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

Animal Nutrition Section

Brussels, 27-28 October 2005

Standing committee

1. Discussion and possible request of opinion on a draft Commission Regulation amending the conditions for authorisation of a feed additive belonging to the group of coccidiostats.

This draft Regulation concerned the authorisation of an additional formulation of Avatec 150G.

The vote was taken. All Member States present voted in favour, so the draft regulation was adopted by qualified majority

2. Discussion and possible request of opinion on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the permanent authorisations of certain additives in feedingstuffs and the provisional authorisation of a new use of certain additives already authorised in feedingstuffs.

This draft Regulation concerned the permanent authorisation of three micro-organisms and two enzyme preparations. These products have been granted a provisional authorisation previously. Moreover, it concerned the provisional authorisation of three enzyme preparations for 4 years.

The identification number, the trade names of the preparations and the animal categories subject to the authorisations are as follows:

Authorisation without time limit: a) micro-organisms:
– The use of the micro-organism E 1703, Levucell SB 20 for sows.
– The use of the micro-organism E 1712, Bactocell for pigs for fattening.
– The use of the micro-organism E 1713, Fecinor for piglets.

b) enzymes:
– The use of the enzyme preparation E 1636, Econase BG and Barley 700 for chickens for fattening.
– The use of the enzyme preparation E 1637, Avizyme 1500 for chickens for fattening.

Provisional authorisation for four years:
– Enzyme preparation No 5, Biofeed Wheat for ducks and pigs for fattening.
– Enzyme preparation No 37, Avizyme 1300 for ducks.
– Enzyme preparation No 59, Avizyme 1500 for ducks and laying hens.

3. Feed additives

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

3.2.1 Micro-organisms.

3.2.1.1 “Reuteri” (*Lactobacillus reuteri*, ATCC 55148)
Application for provisional authorisation. Animal category: chickens for fattening. Rapp: SE. The Committee took note of the withdrawal of application by the applicant.

3.2.2 Enzymes

3.2.2.1. “Finase”, preparation of 3-phytase, EC 3.1.3.8, produced by *Trichoderma reesei* (CBS 528.94) (Enzyme No 28). Extension of use for animal category: laying hens. Rapp: FI. Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 has been opened and an Annex Entry has been discussed. It will be included in the next draft Regulation.

3.2.2.2 “Kemzyme W DRY”, 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-amylyase produced by *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (DSM 9553), bacillolysin produced by *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (DSM 9554) and endo-1,4-beta-xylanase produced by *Trichoderma viride* (NIBH FERM BP 4842) (Enzyme No. 53). Extension of use for animal category: laying hens, turkeys for fattening. Rapp BE.

Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 has been opened and an Annex Entry for turkeys for fattening has been discussed. It will be included in the next draft Regulation.


The Committee took note of the recent application for permanent authorisation.

3.2.2.4 “Phytase SP 1002”, preparation of 3-phytase, EC 3.1.3.8, produced by *Hansenula polymorpha* (DSM 15087). Request for permanent authorisation. Animal categories: piglets, pigs for fattening, sows, chickens for fattening, turkeys, laying hens. Rapp BE. Second part of the evaluation period in clock 3 has been opened but will be closed on 28.1.2005 due to the outstanding EFSA-opinion.

3.3 Discussion and possible conclusion on the notification procedure for changes in the production process of authorised feed additives.

The production process is part of the evaluation during the authorisation procedure. The details with an obvious impact on the safety are laid down in the authorisation regulation. Technological progress in the production process of feed additives ought to be encouraged. Changes in the production procedure concerning particulars explicitly laid down in the authorisation act request the introduction of a dossier according to the provisions of Reg. 1831/2003 to enable the modification of the authorisation.

Other changes in production processes, being notified to the Commission services, will be discussed with the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee. The conclusion of the Committee shall be included in the minutes and the Commission will inform the notifying company about it.
3.4. Discussion on the legal situation regarding the use of a hemicellulase enzyme to treat copra meal

4. Plant sterols in animal nutrition

An exchange of views took place on the legal status of plant sterols in animal nutrition. It was agreed to request further information to the delegation from the Netherlands on the method of processing this product and how it is used and given to the animals.

5. Swiss Agreement

A draft Commission Decision on the Community position on the amendment of the Appendices to Annex 5 to the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products was presented for discussion.

No comments were raised by the Member States.

An updated version (as modified to change certain references) of the draft decision will be presented for the next Standing Committee.

The meeting of the Joint Committee between Switzerland and the European Committee shall take place on the 25 November

6. Final exchange of views on a draft Commission Recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding

Higher guidance values for maize by-products were suggested for deoxynivalenol and zearalenone following data submitted by a stakeholder organisation. A large majority of the Committee could agree on this.

The Committee agreed furthermore to keep the guidance value for deoxynivalenol for all ruminants as the currently applied national guidance values do also apply to all ruminants and to lower the guidance value for fumonisin B1 + B2 for maize and maize by-products.

