1. Discussion and possible request for an opinion on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the provisional authorisation of a new use for an additive already authorised in feedingstuffs. (Preparation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for leisure horses).

The vote was taken and the Committee unanimously adopted an opinion in favour of Regulation concerning a new use for the micro-organism (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for horses) for a period of four years.

2. Presentation of the overall summary report on the results of official controls in the field of animal nutrition carried out by Member States in 2002

The draft document was presented and discussed with the delegations. All comments were generally very positive. The report was welcomed by the delegations and it was considered an improvement on previous years. Some suggestions were made in order to improve and clarify certain aspects of the text. Further proposals for amendments were to be sent by e-mail by 27 February.

The reason for the report being so detailed and comprehensive was Member States’ adoption, at least in part, of the harmonised reporting model by the Commission in agreement with the Member States.

The national reports showing the results of controls in 2003 should be sent to the Commission no later than 1 April 2004.

3. Situation regarding histomoniasis in the Member States.

The Member States informed the Commission about trends in histomoniasis on their territory. NL reported that turkey production was declining, not because of the mortality due to the illness, but because operators were abandoning the production because they feared possible economic losses following an outbreak of blackhead.

France informed the meeting that it had asked the AFSSA in January for an opinion in relation to the safety of a substance in order to allow it to be authorised in France under the terms of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) n°1831/2003 (authorisation for experimentation). France is now waiting for the opinion of the AFSSA.
UK reported that disease information from 2003 fully supported the urgent need for appropriate medication in the UK to deal with the potential health and animal welfare issues.

The Commission informed the meeting that it had asked the EFSA for an opinion in relation to the safety of 4-nitrophenylarsonic acid, in order to allow it to be authorised in some regions of the European Union under the terms of Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 (authorisation in urgent cases);

A delegation advised that Nifursol was still used in Hungary. He also reported that major difficulties were expected if it was banned.

The Chairman concluded that this item would appear on the Committee’s future agendas only if there were new developments in the situation.


No delegation reported on any developments with the implementation of Directive 2002/2/EC (open declaration), or on any other decision of national courts on this matter.

5. Undesirable substances in feed

Report from the meeting of the Expert Committee "Undesirable substances in feed" held on 9 February 2004.

The following issues, which were discussed at the meeting of the Expert Committee, were reported upon:

a) Carry-over of coccidiostats authorised as feed additives and medicinal substances in feed

The Committee agreed that it was necessary and important to address the problem in order to ensure a uniform approach across the European Union.

It is important that good practices are applied so that carry-over is minimised as much as possible. Guidelines to minimise carry-over could be developed at EU level in the context of the future EU Feed Hygiene Regulation. However, as carry-over cannot be completely avoided this problem will have to addressed by setting tolerances (action levels/maximum levels) for these unavoidable residues of veterinary medicinal products/coccidiostats in subsequent batches of compound feedingstuffs (for non-target species). Such tolerances should be set under the provisions of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on undesirable substances in animal feed, following the ALARA principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable), with allowance for sound manufacturing practice.

These tolerances should not result in pharmacological measures and not endanger animal or public health. At the same time and where necessary, maximum levels (MRL) will have to be set for food of animal origin from non-target species. The analytical aspects should also be addressed.
As a starting point it will be necessary to define the problem and to determine priorities. A letter had been written to the collective stakeholders (FEFAC, IFAH Europe, COPA-COGECA) requesting them to provide information on this issue and in particular to provide an estimate of unavoidable carry-over despite all possible prevention measures being taken and to underpin this estimation with detailed information on trials conducted.

The Committee agreed, as a next step, to discuss the priorities, and once the reply from the collective stakeholders had been received, meeting would be organised to define the problem and to discuss the priorities.

b) Background presence of dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs in feed

A compilation of the data provided was presented and the Committee was informed that the Commission Recommendation on the monitoring of the background presence of dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs was to be published shortly. Furthermore, the data submitted by Member States and organisations would be included in the database. The Commission representative informed the Committee of the intention to start, in the coming months, with the discussions concerning the inclusion of the dioxin-like PCBs in the maximum levels for dioxins and furans with a view to concluding the discussions before the end of the year.

