1. Discussion and possible request of opinion on a draft Commission Regulation amending the conditions for authorisation of a number of feed additives belonging to the group of trace elements.

The Commission asked the Authority to evaluate the physiological requirements for iodine of the different animal species referred to in Directive 70/524/EEC and to advise on the possible detrimental effects on human and animal health or on the environment of iodine, used at the current authorised levels. Following this request, the Authority adopted on 25 January 2005 an opinion on the use of iodine in feedingstuffs.

The opinion of the Authority concludes that the worst case scenario model calculations with milk and eggs based on the currently authorised maximum iodine level in feed, show that the Upper Limit (UL) for adults and adolescents could be exceeded.

Therefore, the maximum content of Iodine-I in feed for these two types of production, i.e. for dairy cows and laying hens, needs to be lowered from 10 ppm to 5 ppm in order to reduce the risk of any adverse effects on human health.

A transitional period has been set up in order to permit the use up of existing stocks of feedingstuffs.

The draft regulation was adopted by qualified majority. Three Member States abstain and two were not present.

The United Kingdom made the following declaration:

"The UK abstains in the vote on the above Commission Regulation.

We have consulted interests on this proposal. The feed industry and veterinary experts have indicated that there is a risk of iodine deficiency in some animals if the existing maximum content of iodine in complete dairy cow feedingstuffs is reduced to 5 mg/kg.

There are some areas of the UK and possibly other Member States where there is insufficient iodine in pastures and supplementation at the maximum level is required. On a wider basis the use of some feed ingredients such as rape seed meal inhibits animals’ uptake of iodine. Rape seed meal is an important source of protein in livestock diets, especially since the withdrawal of fishmeal and meat and bone meal. There is no evidence that the EFSA opinion on iodine (on which the proposal is based) has taken account of any studies showing that cows consuming significant quantities of rape seed meal are not at risk from developing iodine deficiency on diets which do not exceed 5 mg/kg."
EFSA recommends that there is a need for establishing more up-to-date information of the iodine requirement of high yielding cows and we consider this information should be obtained before changes are made to the maximum permitted content.

Although the effect on human health is an important factor in determining the statutory maximum content of iodine in feeds, we are unaware of existing problems relating to excessive intakes of iodine in human diets. Indeed our understanding is that some human consumers might have an iodine deficiency. Before a reduction in the maximum permitted content is made, a regulatory impact assessment should be carried out taking into account the effects of a reduction on animal welfare and possible low intakes in the human diet.

The period of time (12 months) before the Regulation comes into effect should be used to collect further data to help facilitate a review of the amended maximum content of iodine in dairy cow feeds.”

2. Discussion and possible request of opinion on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the permanent authorisation of an additive, the authorisation of new uses of additives already authorised and the authorisation of a new additive in feedingstuffs.

This draft Regulation concerned the granting of authorisations without a time limit within the meaning of Directive 70/524 for uses of 1 enzyme preparation previously authorised provisionally for 4 years, the extension to new animal categories of three enzyme preparations which have been authorised previously for other animal categories and the authorisation of a new enzyme preparation. These preparations and their authorised uses are the following:

Authorisations without a time limit within the meaning of Directive 70/524:

- preparation of endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase produced by Aspergillus niger (MUCL 39199) of trade name Feedlyve AGL, for chickens for fattening.

Authorisations for four years

- preparation of endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase produced by Aspergillus aculeatus (CBS 589.94), endo-1,4-beta-glucanase produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (CBS 592.94), alpha-amylase produced by Bacillus amyloliquefaciens (DSM 9553) and endo-1,4-beta-xylanase produced by Trichoderma viride (NIBH FERM BP 4842) of trade name Kemzyme W liquid, for laying hens.

- preparation of endo-1,4-beta-xylanase, produced by Aspergillus niger (CBS 109.713), of trade name Natugrain Wheat plus, for chickens for fattening.

- preparation of endo-1,4-beta-xylanase produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (ATCC 2105), endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (ATCC 2106), of trade name Avizyme 1210, for turkeys for fattening.

- preparation of endo-1,4-beta-xylanase, produced by Aspergillus niger (CBS 109.713), of trade name Natugrain Wheat plus, for chickens for fattening.

