SECTION A  Information and/or discussion

1. Exchange of views about products used in feed for the purpose of reducing microbiological carcass contamination
An initial exchange of views took place. The discussion will continue next Standing Committee in order to analyse the topic in depth. Some Member States felt that those products might fall within an existing category of additives but are also considering the possibilities under the area of veterinary drugs.

2. Feed Additives

2.1. Application under Regulation (EC) n° 1831/2003
A representative of the Commission updated the members of the Committee about one new application for authorisation received by the Commission under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

2.1.1. Aminoacids
L-histidine monohydrochloride monohydrate technically pure. Animal category: Salmonids - Application for permanent authorisation.

A discussion took place and an update was given on the current status of the product’s assessment.

2.2. Setting timetable for additives (Art 25 of Regulation (EC) n° 1831/2003)

2.2.1. Microorganism


A discussion took place and an update was given on the current status of the product’s assessment.
2.2.1.2 **Biacton** *(Lactobacillus farciminis CNCM MA 67/4R)* Animal Category: Chickens for fattening and laying hens (seeking provisional authorisation), turkeys, (seeking permanent authorisation) Application for extension of use **Rapp: FR**

A discussion took place and an update was given on the current status of the product’s assessment.

2.2.1.3 **Duddingtonia Flagrans** *(Duddingtonia Flagrans, Troll A, CBS 101606)*
Animal Category: Calves **Rapp:** IE - Application for **provisional** authorisation

A discussion took place; the EFSA Opinion was presented and an update was given on the current status of the product’s assessment.

2.2.2. **Enzymes**

2.2.2.1. **“Porzyme xylanase”** dry and liquid, preparation of Endo-1,4 beta xylanase, EC 3.2.1.8, from *Trichoderma longibrachiatum* (ATCC 2105). (Enzyme 33) Animal category: piglets. Request for **permanent** authorization for piglets and lower dose.

Expiry of temporary authorisation for piglets 30 June 2004. **Rapp UK**

The Annex entry as been discussed. It will be included in the next draft Regulation.

2.2.2.2. **“Avizyme 1500”**. Preparation of endo-1,4-beta-xylanase produced by *Trichoderma longibrachiatum* (ATCC 2105), endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase and alpha-amylase produced by *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (DSM 9553), subtilisin produced by *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC 2107), polygalacturonase produced by *Aspergillus aculeatus* (CBS 589.94) (Enzyme 59). Animal category: turkeys for fattening. Request of **extension of use. Rapp UK.**

A discussion took place and an update was provided on the current status of the product’s assessment.

2.2.2.3. **Phytase SP 1002”**, preparation of 3-phytase, EC 3.1.3.8, produced by *Hansenula polymorpha* (DSM 15087 GMM). Request for **provisional authorisation** (Article 4). Animal categories: piglets, pigs for fattening, sows, chickens for fattening, turkeys, laying hens. **Rapp BE**

The Annex entry as been discussed. It will be included in the next draft Regulation.

2.2.2.4 **Roxazyme G2”** Liquid and granular formulation, 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, Animal category: “laying hens”. Expiration of temporary authorisation: 01.01.2007 Request for permanent authorization for both formulations, **Rapp: BE**

The discussion was postponed to the next Committee.

2.2.2.5 **Roxazyme G2”** Liquid and granular formulation, 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,
2.2.3. Preservatives

2.2.3.1 Sodium benzoate (E211), propionic acid (E280), sodium propionate (E281) (KOFA GRAIN pH 5) as preservative for pigs and dairy cows, for permanent authorisation. The current authorisation expires on 1 August 2006. Supplementary dossier for cattle, for fattening for permanent authorisation. A discussion took place. The dossier will be included in the Agenda for the next Committee meeting.

2.2.4. Colourants

2.2.4.1 Astaxantin-rich (Aquasta) Active substance: Phaffia rhodozyma. Colourant for trout and salmon. Application for permanent authorisation. Rapp.: BE.

