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

ANIMAL NUTRITION SECTION

Brussels, 17-18 December 2007

President: Mr Willem PENNING

All Member States were represented, except Malta

1. Feed Additives

1.1. Discussion on the Opinion of the Scientific Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP) on compatibility of the product O35, a preparation of Bacillus subtilis, with lasalocid sodium, maduramicin ammonium, monensin sodium, narsin, salinomycin sodium and semduramicin sodium

The discussion was held on this opinion and a decision was taken to ask for supplementary information to the company on the compatibility with requested coccidiostats.

1.2. Discussion on Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed on Compatibility of the microbial preparation of Bacillus licheniformis and Bacillus subtilis (BioPlus 2B) with the coccidiostat lasalocid A sodium in feed for turkeys

The discussion was held on this opinion and a decision was taken to ask for supplementary information to the company on requested additives.

1.3 Discussion on Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed on Safety and efficacy of Danisco Xylanase G/L (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) as a feed additive for turkeys for fattening

The discussion was held on this opinion and a decision was taken to ask for supplementary information to the company.

2. Report on the 2007 Assessment Missions in the Candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Peer reviews and assessment missions were organised in the last 5 years for candidate countries and acceding countries.

After the general introduction to the assessment missions by a Commission representative, national experts gave three presentations about the conclusions of the missions. They
highlighted the main problems of the countries (Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) faced in transposing EU legislation in the field of animal nutrition.

3. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Regulation (EC) on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the preparation and the presentation of applications and the assessment and the authorisation of feed additives
(Document SANCO/426/2005 Rev 02)

A discussion took place. The vote was taken. The draft Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority. The Chairman made the following declaration:

"Les Services de la Commission ont l'intention d'entamer une discussion scientifique avec l'EFSA sur le classement des dindons en tant qu'espèce mineure, afin de tenir compte du classement appliqué par l'EMEA et tenant compte des extrapolations que contiennent les lignes directrices."

4. Discussion on a draft Regulation (EC) concerning the authorisation of a preparation of Biosaf Sc 47 (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) as feed additive
(Document SANCO/3707/2007) Annex entry

A discussion took place.

5.1. Discussion on a draft Regulation (EC) concerning the authorisation of a preparation of red carotenoid-rich bacterium Paracoccus carotinifaciens with trade name Panaferd as feed additive (Annex entry)

A discussion on the conditions of use for the authorisation of this application took place.

5.2. Discussion on the existing authorisations for canthaxanthin as a feed additive

A discussion on this topic took place.

6. Discussion on draft Regulation (EC) concerning the authorisation of a preparation of astaxanthin dimethyldisuccinate with trade name Caryophyll as feed additive

A discussion on the conditions of use for the authorisation of this application took place.


A discussion took place about the preparation of the reply.

Following the availability of the EFSA scientific opinions providing an updated risk assessment relating to certain existing provisions in the Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in feed, it is appropriate to amend at short notice several provisions. Some of the proposed amendments are made at the request of professional organisations. The Committee was informed that the scientific opinion on glucosinolates, including an assessment of risks related to the presence of Camelina sativa in feed was adopted by the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM Panel) at its meeting end of November 2007. The opinion will become available after editorial finalisation by the end of this year (2007) or early next year (2008).

Therefore a draft Commission Directive containing following draft changes to the Annex of Directive 2002/32/EC was presented:

- establishing a maximum level of arsenic of 30 ppm in additives belonging to the functional group of compounds of trace elements
- raising the maximum level for fluorine in fish feed from 150 ppm to 350 ppm
- deleting the specific reference to Lolium temulentum and Lolium remotum in the provisions limiting the presence of weed seeds and unground and uncrushed fruits containing alkaloids, glucosides or other toxic substances.
- replacing TDE by DDD in the residue definition of DDT, as DDD is a more common name for the metabolite dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethane than TDE.
- including photoheptachlor in the residue definition of heptachlor.
- deleting Apricots – Prunus armeniaca
- deleting Bitter almond – Prunus dulcis var. amara
- deleting Camelina – Camelina sativa

Some delegations expressed a reservation as regards the envisaged modifications on arsenic in trace elements, fluorine in fish feed and photoheptachlor in the residue definition of heptachlor.

No objections or reservations were made as regards the other envisaged provisions.
The Commission indicated to collect more data on the presence of arsenic in trace elements and fluorine in fish feed for discussion at the next meeting.

The Committee was furthermore informed of the recent EFSA scientific opinion on chlordane in feed\(^1\). It was informed that at a next occasion this opinion would be discussed in detail and if the current provisions in the Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC need to be updated, this could possibly be done in the framework of the current envisaged amendment to Directive 2002/32/EC.

9. Unavoidable carry-over of authorised coccidiostats into non-target feeds. Continuation of the discussion

The Committee was informed that the EFSA Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM Panel) adopted at their last meeting scientific opinions related to the cross contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by monensin sodium, salinomycin sodium, semduramycin sodium and maduramycin sodium, authorised for use as a feed additive. The scientific opinions will very probably become available early January 2008.

\(^1\) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on a request from the Commission related to chlordane as undesirable substances in animal feed, adopted on 7 November 2007

It is furthermore foreseen that the EFSA CONTAM Panel will be able to adopt a scientific opinion related to the cross contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by decoquinate, diclazuril, Halofuginone hydrobromide, nicarbazin and robenidine at their next Plenary meeting in February 2008.

