STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Discussion and possible request for an opinion on a Draft Commission Regulation concerning the authorization of a new additive and a new use of an additive in feedingstuffs (SANCO/4683/2003 rev.01).

The vote was taken and the Committee adopted an opinion in favour of the Regulation concerning the authorisation a new additive and a new use of an additive concerning two micro-organisms (Enterococcus faecium and Lactobacillus acidophilus), for four years, by unanimity.

2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Directive on the analytical method for the determination of constituents of animal origin for the official control of feedingstuffs (Document SANCO/3674/2003) (KDS)

The proposal for a Commission Directive on the analytical method for the determination of constituents of animal origin for the official control of feedingstuffs received a favourable opinion by qualified majority. The Directive will apply from 1 July 2004.

3. Histomonosis in Turkeys - Reports of the Member States

Several Member States and new Member States expressed their concerns about future outbreaks of histomoniasis.

A Member State distributed data on the histomoniasis situation and indicated that a company was willing to submit a dossier to its Scientific Authorities on the basis of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 (national authorisation for experiments for scientific purposes). ES referred to ongoing studies on the evolution of the situation. IT indicated that the situation was currently still under control and NL that the situation had not changed since the last report.

The chairman distributed the data received from A.V.E.C. He indicated that the possibility of an urgent authorisation of a molecule on the basis of Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 could be examined if the conditions for the application of this provision were met, but that the data received so far were not sufficiently clear and detailed to confirm the existence of an emergency situation.

4. Exchange of views on the results of the national control programmes and coordinated inspection programme for the year 2002.

On 19 November 2003 the Commission services organised a meeting of the Working Group on Official Controls in Animal Nutrition. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the harmonised model for the annual report on official controls carried out by Member States. This model was agreed with the Member States one year ago and was used by them for reporting the 2002 results. Experts from most of the Member States, new Member States and EFTA countries participated in the meeting.
The group evaluated the difficulties encountered in the application of the document and looked at how it could be improved in the future. A modified version based on the changes agreed will be forwarded to all the authorities.


The new version comprises a proposal for checks on certain mycotoxins, medicinal substances, feed materials of animal origin and for assessment of suppliers of feed materials of industrial origin. A final version will be presented to the Committee soon.


The situation as regards the Member States (UK, I, F) which have formally suspended the measure on percentage labelling as provided for in Directive 2002/2/EC is stable. The chairman informed the Member States about the following interpretation of the resulting internal market situation given by the Commission's Legal Service, taking into account the initial situation of the labelling rules concerned having been suspended by the High Court in England:

(1) Products manufactured in England which do not comply with the labelling rules in Directive 2002/2 may not be sold in other Member States (or other parts of the United Kingdom) where Directive 2002/2 has been implemented correctly.

(2) Products manufactured in England which do not comply with the labelling rules in Directive 2002/2 may be sold freely in other Member States where a national measure implementing Directive 2002/2 has been suspended by a national court applying the rules laid down in Community law.

(3) Products may be sold in England without giving the information required under Directive 2002/2 even if they were manufactured in a Member State which has implemented Directive 2002/2 in full. However, products must comply with Directive 2002/2 if they are to be sold in other Member States (or other parts of the United Kingdom) where Directive 2002/2 has been implemented correctly.

7. Setting timetables for additives

7.1. “MLB” (Lactobacillus acidophilus DSM 13241). Application for provisional authorisation for animal category: cats (Day O 28.08.2003, end of sixty-day period as laid down in Article 4 (4) of Dir. 70/524/EEC: 27.10.2003). Rapporteur: DK.

On expiry of the sixty-day period laid down in Article 4(4) of Directive 70/524/EEC, no objections regarding the acceptability of the dossier were registered. The first evaluation period (Clock 3: Article 4(6) of Dir. 70/524/EEC) started as from 20 November 2003.

7.2. “Biosaf Sc 47” (Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC Sc 47). Application for permanent authorisation for the animal category: sows. Dispatch date of the dossier:

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The document continues with further details and updates on the application of the directives and their implementation by Member States.