The vote was taken. The draft regulation was adopted by qualified majority.
3. Feed additives

3.1 Setting timetable for additives (Art. 25 Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003):

3.1.1. Micro-organisms

Application for provisional authorisation. Animal categories: Piglets, Pigs for fattening, Chickens for fattening. Rapporteur: AT:
Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 remains stopped.

3.1.1.2. “Reuteri Pig Powder” (*Lactobacillus reuteri* 1063S).
Application for provisional authorisation. Animal category: Piglets. Rapporteur.: SE:
Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 remains stopped.

3.1.2. Enzymes

Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 remains stopped.

3.1.2.2. “Roxazyme G2”, liquid and granular formulation, preparation of Endo-1,4-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.4, Endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.6, Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8, (Enzyme N° 11). Application for provisional authorisation. Animal category: ducks (extension of use). Rapporteur: BE:
Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 has been opened and an Annex Entry has been discussed. It will be included into the next draft Regulation.

3.1.3. Exchange of views on several sections of categories of feed additives for the draft Register under Regulation (EC) N°1831/2003.

The draft working documents containing sections of the future Register of feed additives concerning several categories of additives were presented by the Commission.

4. Discussion on premixtures and complementary feedingstuffs.

The main problem was the use of highly concentrated complementary feed at farm level. Due to the legislative and technical implications of the discussion, it was agreed to create a working group.

5. Products falling within the scope of Directive 82/471/EEC.

BioProtein®. Rapp.: DK.

According to the opinion of the EFSA (European Food Safety Agency) of 16 June 2006 the concerns expressed by the former Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition have been confirmed, so that, the Commission will not take any decision until new studies will be
submitted to demonstrate that the product comply with the requirements of Directive 82/471/EEC.

Various Member States indicated their intention to submit comments to the complementary information submitted by the company.

The company should respond and clarify all the outstanding issues raised by the Member States.

6. Undesirable substances

6.1. Discussion on possible measures as regards deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and ochratoxin A in animal feed. (SANCO/1993/2005)

The proposed measures are contained in a draft Commission Recommendation. This draft Commission Recommendation proposes

- an increased monitoring in a joint effort between competent authorities and feed business operators to obtain more data on the presence of these mycotoxins in the different feed materials and feedingstuffs. This monitoring will provide a better picture on the possible year to year variance of the occurrence of these mycotoxins in cereals and cereal products.
- guidance or orientation values at EU level to provide orientation to the competent authorities on the acceptability of cereals and cereal products and compound feed for animal feeding. Such an approach should avoid disparities in the acceptable level applied by the different Member States and the consequent risk of distortion of competition. These guidance values should also be used as guidance for the determination of critical limits at critical control points in HACCP systems.
- an evaluation of the monitoring results and the application of the recommendations within three years in order to evaluate the need for further possible legal measures.

Given that the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 22 June 2005 a scientific opinion on the risks for public and animal health related to the presence of fumonisins in animal feed, also fumonisins are proposed to be included in this approach (see point 6.2.).

The Committee generally welcomed the document but comments were made as regards
- the date for review (date for evaluation of monitoring results and application of the recommendations in view of further possible legal measures)
- the proposed orientation values for some by- or co-products of the food industry.

Several delegations mentioned that the proposed measures and in particular these for fumonisins, need more in depth examination as well further consultations before having a more definitive opinion.

6.2. Discussion on follow-up on EFSA opinion as regards fumonisins in animal feed.

The Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 22 June 2005 a scientific opinion on the risks for public and animal health related to the presence of fumonisins in animal feed.
Fumonisins are occurring particularly in maize and maize based products. Co-occurrence with other *Fusarium*-toxins, such as zearalenone and deoxynivalenol, is regularly observed. Fumonisin B1 is considered to be the most prevalent and most toxic derivative within the group of fumonisins.

Intoxications associated with the occurrence of fumonisins in animal feeds comprise distinct syndromes such as ELEM (equine leukoencephalomalacia) and PPE (porcine pulmonary oedema). Fumonisins exhibit toxic effects in all animal species so far investigated. Susceptibility varies considerably amongst species, pigs and horses being the most sensitive animal species. With respect to other animal species, adult ruminants are significantly less sensitive than calves. Adult ruminants and poultry are not sensitive and show a low responsiveness to fumonisins.