C) Organochlorine undesirable substances in fish feed

Reference was made to the data contained in study published in Science: “Global Assessment of Organic Contaminants in Farmed Salmon”

On the basis of this study’s findings, Member States were requested to submit any available data on the presence of camphechlor (toxaphene) in feedingstuffs, in particular fish feed and if necessary to step up inspections. The sum of the three congeners (TOX26 + TOX 50 + TOX 62) had to be used to check for compliance with the maximum levels.

Also for dieldrin it was appropriate to submit available data on the presence of dieldrin in feedingstuffs, in particular fish feed and if necessary to step up inspections.


Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed established maximum levels for persistent organochlorine pesticides in feed materials and compound feed.

For the other pesticides, the maximum levels applicable to animal feed could be derived/calculated from the MRLs established in the pesticide residue legislation.

However, some problems have been observed in applying the pesticide residue legislation to animal feed. The following problems had already been identified:

- pesticide residue legislation did not cover products typically for animal feed (no food use) such as pastures, roughages, forages, by-products of sugar beet, …
- pesticide residue legislation did not cover products of marine origin (such as fish oil, fish meal, by-products from the fish processing industry) which were regularly used in animal feed (no direct application of pesticides).
- compound feed was composed of a relatively high number of ingredients, of which several were processed products (by-products). It is not obvious what MRL was applicable to such compound feed as it involved many calculations, uncertainties and “unknowns” (processing factors).

Given these problems, it seems appropriate to have inclusion the list of undesirable substances include maximum levels for some pesticides, in particular those of relevance for animal or public health through carry-over from feed to food of animal origin.

Particular attention would be paid to pesticides that were banned in the EU.
Furthermore, active substances would be identified, the presence of which in feed was relevant for animal or public health through carry-over from feed to food of animal origin and maximum levels would be discussed with a view to setting maximum levels specifically for animal feed.
E) Relationship between analytical results, the uncertainty element, recovery factors and the provisions in EU Feed and Food Law, with particular emphasis on undesirable substances in feed.

The Committee was informed that after some amendments had been made to the report following the discussions it would be published on the website of DG Health and Consumer Protection. Furthermore, the Committee was informed of the planned proposal for an amendment to Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in feed aimed at ensuring uniform interpretation of the analytical results whereby a product intended for animal feed was considered as non-compliant with the established maximum content, if the analytical result exceeded the maximum content beyond reasonable doubt with allowance having been made for the expanded measurement uncertainty and correction for recovery.

F) Discussion in Codex on a code of practice to reduce dioxins in feed and food

The Committee was informed of a document containing a code of practice to reduce the presence of dioxins and PCBs in feed and food which was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. The delegations were invited to submit comments in addition to those presented by the Commission representative.

G) Clarification of the term ‘green fodder’

At the request of a Member State, it was explained that the term ‘green fodder’ as referred to in the Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in feed was to be interpreted widely and included products such as hay, silage, fresh grass etc.

6. Setting Timetable for Additives

6.1. “Provita E” (Enterococcus faecium DSM 7134).

6.2. “Oralin” (Enterococcus faecium DSM 10663 / NCIMB 10415).

6.3. “Toyocerin” (Bacillus cereus var. toyoi NCIMB 40112/CNCM I-1012).
Application for permanent authorisation for the animal category: Cattle for fattening. Provisional authorisation expires on 7 October 2004. Rapporteur: ES


6.7. Porzyme xylanase dry and liquid, preparation of Endo -1,4 beta xylanase, EC 3.2.1.8, from *Trichoderma longibrachiatum* (ATCC 2105). Request for modification of existing annex entry (lowering of minimum content doses for animal categories: pigs for fattening and for piglets). Expiry of temporary authorisation for piglets and pigs for fattening (Enzyme 33) 30.06.2004. Rapp UK.

The UK, Member State rapporteur for this dossier, circulated a letter from the applicant indicating that this dossier had withdrawn. This dossier was therefore closed.


On expiry of the sixty-day period referred to in Article 4 (4) of Directive No 70/524/EEC, no objections regarding the acceptability of the dossier were registered. The process for an in-depth evaluation referred to in Article 4 (6) of Dir. 70/524/EEC was therefore considered to have started on 20 February 2004.