On expiry of the sixty-day period laid down in Article 4 (4) of Directive 70/524/EEC, no objections regarding the acceptability of the dossier were registered. The in-depth evaluation process laid down in Article 4 (6) of Dir. 70/524/EEC was therefore deemed to have started on 20 November 2003.


On expiry of the sixty-day period laid down in Article 4 (4) of Directive 70/524/EEC, no objections regarding the acceptability of the dossier were registered. The in-depth evaluation process laid down in Article 4 (6) of Dir. 70/524/EEC was therefore deemed to have started on 20 November 2003.


7.7. **Rovabio**™ **Excel LC & AP** (Endo-1,3(4)-betaglucanase EC 3.2.1.6, Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8) produced from *Penicillium funiculosum* (IMI SD101) (solid/liquid form) **Extension of use** for the animal categories: ducks for fattening. **(Day O of start full evaluation: 23 April 2003)**. **Rapporteur: UK**

The clock was stopped on 20 November 2003.

7.9 “Coxidin” Coccidiostat: monensin: chicken for fattening, laying hens, turkeys for fattening. **Supplementary dossiers. Rapp: IT**

This dossier was evaluated on 28/29 September 2000 and the Standing Committee concluded that it had not been compiled in accordance with Directive 87/153/EEC. Therefore the company should submit a complete dossier in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 70/524/EEC, and this supplementary dossier can not be accepted.

7.10 “Yea Sacc” (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CBS 493.94). **Application for extension of use** to the animal category: Horses. (Clock 3: the second evaluation period started on 22.08.2003, as provided for in Article 4 (6) of Dir. 70/524/EEC). Rapporteur: **BE**. The second evaluation period was **stopped** as from 20.11.2003.

8. **Exchange of views on the implementation of the new Council and European Parliament Regulation on feed additives 1831/2003.**

8.1. **Information from Member States about silage additives authorised by them**

Silage additives, as defined in the new Regulation 1831/2003, are included explicitly in the scope of the Regulation. Silage additives follow the same notification procedure for existing products laid down in Article 10 of the Regulation. The Commission asked Member States to provide information on silage additives regulated at national level with a view to estimating the number of such products likely to be notified. An exchange of views took place about how these products were regulated at present in the different Member States. Several Member State delegations provided contributions on paper at the meeting to the Commission about products regulated by them or marketed in their countries.

8.2. **Exchange of views on a notification system for existing authorizations under Article 10**

The procedure for the notification of existing products laid down in Article 10 of Regulation 1831/2003 was presented.

The draft forms for the notification to be sent to the Commission and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) were introduced and discussed. Member States’ delegations contributed with suggestions. The final forms will be published on the DG Health and Consumer Protection web site shortly.

8.3. **Exchange of views on contributions from Member States concerning candidate laboratories for the consortium of national reference laboratories to assist the Joint Research Centre, (Article 21 of Regulation 1831/2003)**
This item was a follow-up to the discussion on this item at the previous meeting. At that meeting, the Commission had asked Member States to present, before the end of the year, candidate laboratories interested in being part of the consortium of national reference laboratories assisting the Joint Research Centre in the tasks envisaged in Article 21 of Regulation 1831/2003. Candidate laboratories should have sufficient competence for at least one of the groups of feed additives. The Commission thanked Denmark for providing a candidate laboratory and renewed the request for candidate laboratories from the other Member States.

9. Undesirable substances: Discussion on the level of mercury in calcium carbonate. Information provided by the Netherlands

The maximum level for mercury in calcium carbonate, established by Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed is 0.1 mg/kg (feed materials, including calcium carbonate). The Netherlands provided data on the presence of mercury in calcium carbonate, originating from different regions in the EC. These data indicate that the normal background level of mercury in calcium carbonate exceeds the maximum level of 0.1 mg/kg and that background levels have been found of up to 0.3 mg/kg. The preliminary risk assessment performed by SCAN in April 2003 and a risk assessment performed by Dutch scientific institute indicate that an increase in the maximum level of 0.1 to 0.3 mg/kg does not endanger animal or public health. Given the fact that calcium carbonate is an essential and valuable feed material, the majority of the Committee could accept such an increase. One delegation expressed objections. A legislative proposal will be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

At the request of one Member State, the application of Commission Directive 2003/100/EC of 31 October 2003 amending Annex I to Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on undesirable substances in animal feed was discussed as additional item under agenda item 10.

