3.2.1.6; alpha-amylase 3.2.1.1; subtilisin 3.4.21.62; polygalacturonase 3.2.1.1.15) animal category: Ducks, *(Day O 31 October 2002* end of sixty-days period as foreseen under article 4 par 4 of Dir. 70/524/EEC 30 December 2002) Rapp: UK The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) started as from 20.01.2003.

“Porzyme SF100” (endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase 3.2.1.6; endo-1,4-beta-xylanase 3.2.1.8 polygalacturonase 3.2.1.1.15), animal category: pigs for fattening, Rapporteur UK. Application for permanent authorization. The evaluation was started as from 06.01.2003

“Porzyme SF” (endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase 3.2.1.6; endo-1,4-beta-xylanase 3.2.1.8 alpha-amylase 3.2.1.1) animal category: piglets, Rapporteur UK. Application for permanent authorization. The evaluation was started as from 06.01.2003

“Porzyme TP100” (endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase 3.2.1.6; endo-1,4-beta-xylanase 3.2.1.8; alpha-amylase 3.2.1.1; polygalacturonase 3.2.1.1.15), animal category: pigs for fattening, Rapporteur UK. Application for permanent authorization. The evaluation was started as from 06.01.2003

“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: laying hens. Rapporteur ES. Application for permanent authorization. The evaluation was started as from 20.01.2003

“Natuphos FTU 11” 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. The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) was stopped as from 21.01.2003. Rapporteur: NL

“Econase Wheat Plus” - Endo-1, 4-beta-xylanase (IUB 3.2.1.8) from Trichoderma reesei CBS 529.94 and endo-1, 3(4)-beta-glucanase (IUB 3.2.1.6) from Trichoderma reesei CBS 526.94 in a ratio of 4:1 extension to new animal categories: Broilers and turkeys. Rapp.: FIN. The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) was stopped as from 20.01.2003.

12.2 Micro-organism

“MLB” Lactobacillus acidophilus DSM 13241, animal category: dogs (Day O 17 September end of sixty-days period as foreseen under article 4 par 4 of Dir. 70/524/EEC: 16 November 2002) Rapp: DK. The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) started as from 20.01.2003.

“Biosprint BCCM™ / MUCL 39885” - Saccharomyces cerevisiae BCCM™ / MUCL 39885 extension for use to the animal category: Dairy cattle. The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) was stopped as from 21.01.2003. Rapp.: ITA

“Yea Sacc – Saccharomyces cerevisiae (N°5) – extension to the following animal category: Horses. Rapp. B The first evaluation period (Clock 3 art. 4 par 6 of Dir. 70/524/EEC) was stopped as from 21.01.2003.

12.3 Coccidiostats

“Bio-Cox 120G” Salinomycin sodium, animal category: chickens for fattening, (Day O 28 November 2002 end of sixty-days period as foreseen under article 4 par 4 of Dir. 70/524/EEC 27 January 2003) Rapp: B

2. BIOPROTEINS

2. NUTRIGROW: Yeast cells (Candida guillermondii) from the production of citric acid. Rapporteur IRL.
A representative of the Commission asked the delegations to submit their comments on the complementary dossier submitted by the company as soon as possible.

2.2 -Lysine – HCl (70%) and L-Tryptophan (15%) and its residue of fermentation of Escherichia coli K-12 “Tryptosine 15/70” – piglets - pigs for fattening - chickens for fattening. (Rapporteur: D)
A representative of the Commission said that the Scientific Committee on Feedingstuffs had delivered an opinion on this product on 16 October 2002, saying that additional information was needed to complete the evaluation. The Commission has sent a letter to the company with a copy to Germany for information.

OTHER BUSINESS
Question raised on the use of catering waste and of used cooking fats and oils.

The Chairman said that Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption bans the feeding of farmed animals (except fur animals) with catering waste or feed material containing or derived from catering waste. However, the continued use in feed of certain types of catering waste may be permitted under strictly controlled circumstances by comitology procedure for a period of not more than four years as from 1 November 2002.

The definition of catering waste as stated in the above mentioned Regulation refers to waste food, and thus includes fats and oils, originating in restaurants, catering facilities and kitchens.

Fats and oils of vegetable origin fall under the definition of catering waste if they have been used for cooking animal products, i.e. sausages or chicken wings. Vegetable fats and oils used exclusively for products of non-animal origin, i.e. for frying potatoes, do not fall under the scope of the Animal By-Product Regulation.

Nevertheless, in practice it is not possible to segregate and ensure traceability of all the components of catering waste, so it is difficult to believe that it is possible to place on the market vegetable fats and oils with an assurance that they have been used exclusively for products of non-animal origin.