President: Mr Willem PENNING

All Member States were represented, except Malta

1. Feed Additives

1.1. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 Art. 4

1.1.1. New applications

The new applications were presented.

1.2. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 Art. 25


A discussion took place.

1.2.2. Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (IMI SD 135) (enzyme 17) for laying hens. Application for permanent authorisation. Rapp: UK

A discussion took place.

1.2.3. Endo-1, 4-beta-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (IMI SD 135) (enzyme 17) for piglets. Application for permanent authorisation. Rapp: UK

A discussion took place.

1.2.4. Endo-1, 4-beta-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) produces by Bacillus subtilis 5LMG S-15136 (enzyme 51) for laying hens. Application for permanent authorisation. Expiry of temporary authorisation: 06.03.2009. Rapp: BE

A discussion took place.
A discussion took place.

1.3. **Categorisation of a clay commercialized as E 558 - montmorillonite**

The information at the disposition of the Member States was not sufficient in order to have a decisive view on the future of the substance. Further information is required. The Commission representative will contact stakeholders. The point will be raised in one of the next Standing Committees.

2. **Exchange of views on additives to be re-evaluated under Article 10 of Regulation 1831/2003 : advance information to interested parties**

The Commission submitted a proposal of a letter to be sent to the interested parties and also proposed to provide the translations of this letter for the Member States wishing to do the same. The progress on the re-evaluation exercise was illustrated : updating of Community Register of feed additives, new web-page and the development of the new internal data based.

3. **Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Regulation (EC) amending Regulations (EC) No 2430/1999, (EC) No 418/2001 and No 162/2003 as regards the terms of the authorisation of certain additives in feedingstuffs belonging to the group of coccidiostats and other medicinal substances** *(Document SANCO/1483/2008)*

A discussion took place and the vote was taken.
The draft Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority : United Kingdom abstained.

The United Kingdom made the following declaration :

"Whenever possible, and wherever justified, the UK believes that the same MRLs should be set as those proposed by other bodies such as the CVMP and JECFA. The UK also believes, as does the CVMP, that the same MRLs should be set across species whenever possible and without deviating too far from the tissue distribution.

In both of the above cases, the UK believes that the same MRLs as already adopted by JECFA should be accepted. However, we do support the proposed zero day meat withdrawal period for chickens and turkeys."

4. **Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Regulation (EC) concerning a new use of a coccidiostat as an additive in feedingstuffs** *(Document SANCO/1482/2008)*

A discussion took place and the vote was taken.
The draft Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority.
The draft Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority : France and United Kingdom abstained.

France made the following declaration :
"Au cours de l'évaluation du dossier de demande d'autorisation définitive de l'additif Clinacox pour le lapin de la catégorie des coccidiostatiques, le pétitionnaire n'a présenté aucune nouvelle étude d'efficacité sur des isolats de coccidies récents en réponse aux questions des experts français sur l'efficacité de ces produits.

Considérant les conclusions des experts, communiquées aux pétitionnaires par courrier, la France s'abstient sur le projet de règlement SANCO/1482/2008."

The United Kingdom made the following declaration:

"Whenever possible, and wherever justified, the UK believes that the same MRLs should be set as those proposed by other bodies such as the CVMP and JECFA. The UK also believes, as does the CVMP, that the same MRLs should be set across species whenever possible and without deviating too far from the tissue distribution.

In both of the above cases, the UK believes that the same MRLs as already adopted by JECFA should be accepted. Furthermore, given the likely theoretical maximum daily intake (TMDI), which is 50% of the ADI in the first day, a zero day meat withdrawal period is proposed by the UK for rabbits."


The Commission introduced this draft proposal to amend the list of Border Inspection posts following requests from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The proposal was given a favourable opinion by qualified majority, with some small modifications to the text.


A discussion took place. A draft Regulation will be presented for the discussion.


A discussion took place. A draft Regulation will be presented for the discussion.