This Directive has to be transposed by Member States into national legislation within a maximum of 12 months. This 12-month period is for purely administrative reasons, in order to allow for the sometimes time-consuming administrative procedures in place in the Member States to transpose Community law into national law. No date of application has been specified.

Given the fact that the maximum levels laid down by Directive 2003/100/EC do, in fact, reflect current background levels and in order to ensure a harmonised approach within the EU, the Committee agreed to enforce, with immediate effect wherever possible, those maximum levels which had been increased to reflect current background levels. In the cases where the maximum levels have been decreased, these lower maximum levels can only be applied after implementation of Community law in national law (at the latest 12 months after its entry into force).

10. Discussion on the application of measurement uncertainty and on the extension of the mandate to CEN
Because of lack of time, the point on the application of measurement uncertainty was discussed only briefly, and the discussion on the extension of the mandate to CEN was postponed to the next meeting.

With regard to the application of measurement uncertainty and correction for recovery, the importance of a common approach to the interpretation of the analytical results across the European Union was underlined. Therefore, the Commission representative proposed to the Committee that analytical uncertainty should be taken into account when checking compliance against maximum levels and that a consignment would be considered as non-complying only when the analytical result, corrected for recovery, was above the maximum level beyond reasonable doubt. It was further specified that this application of measurement uncertainty and correction for recovery would be introduced initially for the control on undesirable substances in animal feed (Council Directive 2002/32/EC).

The Committee welcomed this approach and did not raise objections at this stage. A legislative proposal will be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

11 Other business

11.1 Imports of Choline Chloride from Rep. China (letter from Italy)

The Commission representative addressed for discussion the issue raised by Italy on the possible non-compliance with Community law of some samples of choline chloride originating from China. Italian authorities highlighted that some of the consignments were beyond their expiry date. The need was stressed for the Member States to strengthen controls in order to check that importers of products from third countries intended for animal nutrition are in possession of the appropriate registration number in accordance with Community legislation.

11.2 Import of complementary feedingstuffs from Poland to Italy (letter from Italy)

The Commission representative signalled to the Member States the need to provide importers of products intended for animal nutrition with the document laid down in Commission Directive 98/68/EC, where those products are marketed in a Member State different to the Member State which carries out the checks referred to in Article 5 and 7 of Council Directive 95/53/EC.

11.3 Import of citrus pulp pellets from Brazil –certificates required.

Following a dioxin contamination incident in 1998 in citrus pulp pellets originating from Brazil, in 1999 the Brazilian authorities set up an internal control system to avoid such contamination incidents in the future. Recently some confusion has occurred with regard to the documents which have to accompany the consignments of citrus pulp pellets from Brazil, and the Commission representative therefore raised this point at the meeting.
In May 2001, the Brazilian authorities informed the Commission of some modifications in their internal control system.

All batches stored in the warehouse at the port must be sampled upon arrival and a composite sample analysed for dioxin content. The analysis report must be available. When a vessel is loaded, only (parts of) batches from which samples have been taken and analysed may be loaded. During loading a sample must be taken, but it need only be stored and no analysis is required (see procedure outlined in SDR 006 of 6 January 1999, as modified in May 2001, and accepted by the Standing Committee at its meeting on 7-8 June 2001).

Therefore, as agreed in 2001, it is necessary and sufficient that the phytosanitary certificate clearly indicates the batch(es) from which the vessel’s cargo is derived, indicating quantities and lot identification number and the number of the analytical report(s). The analytical report(s) of the batch(es) carried by the vessel must also accompany the consignment.

The Committee made no comments.