Available data on carry-over of fumonisins from animal feeds into edible tissues, including milk and eggs, indicate that carry-over is limited and thus products of animal origin do not contribute substantially to human exposure.

Taking into account the conclusions of the scientific opinion as regards fumonisins in animal feed, the Commission representative proposed to include fumonisins in the draft Commission Recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and ochratoxin A in products intended for animal feeding (see point 6.1).

Extensive data indicate that all three fumonisin compounds (FB1, FB2 and FB3) can be determined in maize and maize products, but FB1 is always most abundant present while FB3 is always least abundant. In order to facilitate analysis, orientation values are therefore proposed as sum of FB1 and FB2. Orientation values are proposed for maize and maize products (80 ppm) and for complementary and complete feedingstuffs for pigs, horses (equidae), pet animals, fish, poultry, calves, lambs, kids and adult ruminants (levels ranging from 5 ppm for pigs, most sensitive species to 50 ppm for adult ruminants, most tolerant to the adverse effects of fumonisins on animal health).

**6.3. Discussion on possible measures as regards camphenechlor in animal feed. (SANCO/1996/2005)**

New data were submitted by Norway and Iceland on the presence of camphenechlor in fish oil and fish meal. These data confirm that for samples complying with other existing and foreseen provisions on undesirable substances in animal feed, in particular dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, the proposed level of 0.2 ppm of camphenechlor in fish oil and 0.02 in fish meal are achievable. It was concluded that these new data supported the proposed maximum levels and that no modifications were necessary.
6.4. Discussion on current legal provisions as regards rye ergot in view of the EFSA opinion on ergot alkaloids in animal feed.

Following the discussions at previous meeting, it has to be considered if the current level of 1000 milligrammes (0.1 %) sclerotia in feedings containing unground cereals should not be decreased given that adverse effects may occur at concentrations close to that level in farm animals particularly in pigs.

Some delegations expressed the view that a reduction of the current level is not necessary.

One delegation indicated the need to determine the ergot alkaloids which should be determined. The Commission representative indicated that the EFSA opinion mentioned that there is no sufficient scientific information available at this moment to determine indicator ergot alkaloids. Nevertheless it was agreed to examine at the next meeting in more detail the proposal on indicator ergot alkaloids made by the delegation one year ago.

6.5. Follow-up on EFSA opinions as regards undesirable substances endosulfan and HCH isomers. (EFSA opinions to follow)

Endosulfan:

The Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 20 June 2005 a scientific opinion related to the presence of endosulfan as undesirable substance in animal feed.

From the conclusions of the opinion, it appears that the existing legal provisions as regards endosulfan in products intended for animal feed, including the strict level for fish feed, are appropriate to ensure that these products do not represent any danger to human health, animal health or adversely affect the livestock production.

The Committee agreed therefore that it was appropriate to maintain Endosulfan in the Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed.

Comments were already received from the professional organisations FEDIOL and FEFAC.

Following the comments made by FEDIOL, it is appropriate to reconsider at a future meeting the existing maximum level for endosulfan in products (oil, oilseed meals, oilseed cake, etc) of the oilseed industry (oilseed crushers).

Hexachlorocyclohexane isomers (HCH isomers)

The Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 4 July 2005 a scientific opinion related to the presence of gamma-HCH and other hexachlorocyclohexanes as undesirable substances in animal feed.

From the conclusions of the opinion, it appears that the existing legal provisions as regards HCH-isomers in products intended for animal feed are appropriate to ensure that these
products do not represent any danger to human health, animal health or adversely affect the livestock production

Nevertheless, the Commission representative indicated that it is appropriate to consider at the next meeting in more detail the current legal provisions in order to provide more clarity as regards the specific (higher) level for fats versus the 10x lower maximum level for all other feed materials and feedingstuffs (including high fat containing feedingstuffs).