A discussion took place. The dossier will be included in the Agenda for the next Committee meeting.

3. Residues of packaging material in animal feed made from products of the agri-food industry

An exchange of views took place concerning the possibility to introduce a tolerance level possible adoption for unavoidable residues of food packaging material in feedingstuffs made from products of the agri-food industry. Currently, a zero-tolerance applies as packaging materials are prohibited in animal nutrition (Commission Decision 2004/217/EC).

3 bis. Glucosamine and Chondroitin sulphate.

The Commission services are of the opinion that glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate, normal constituents of mucopolysaccarides of skeletal and soft connective tissue, should be considered to be feed materials within the meaning of Directive 96/25/EC on feed materials. Some Member States do not agree with the commission services.

SECTION B  Draft presented for an opinion

No items raised.

SECTION C  Draft presented for discussion

4. Discussion on draft Commission Regulation concerning the authorisation of a feed additive belonging to the category of zootechnical additives (Document SANCO/1227/2006) Annex

The Annex entry to the draft Regulation was discussed.
5. Discussion on draft Commission Regulation concerning the authorisation of a feed additive belonging to the category of zootechnical additives (Document SANCO/1228/2006 Annex)

The Annex entry to the draft Regulation was discussed.

6. Undesirable substances


The Commission representative presented a draft Commission Directive containing provisions that are in line with conclusions reached at the previous meeting of the Committee. The main modifications proposed to the existing provisions are:

- replacement of the term “fats” by “oils and fats” for all organochlorine compounds;
- endosulfan: 1 mg/kg for crude vegetable oil;
- hexachlorocyclohexane: no modifications;
- endrin: no modifications; and
- aldrin /dieldrin: 0.1 mg/kg for all fats and oils, 0.02 mg/kg for fish feed and 0.01 mg/kg for all other feedingstuffs.

No substantial comments were made and the Commission representative said that the text would be presented at a future meeting of the Committee for opinion once the Commission’s internal consultation procedure had taken place.

6.2. Discussion on increased monitoring of levels for certain indicator ergot alkaloids in animal feed. Discussion on a draft Commission Recommendation.

The Commission representative outlined the main provisions in the draft Recommendation. As it is appropriate to collect more data on the presence of ergot alkaloids, not only in feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals but more importantly also in processed cereals and compound feedingstuffs, the draft Recommendation recommends (increased) monitoring of ergot alkaloids. For this reason, it is necessary to identify the ergot alkaloids of relevance combined with information on corresponding levels of these ergot alkaloids with the current maximum level of 1 g of sclerotia /kg of feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals. Indeed, one of the objectives of the monitoring programme would be to verify if this correspondence between level of ergot alkaloids with the level of sclerotia remains consistent from year to year, is the same in different regions of the European Union, etc.

It was once again stressed that the current provision on sclerotia in feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals can be controlled by a simple method (visual/microscopy) while the analysis of ergot alkaloids is a complex analysis. It is therefore not the intention to replace the current provision on sclerotia in feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals by a provision on ergot alkaloids but it is necessary to provide an additional tool to enable the control of the presence of ergot alkaloids in processed cereals as well in compound feedingstuffs as the visual control (microscopy) on sclerotia is no longer possible after milling.
The following ergot alkaloids were proposed as priority (not excluding the monitoring for other alkaloids): ergocristine, ergotamine, ergocryptine, ergometrine, ergocornine and ergosine.

Based upon the current limited information available, 1 gram of sclerotia corresponds to a level of approx. 600 µg ergocristine, approx. 300 µg ergotamine, approx. 100 µg ergocryptine, approx. 100 µg ergometrine, approx. 100 µg ergosine and approx. 100 µg ergocornine. It was stressed that there is a large uncertainty and variability in the relationship between the levels of individual ergot alkaloids in ergot sclerotia.