With these modifications, the Commission representative indicated that this was the last time the document has been discussed in the Committee and that the Commission services will now proceed with their internal procedure in view of the adoption of the Recommendation by the Commission.

The delegation from the UK made following statement:

“The United Kingdom is of the opinion that the presence in feed of most of the mycotoxins included in the Recommendation have implications for animal health, rather than for public health. Consultations with veterinary experts indicated that other measures, such as husbandry practices, might be more effective in controlling levels of these mycotoxins rather than guidance values, which might be precursor to statutory maximum levels”
7. Final exchange of views on a draft Commission Recommendation on the prevention and reduction of *Fusarium*-toxins in cereals and cereal products.

Some modifications were introduced following detailed discussions on the draft Commission Recommendation in the Expert Committee “Agricultural Contaminants” on 14 October 2004. One delegation indicated that it would be useful to have more detailed discussions on the introduction of a more detailed system of managing the risks related to *Fusarium*-toxins in animal feed. The Commission representative indicated that it is not the intention of this Recommendation to go into that level of detail. National codes, based on the general principles outlined in this draft Recommendation can contain more detailed provisions taking into account the local situation.

On the request of a delegation, the Commission representative indicated that comments can be made until mid-November. In case comments on new topics are raised requiring substantial changes, the draft Commission Recommendation will be put on the agenda of a future meeting to discuss these comments. In the absence of such comments by mid-November, the Commission services will now proceed with their internal procedure in view of the adoption of the Recommendation by the Commission.

8. Discussion on current legal provisions as regards ergot in view of the EFSA opinion on ergot alkaloids in animal feed. Continuation of the discussion.

The Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 19 April 2005 a scientific opinion on the risks for public and animal health related to the presence of ergot in animal feed.

Directive 2002/32/EC establishes a maximum level for rye ergot of 1000 milligrammes (0.1 %) in all feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals

The Scientific Panel concluded that no consistent relationship can be established between the amount of sclerotia and the total ergot alkaloid concentration. Due to variations in ergot alkaloid pattern, the available data do not allow identifying marker ergot alkaloids that could be monitored in all feed materials as indicators for ergot contamination. Data on the sensitivity of agricultural animal species towards ergot alkaloids are incomplete and do not allow the establishment of tolerance levels for individual ergot alkaloids and mixtures thereof.
Available data indicate that adverse effects may occur in agricultural animals particularly in pigs after intake of feed with ergot at levels close to the current EU level. The limited data available do not provide any evidence that ergot alkaloids accumulate in edible tissues, including milk and eggs and thus food from animal origin is unlikely to be an important source of human exposure.

A proposal was made by Germany to focus on the ergot alkaloids ergometrine, ergotamine and ergocryptine and for control purposes guidance values for these individual ergot alkaloids were proposed which correspond to the current maximum level for sclerotia.

The Commission representative indicated that it is appropriate for future monitoring purposes to determine the ergot alkaloids of relevance eventually combined with guidance values and is consequently favourable to consider this proposal. Nevertheless the delegation from Germany was requested to clarify why ergocristine was not identified as indicator ergot alkaloid in the proposal, while in the EFSA opinion ergocristine was identified to be the major ergot alkaloid present in sclerotia from rye, wheat and triticale. No additional information was provided at this meeting, but the delegation from Germany made the commitment to provide this information at the next meeting.

9. Follow-up on EFSA opinions as regards undesirable substances endosulfan and HCH isomers. Continuation of the discussion.

Endosulfan

Following extensive occurrence data and data from processing trials submitted by FEDIOL in advance of the meeting, the Commission representative indicated that it is appropriate to reconsider the existing maximum level for endosulfan in products (oil, oilseed meals, oilseed cake, etc) of the oilseed industry (oilseed crushers). Taking into account the provided information, following suggestion for consideration was made as regards endosulfan in oilseeds and products derived from the processing thereof:
- Oilseeds and products derived from the processing thereof with the exception of crude vegetable oil: 0.5 ppm
- Crude vegetable oil: 2 ppm.

Two delegations expressed some reservation as regards the proposed level for crude vegetable oil. Norway indicated that experiments are undertaken to determine the acceptable level of endosulfan in fish feed without resulting in adverse effects for animal health. It is expected that these studies will be finalised in 2007.

The Commission representative indicated that the issue will be put on the agenda again for next meeting for a final discussion.
HCH

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.

In order to provide more clarity as regards the term fats, the large majority of the Committee was in favour of replacing the term “fats” by “fats and oils”. This will include unequivocally fish oil, vegetable oil and animal fat. The existing maximum levels would not be changed.

The Commission representative indicated that the issue will be put on the agenda again of the next meeting for a final discussion.

10. Any other business.

The Committee was informed on the discussions which took place at the meeting of the Expert Committee “Methods of Analysis - Animal Feedingstuffs” on 20 October 2005.