6.6. Other issues.

On the request of one delegation, the Commission representative informed the Committee that that it was possible that the Commission would submit the proposal as regards dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, the proposal as regards lead fluorine and cadmium, and eventually the proposal as regards camphechlor for opinion at the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Co-ordinated inspection programme in animal nutrition

7.1. Discussion on the results of the 2004 programme.

The Commission representative presented some preliminary data on the results of the co-ordinated inspection programme. The delegations congratulated the Commission services for the work done in putting together and studying the data supplied by the Member States. Several Member States have not reported their results yet, but most showed their intention to do it shortly. A debate was launched with particular focus on the interpretation of data on non-complying samples and sampling strategies.

7.2. Discussion on possible items for the year 2006.

The vast majority of the delegations expressed opinions in favour of extending the current 2005 co-ordinated programme (mycotoxins, medicinal substances, processed animal proteins, copper and zinc) to 2006, but some clarification of the types of checks on medicinal substances should be envisaged. One delegation was in favour of extending the controls on the presence of meat-and-bone-meal to the analysis of dust in vehicles, manufacturing equipment and storage areas.

Other items to be included could be: the levels of vitamin A in feed, namely in milk replacers and complete feed; the level of lead in roughage; dioxins; pesticides; bromated flame retardants. Delegations were requested to anticipate preliminary results of routine official controls carried out during 2005 on samples of feed for the determination of vitamin A, in order to have a more complete picture of the current situation. Data on toxic effects, such as osteoporosis are also welcome.

The Commission representative reminded that the monitoring of certain parameters (such as dioxins and pesticides) might benefit from a framework other than the recommendation for a co-ordinated inspection programme. Monitoring of substances without a fixed maximum content (such as bromated flame retardants) would need more debate, namely on the type of methods of analysis and which substances to determine.
Some delegations would like to see higher priority given to controls of feed introduced from third countries.

**Addendum to agenda**

**Add. 1. Non-feed uses of feed additives and nutritional supplements**

The Committee agreed that the terminology “non-feed uses” was not appropriate. This should be understood as the incorporation of additives by other means than by homogenised feedingstuffs or via treatments of pastures. Theses type of uses are for example incorporation of additives in water, bullets or bolus (they are given orally by a special bulletin gun), blocks or licks of mineral, periodical drenching (a drenching tip is inserted into the side of the mouth and then directed to the back of the mouth).

There is other type of incorporation to the feed: spraying over the feed ration, pastes, etc. In these cases the products are not homogenised in the feed but added directly.

Other sources of additives are the spraying of pastures.

All these types of administration should be studied on a case-by-case basis as their implications as regard safety may be different. The application under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 should indicate the ways of administration of the additive, notably when the aim is to use it in water.

All the means of administration of additives should be compatible with the definition of feed of the General Food Law (Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

Some of these sources of additives are marketed as complementary feedingstuffs as they contain feed materials.

The chairman concluded that the approach indicated in item 9 of the summary minutes of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health of 23-24/05/2005 continues to be applicable.

Due to the legislative and technical implications of the discussion, it was agreed that specific cases of these uses as provided by certain member states could be discussed in the same working group as specified under agenda item 4.

**Add. 2. Status of fructo-oligosaccharides, mannan-oligosaccharides, inuline, inactivated Aspergillus and the residues of fermentation and beta-glucans**

A majority of delegation agreed that these products are feed materials and do not fall within the scope of regulation (EC) 1831/2003. The German delegate disagreed with this approach.

**Add. 3. Document concerning the Call for selection and designation of Community Reference Laboratories**
A Commission representative provided more details as regards the call for proposals for the selection of additional Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) operating in the area of feed and food safety and animal health. Of particular importance for this section of the Committee are the following sectors for which there are perceived needs to designate additional CRLs in areas where they do not exist so far:

- Animal proteins in feedingstuffs
- Pesticide residues in feed and food
- Mycotoxins in feed and food
- Heavy metals in feed and food
- Dioxins in feed and food.
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)

A few delegations indicated that it would have been appropriate to have CRLs specifically dedicated to feedingstuffs. The Commission representative indicated that for budgetary reasons the number of new additional CRLs is limited and that he is of the opinion that a CRL for all analytical aspects in feed can impossibly have a high standard for all analytical methodologies for all possible substances in animal feed.

It was stressed that all applications for CRL have to be submitted to the Commission by the national competent authority by 31 October 2005. It is foreseen that the new CRLs will be operating as early as possible in 2006.

Dr Willem Penning