7. Discussion on a draft Regulation (EC) concerning the authorisation of Zinc chelate of hydroxy analogue of methionine as feed additives in the functional group compounds of trace elements - Annex entry

A discussion took place. A draft Regulation will be presented for the discussion.
8. **Unavoidable carry-over of authorised coccidiostats into non target feed: discussion on a working document**

Following the discussions and the conclusions reached at previous meeting, a working document was presented outlining the proposed way of integrating the tolerances as the consequence of unavoidable carry-over of authorised coccidiostats into non-target feed into the Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed.

The particular attention was drawn to the following aspects:

- in some cases, it is required in the conditions of authorisation of a coccidiostat to indicate in the instruction for use "Dangerous for …". The animal species for which this indication is required are considered as sensitive animal species, even if this could not be concluded from the EFSA opinion on unavoidable carry-over
- given that it is expected that there will be a time gap between the authorisation of a certain coccidiostats for use for a new animal species and the consequent amendment to the provisions on unavoidable carry-over into non-target feed, it is foreseen to provide these provisions on tolerances without prejudice to the authorised levels 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.
- a specific provision for premixtures for feed in which the use of the coccidiostat concerned is not authorised.

As regards the proposed levels for food of animal origin from non-target species, several questions were put such as on the application of levels in relation to the existing legislation on MRLs, on the relation between the levels in feed and food of animal origin, on the achievability of some of the proposed levels, on the levels applicable to food of animal origin from organic farming.

The Commission representative provided answers to these questions but indicated that a document will be prepared explaining how the proposed levels in food were derived.

The Commission representative informed the Committee that work on the legal text is ongoing and expected to be able to present at the next meeting of the Committee a more advanced legal text. In the meantime the interested stakeholder organisations will be consulted.
9. Undesirable substances - Discussion on follow-up on issues for which recently an EFSA opinion has been adopted and published and for issues recently raised: arsenic, mercury, tropane alkaloids, Ambrosia artemisiifolia (common ragweed)

**Ambrosia artemisiifolia (common ragweed)**

The German delegation raised this issue at the previous meeting. Detailed information was received from France and Denmark on their investigations and activities undertaken to limit the spread of common ragweed in the environment.

Discussion took place as regards policy initiatives at EU level as regards the common ragweed in feed such as elaborating a code of good practice to limit the presence of common ragweed seeds in feed and the possible setting of a maximum level of common ragweed seeds in feed.

The Committee concluded that this was an important issue and that action at EU-level is appropriate but that it would be appropriate to have more information on the contribution of the presence of common ragweed seeds in animal feed, especially wild bird feed, in the spread of common ragweed in the environment. Some delegations indicated to be of the opinion that this contribution is very significant. The possible involvement of EFSA on this particular issue was discussed.

The Commission representative concluded that this was an important issue for close follow-up. A request to EFSA will be considered for an opinion on the risks for the spread of common ragweed in the environment as the consequence of the presence of common ragweed seeds in animal feed. Possible initiatives for EU legislation (Recommendation on good practice, maximum level) will be further discussed at a next meeting of the Committee.

**Mercury**

The Committee was informed of the publication of the scientific opinion of the Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM Panel) from EFSA on "Mercury as undesirable substance in animal feed\(^1\)", adopted on 20 February 2008.

The Commission representative indicated to have identified, taking into account the conclusions of the opinion, three issues that might be considered by the Committee for possible change to current EU legislation on mercury in feed:
- feed for cats, given that cats are very sensitive to (methyl)mercury and that the current maximum level of 0.4 mg/kg appears as not sufficiently protective.
- the level in feed for fish compared to the maximum levels in fish oil and fish meal.
- feed for mink, given that mink has been identified as a very sensitive species for (methyl) mercury.

\(^1\) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food chain on a request from the European Commission on mercury as undesirable substance in feed, *The EFSA Journal* (2008) 654, 1-74

A delegation indicated to have received from a stakeholder organisation information that the levels of mercury in the diet for cats in the scientific study, on which the derivation of the toxic concentration for cats is based, might be not correctly interpreted by EFSA in relation to the maximum level for cat feed. The Commission representative indicated to verify this with EFSA and to come back on this issue at the next meeting.