It was furthermore stressed that more work is urgently needed as regards development and validation of analytical methods for the analysis of ergot alkaloids. The Commission representative indicated that in the meantime work would be undertaken in the frame of the Expert Committee “Methods of Analysis in feedingstuffs” to compile all existing methods of analysis on the determination of ergot alkaloids with their validation status.

The Committee welcomed the draft Recommendation and no substantial comments were made. The Commission representative indicated to proceed with the text in the. However, assist with, viable is not excluded. However, iat that he would send to Commission’s internal consultation procedure.

6.3. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Recommendation on the monitoring of the background levels of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in animal feed.

A draft Commission Recommendation was proposed to replace the Commission Recommendation 2004/704/EC of 11 October 2004 on the monitoring of background levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feedingstuffs was presented. The main modifications consisted of:
- the new Member States to be included in the monitoring programme;
- providing annual minimum numbers of feed samples for to analyse for larger categories of feed materials and compound feed in order to provide the Member States with more flexibility;
- particular attention to be paid products intended for animal feed originating from regions where due to e.g. climatic conditions resulting in floods, changes have happened in the production conditions which could possibly affect the dioxin and dioxin-like PCB concentration of the food products in the region; and
- a simplification of the reporting sheet, without losing essential information.

Details on minimum number of feed samples to be analyse by the individual Member States were not available. However, it was indicated that these would be provided shortly. It was indicated that 20-25 % of the samples would be attributed to the 10 new Member States.

Some minor remarks were made concerning the reporting sheet and these will be taken into account in the next draft.

This point was not discussed. The Commission representative indicated that he would draft a Commission Directive containing the provisions as discussed at the last meeting of the Committee. The text will be presented to the Committee for further discussion only after internal consultation had been completed.

6.5. Other business

Cadmium in zinc sulphate

At the request of France the contamination incident of excessive levels of cadmium in zinc sulphate was extensively discussed at the Committee.

The French delegation indicated that the consignment of zinc sulphate was exported from China without mentioning a specific intended use. The consignment was accompanied with a private certificate guaranteeing the level of Zn and providing guarantees as regards the levels of arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium. Based upon these guarantees, the zinc sulphate was imported to France for use in animal feed.

It was pointed out that the feed business operators have legal obligations to take all appropriate measures, in particular to carry out systematic controls in the context of the HACCP procedures, to ensure that any zinc sulphate and premixtures containing zinc sulphate, in particular the zinc sulphate originating from China used for the production of feed, contains levels of cadmium below the established maximum levels. Furthermore measures can be taken at national level to ensure that all zinc sulphate originating from China and intended for animal feed are systematically officially controlled.

Nevertheless, the Committee was of the opinion that a Community measure would provide additional guarantees to avoid that such a contamination incident can occur again in the future. Such a Community measure should consist of the following provisions:
- consignments of zinc sulphate intended for use in animal nutrition could only be imported from China if there was a clear indication that they are intended for use in animal feed;
- the Chinese authorities should certify that these consignments comply with the EU-legislation as regards zinc sulphate for use in animal feed; and.
- that all consignments of zinc sulphate originating from China are officially controlled by the competent authority of the country of import.

Furthermore, an inventory of the measures was provided by several Member States. In France, about 4000 farms are affected. All animals which have been fed with feed containing potentially contaminated zinc sulphate are marked in order to enable to take the appropriate measures as regards the liver and kidney when these are slaughtered. In all other affected Member States similar measures are taken (marking of the animals, removal of kidneys and possibly the liver). A questionnaire has been prepared and Member States were asked to complete the questionnaire.

The Commission representative agreed to consult internally on these proposed measures.