The Commission confirmed that a Governmental Experts Working Group meeting to discuss the implementation of Regulation 1831/2003 was scheduled for 17 March.
The Commission also reported on the answers from Member States suggesting laboratories that might be interested in joining the consortium of laboratories that might assist the CRL and asked the MS to confirm the replies in the summary circulated.

8. **Lipoic acid – classification**

A delegation requested a discussion about the classification of Lipoic acid. The Commission representative referred the meeting to the “Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) on the classification of vitamins in the Annex to Council Directive 70/524”, adopted on 18 March 1994. In this report the SCAN provided its advice for a classification of vitamins, cofactors and substances with similar biological activity. Lipoic acid is not included in the annex of this opinion. This issue would be discussed again at the next Standing Committee meeting.

9. **Naturally occurring fish feromones used in feed as attractants for feed**

Owing to lack of time the discussion of this item was postponed until the next Standing Committee.

10. **Analytical test method for phytase in feed**

Owing to lack of time the discussion of this item was postponed to the next Standing Committee the discussion of this item was postponed until the next Standing Committee.

11. **Question on Medicinal herbs.**

Classification of officinal/aromatic herbs and spices such as nettles, rosehips, ginseng, *Echinacea purpurea* etc.

The question was whether to classify these substances as feed materials, medicinal products or additives. They are extensively used in pet-foods and feed for horses.

The majority of the delegations agreed that there were three possible categories to classify these plants or herbs depending on the type of preparation, dose, action on the feed or on the animal etc. They may be classified as feed materials, medicinal products or additives.

The problems of the labelling and advertising of these products may be better addressed by future legislation recasting feed labelling provisions. This future legislation would include requirements covering nutritional claims.

Under the new Regulation 1831/2003 on feed additives it is possible to specify a new category of additives if it is necessary to define the scope of the Regulation. This might include the use of certain plants or herbs that should be considered as additives.
12. **Question on trace elements**

Regulation (EC) N° 1334/2003 provides that on the labelling of compound feedingstuffs the following statements should be included:

“A level of copper higher that 10 mg may cause poisoning in certain breeds of sheep”

“A level of copper lower than 20mg may cause copper deficiencies in cattle grazing pastures with high contents of molybdenum or sulphur.”

According to the Belgian delegation these statements may mislead the user when they are included on a label of a complementary feed, due to the fact that these complementary feedingstuffs are mixed with other feed materials to produce a complete feed.

For many delegations the current labelling provisions provide alternatives to explain the consequences of these two statements, for example, through the instructions for use.

This question may be revised in the future.

13. **Any other business**

13.1. **Formaldehyde**

A delegation asked clarification concerning the status of formaldehyde.

The Commission informed the meeting that this substance was authorised under Directive 70/524/EEC only as a preservative for use in skimmed milk for pigs and as silage agent and so it could not be used as an additive in animal nutrition for other purposes.

The use of formaldehyde for other purposes (for instance Salmonella decontamination) is subject to an EFSA opinion still pending. The Chairman concluded to postpone a conclusion on formaldehyde for salmonella-killing until the outcome of an EFSA opinion, after which a decision on a possible classification as a feed additive, a processing aid or a biocide could be carried out as from the application date of Regulation 1831/EC.

13.2. **Isothiazoline**

The Commission distributed to the Member States a letter concerning workers’ safety problems when using isothiazoline in fish feeding. The Member States were asked to obtain any available information on this issue.

13.3. **Permanent authorisations**

A delegation raised the issue of problems with some dossiers when evaluating requests for permanent approval for products having temporary authorisation. After a “tour de table”, the Chairman concluded that the principles of the agreements of September 2003 and, in particular, the three-month period for receiving comments after the enhanced rapporteur’s report could be more fully utilised in order to cope
better with these situations.

13.4 Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on GM food and feed

The representative of the Commission illustrated the scope of the Regulation, in particular as regards fermentation products. Several members of the Committee indicated that the explanation given was fully in line with their interpretation of the Regulation. Some delegations voiced its wish that the evaluation and authorisation procedures for GM feed additives, resulting from the application of Regulations (EC) No 1829/2003 and 1831/2003, should be coordinated to save time.


Animal category: trout, salmon. Rapp: UK.

The United Kingdom, Member State Rapporteur for this dossier, stated that the company had withdrawn its application for this product.