**Arsenic in trace elements and in microtracers**

A professional stakeholder organisation informed the Commission of findings of high levels of arsenic in copper sulphate pentahydrate and the need to establish a maximum level for arsenic in copper sulphate to protect animal and public health. The Commission representative indicated that the arsenic present in the trace elements will be mainly the toxic inorganic form and given the sometimes high levels found, it is indeed an issue of relevance for the protection of animal and public health. However the problem is not related to copper sulphate only but to all trace elements and therefore any setting of a maximum level should cover all trace elements. Several delegations in the Committee welcomed the discussion on this issue. A level of 30 mg/kg arsenic for additives belonging to the functional group of compounds of trace elements was discussed with an exception for zinc oxide, copper sulphate pentahydraten, manganous oxide and copper oxide for which a level for arsenic of 100 mg/kg was discussed.

The Commission representative raised also the issue of a microtracer used to assure the quality of compound feed and to mark the presence of a premixture in the complete feed and the presence of arsenic in microtracer. The product consists of iron particles coated with one or more natural or artificial food colours stabilized with sodium carbonate. The status of such product was discussed. Although there were different views expressed, the majority of the Committee agreed that it could be considered as a feed material. A maximum level for arsenic of 50 mg/kg was suggested for future discussion.

The Commission informed the Committee to continue the discussion on these issues and to prepare a legal text amending the annex of Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances. In the meantime, the stakeholder organisations will be informed and consulted again on the levels currently discussed.
Arse nic in fish products for animal nutrition and fish feed

The French delegation raised the issue of high levels of arsenic in fish meal and fish oil produced from the by-products of the filleting of fish. The high levels refer to findings in recent years. The arsenic present in these fish products for animal nutrition is for more than 95 % the less toxic organic form.

The delegation requested to discuss the current maximum levels for arsenic in fish products for animal feed and fish feed in the light of these recent findings. Another delegation in the Committee supported explicitly this request.

The Commission representative replied to take this issue up for a detailed discussion and conclusion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

10. A.O.B.

- **Question on the use of certain products in silage**

  Member States agreed with the Commission representative that the product described (liquid feed for pigs) cannot be regarded as silage in "sensu strictu". Therefore it may be possible to use preservatives in this type of feed provided that these preservatives have been authorised in all feedingstuffs.

- **By-products from the bioethanol products for use as feed**

  The Commission representative asked the Member States to verify carefully the domestic production and the imports of by-products from the bioethanol industry (mainly dried distillers grain with solubles, DDGS) for presence of antibiotics, such as virginiamycin, recalling that in the EU antibiotics are forbidden in feed. A similar call has been sent out as well to the feed industry.

- **Codex Alimentarius**

  The Commission representative informed the Committee that progress has been made in the last meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on 3rd and 4th July 2008 on the future work of Codex on animal nutrition. An electronic Working Group will be established in order to elaborate a mandate in 2009.

- **Method of analysis for determination of starch in feed**

  The Portuguese delegation raised the issue of the method of analysis for starch established by Commission Regulation (EC) No 121/2008 of 11 February 2008 laying down the method of analysis for the determination of starch content in preparations of a kind used in animal feeding (CN code 2309) and its relation to the official control of animal feed.

  The Commission representative informed that the enzymatic method for the determination of the starch content in preparations used in animal feeding using high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) as established in Regulation (EC) No 121/2008 is to ensure uniform treatment on import for customs purposes for feed in
which certain feed materials are present in significant amounts and for which it is known that these feed materials give rise to interferences, yielding incorrect results when determining the starch content by the polarimetric method.

Therefore the polarimetric method established by Commission Directive 72/199/EEC\(^2\) and the enzymatic method are complementary.

However the enzymatic method established by Regulation (EC) N0 121/20058 is not identical to the analytical method of the EN/ISO 15914:2005 standard for the enzymatic determination of total starch content in animal feedingstuffs. Further examination is required to verify if the differences are significant or not. The Commission representative indicated that the CEN/TC 327 has been requested to provide an answer on this issue. It will also be requested to provide a more concrete answer on what "significant" amounts mean.

The Commission representative indicated to examine if the enzymatic established by Regulation (EC) 121/2008 is to be considered as official Community method in accordance with Article 11 of the Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls in feed and food.

The Committee will be informed of the outcome of these examinations at a next meeting of the Committee.

Bernard VAN GOETHEM,
Director (signed)

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