Furthermore, an inventory of the measures was provided by several Member States. In France, about 4000 farms are affected. All animals that have been fed with feed containing potentially contaminated zinc sulphate are to be marked in order to help facilitate appropriate measures as regards the livers and kidneys at slaughter. In all other affected Member States similar measures are being taken (marking of the animals, removal of kidneys and eventually the liver). A questionnaire was prepared for the Member States to complete.
7. Methods of sampling and analysis


A discussion took place.
It was, inter alia, mentioned that:
- this concerns a list of those official methods that have been considered appropriate to maintain as official methods after in-depth examination. The Commission has no intention to develop and elaborate new official methods of analysis except in some very specific cases.
Work on standardisation of methods of analysis is mandated to the CEN Committee TC 327 “Animal feedingstuffs”;
- methods of analysis which are validated for foodstuffs can be used for feedingstuffs after verification that the method does generate reliable analytical results in feedingstuffs;
- the text on sampling methods is being edrevision. It was also mentioned that it would yverified the legal status of the recommendation on sampling for GMOs versus the Commission Directive 76/371/EEC on sampling of feedingstuffs; and
- sampling equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and possibly disinfected between the sampling of different consignments in order to avoid cross-contamination.

The Committee welcomed this compilation of the official methods of analysis as it improves significantly the readability of the legislation.

8. Feed additives, CRL for feed additives authorisation under Regulation 1831/2003

8.1. Annual report
8.2. Fees

The Commission services reported about the annual report of the operation of the Community Reference Laboratory within the Regulation 378/2005. This is the first annual report, pursuant to this Regulation adopted last year.
There was also an exchange of views about the revision of the fees laid down by Regulation 378/2005 and as mandated by Regulation 1831/2003.

9. Status of a galactomannase enzyme preparation as a possible feed additive: additional technical information

Following the discussion at the earlier meeting there was consensus that the enzyme galactomannase used to treat copra meal in the manner described in the information circulated did not have an effect in the compound feed to which the treated copra meal would be added and therefore this use could not be considered as that of a feed additive, but rather that of a processing aid.
Regarding the modified copra meal, different views were put forward and it was agreed that additional information would be needed in order to help ascertain its status.
10. Ethoxyquin: collection of information from MS

The situation of this antioxidant and the need for a reevaluation had been discussed at a recent earlier meeting.

The Commission services informed that they were intending to ask EFSA to re-evaluate the safety of this additive as there appears to be substantial additional data regarding the toxicology of this substance. There is an ADI established within the framework of the plant protection products and there are indications that there may be a need to re-examine relevant residues of significant metabolites in products of animal origin appearing as the result of ethoxyquin being added to feed besides the levels of the product itself in compound feed. In addition, there may be a need to look into the methods for analysis of this compound or its metabolites.

The UK referred to the existence of a study concerning dogs submitted within the framework of the revision of the limits for this substance for feed for dogs. The Commission agreed that this study would be included in the EFSA reassessment.

Member States were invited to send to the Commission any relevant data to be considered by EFSA including the data mentioned above and also concerning the levels of use and exposure.

The Commission also indicated that it had already informed the European association of feed additives manufacturers of its intention to request its collaboration in compiling scientific data.

The information collected will be submitted to EFSA for its consideration.

11. Any other business

11.1 Feed additives in water

Several Member States submitted questions about the issue of the use of feed additives in water.

The Commission representative drew the following essential points from the discussion:

1. the addition of additives in the form of an aqueous solution is acceptable;

2. without prejudice to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 the use of liquid complementary feedingstuffsis e considered to be acceptable; and

3. the addition of additives to drinking wateris not foreseen in any current additive authorisations. However the Commission representative and Member States are aware of this practice. The Commission invited Member States to contribute to the establishment of an inventory of those additives which currently used in drinking water.

The discussion will continue at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in June.

11.2. Lysine CMS (lysine vinasse)

A Member State submitted a question concerning the legal statususstaturs of Lysine CMS (lysine vinasse). It was agreed that more information on the product (e.g. concerning its manufacturing process and final composition) would be required before a final conclusion could be made.
11.3. Labelling of non-approved feed additives marketed in the E.U. before an export to third countries

Further to a question submitted by one delegation, the Commission representative indicated that any product placed on the Community market or used as a feed additive prior to export to third countries has to be labelled and authorised in accordance with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

Bernard VAN GOETHEM,
Acting Director
(signed)