Following the first discussions in the previous meeting of the Committee and the adoption of the scientific opinions related to the cross contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by narasin and Lasalocid sodium, it appears that a majority of Member States is in favour of setting tolerances taking into account an unavoidable carry-over of not more than 3 % in general and 1 % for sensitive non-target animal species and withdrawal feeds. A short discussion took place on how this would be given concrete form into legal provisions.

The Commission representative presented also a possible alternative approach, whereby maximum levels could be set at levels based on an unavoidable carry over of 4-5 % in general, 2 % for sensitive species and withdrawal feed combined with action levels based on a stricter carry-over of 2-3 % in general and 1 % for sensitive species and withdrawal feed. Such an approach means that when the maximum levels are exceeded, then the feed cannot be put on the market and cannot be used for animal feeding. In case the action levels are exceeded but the maximum levels are complied with, the feed can be put on the market and used for animal feeding but the competent authorities perform an investigation at the company concerned (feed business operator) to verify if all provisions of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 January 2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene are complied with, and in particular to verify/control if all measures have been taken to prevent as much as possible the undesirable carry-over of authorised coccidiostats into non-target feed.

Several delegations indicated that this alternative approach is worthwhile to be considered.

As regards the possible residues in food of animal origin resulting from the presence of coccidiostats into non target feeds, the Commission representative indicated that the maximum residue limits (MRL) established in the frame of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 of 26 June 1990 laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin or in the frame of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition have to be complied with.

However in most cases, no MRLs have been established for food of animal origin originating from non target species. It was stressed that simultaneously with the setting of maximum levels for these unavoidable carry-overs of coccidiostats in feedingstuffs for non-target species within the frame of Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed2, also a solution for the residues in food of animal origin for which no MRL is established has to be available. The Commission representative provided a detailed outline of the possible legal options.

The Committee was informed that at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in January 2008 it is foreseen to have a detailed and extensive discussion on this issue.

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10. A.O.B.

- The Dutch delegation mentioned the finding of dioxins in compound feed from the Netherlands, notified by the RASFF notification 2007.0842 on 19 November 2007. The level found was 0.93 ng +/- 0.16 ng /kg PCDD/F WHO-TEQ/kg feed, which is above the applied maximum level of 0.75 ng/kg. The feed was labelled as a complementary feedingstuffs for livestock, not to be fed directly to stock but to be mixed in complete feed at 0.5-1.0 %. The feed was composed of 50 % fish oil, 13 % wheat meal, 3 % palm expeller and had a crude ash content of 27 % because of the presence of mineral clays. The question was if this is to be considered as a compound feed (as labelled) or as fish oil put on a carrier (considering the nature of the product). In case it is to be considered as a fish oil with a carrier, the Commission representative indicated that then the maximum level for fish oil, taking into account its relative proportion in the commercialised feed product, should be applied. However, following verification after the meeting, RASFF notification 2007.0842 indicates that the product is labelled as complementary feedingstuff for livestock. Not to be fed directly to stock, to be mixed at a ratio of 0.5 % - 1% in complete feed. It is furthermore mentioned that the product contains the following feed materials: fish oil, wheat feed meal and palm expeller. The crude ash content is 27 %. Based upon this information, the product has to be considered as a compound feedingstuff.

- One delegation stated to be confused by the announced working group of EUROSTAT inter alia on data from official feed controls in the Member States, in particular with regard to presentation, format and destination of the data. One Member State added that Commission Decision 2007/363/EC on the multi-annual national control plan could serve as guidance but apparently this has been produced within the Food and Veterinary Office and not in the unit responsible for Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls on food and feed. Further, Member States asked for a co-ordinated approach in terms of control data requests by different Commission services and, particularly, a proper data processing and follow up by the Commission. The Commission representative took note of the Member States’ concerns and assured that he would convey them to the colleagues in charge of feed controls.

- One delegation raised the issue of feed administration through a bolus. Irrespective what kind of feed such a bolus contains, there are doubts that such an application would be covered by the feed legislation. The Commission representative clarified that currently the administration of feed additives via bolus would have to be foreseen in the respective authorisation act in analogy to the application via water. He invited the Member States to survey for their territories the possible use of boli in terms of composition and way of application. He announced to come back on the issue in the next committee and indicated that, if appropriate, one could reflect to include some provision in the upcoming Regulation on the placing on the market and use of feed.
11. Break-out session

Presentation of the principle of Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) by Prof. A. Chesson, Chairman of the FEEDA Panel

Prof. Chesson presented scientific background of the opinion of Qualified Presumption of Safety for micro-organisms in food and feed. He also highlighted the impact which QPS will have on the risk assessment of EFSA and the work of the applicants who are presenting dossiers for authorisation of feed additives.


FEFANA presented how they intend to streamline the task of many feed additives' users, manufacturers and importers for the review of additives in application of Article 10 of Regulation (EC) Nº 1831/2003. They invited all delegations of the Member States to help them in the awareness exercise in order that additives which are currently authorised will be properly notified within the Article 10 exercise.

Bernard VAN GOETHEM,
Director (signed)