Chair: Mr James Moynagh.

23 Member States were present. Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg and Romania were absent but represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

1. Feed Additives

   1.1. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 Art. 4 or 13

      1.1.1. New applications

   1.2. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 Art. 9

      1.2.1. Discussion on EFSA opinion: Scientific Opinion on ammonium chloride (Amoklor) for lambs for fattening – Annex

          A discussion took place on this new zootechnical additive, following the publication of the EFSA opinion. A draft Implementing Regulation will be submitted for possible vote in a forthcoming meeting.

      1.2.2. Discussion of EFSA opinion: Scientific Opinion on safety and efficacy of propionic acid, sodium propionate, calcium propionate and ammonium propionate for all animal species – Annex

          A discussion took place on these applications in the light of the EFSA opinion. In-depth reflections on the function of propionic acid and some of it salts in case of administration via water are necessary. Furthermore, clarification on the composition and the use as silage
additive has to be sought. The Committee will come back to the draft Annex in a forthcoming meeting.

1.2.3. Discussion of EFSA opinion: Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of acetic acid, sodium diacetate and calcium acetate as preservatives for feed for all animal species – Annex

A discussion took place on these applications following the EFSA opinion. In line with the outcome on 1.2.2., further reflections are necessary. The Committee will come back to the draft Annex in a forthcoming meeting.

1.2.4. Discussion of EFSA statement on Lactiferm® (Enterococcus faecium) as a feed additive for weaned piglets and calves – Annex

The EFSA opinion was discussed. Various risk management alternatives were considered for follow-up, particularly if there would be further studies readily available in a short time.

1.2.5. Discussion on EFSA opinion: Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of Natugrain® Wheat TS (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) as feed additive for chickens for fattening, chickens reared for laying, turkeys reared for breeding, minor avian species for fattening and reared for laying or breeding (including ducks) and ornamental birds – Annex entry

The EFSA opinion was discussed. A draft Implementing Regulation will be prepared for submission for vote at a forthcoming meeting.

1.2.6. Discussion on EFSA opinion on Anthranilate derivatives (CG 27) for all species – Annex entry

The discussion took place on the basis of the EFSA opinion, the report of the EURL on feed additives and a revised annex entry. Several aspects of the safety assessment carried out by EFSA were highlighted. A number of elements in the annex entry were identified that needed further discussion. As EFSA is regularly releasing additional opinions on chemically defined flavourings it was considered desirable to examine some further opinions on some additional new groups in order to consider more properly how to update the regulations on these chemically defined flavourings, as there will be some additional 30 opinions in flavourings in the coming months.

1.2.7. Discussion on EFSA opinion on Allylhydroxybenzenes (CG 18) for all species - Annex entry

A discussion along the same lines as that for point 1.2.6. above took place.
1.2.8. Discussion of EFSA opinion on the safety and efficacy of zinc compounds as feed additives for all animal species: Zinc sulphate monohydrate, based on a dossier submitted by Helm AG

A discussion took place on this application following the publication of the EFSA opinion. A Commission's representative informed the Committee that the Commission received a letter from the applicant with comments on the EFSA opinion. He invited the delegates to pay particular attention to the chapter on environmental impacts which might indicate EFSA's approach for other zinc or copper compounds. Furthermore, another opinion on zinc sulphate monohydrate might be finalised this June. The Committee will come back on the application in a forthcoming meeting.

2. State of play of the revision of the feed ban according to Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

After having explained the background of the dossier, the Commission presented the main provisions of revision 7 of the draft Regulation amending the feed ban provisions as regards the possibility to use processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminants in aquafeed. The Commission's representative emphasised the need to have species-specific analytical methods validated when lifting the ban. This should be the case for the method to detect ruminant proteins in feed. He stressed the need to progress in parallel on the revision of the text on analytical methods for the detection of animal constituents in feed (Annex VI to Regulation (EC) N° 152/2009). The Commission intends to present the two draft texts for a vote at the SCFCAH before the end of the first semester 2012. The objective is that the revised feed ban can enter into force in 2013.

3. Update and exchange of views on recent RASFF notifications related to undesirable substances in feed

An overview of the RASFF notifications of the past month was provided:

⇒ 4 notifications on high content of ragweed (Ambrosia spp) seeds in a seeds mixture for wild birds;
⇒ 3 notifications on the presence of too high levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in vitamin B2 from China, in spirulina from Germany and in feed supplement for homing pigeons from the Netherlands. This feed supplement concerned a mixture of yellow mussel shells, Danish oyster shells, quartz stones and yellow clay;
⇒ 1 notification on a high content of thorn-apple (Datura stramonium L) seeds in sunflower seeds for birdfeed;
⇒ 2 notifications with a non-compliant level of mercury in cat food with tuna from Thailand and 1 notification on a non-compliant level of arsenic in canned cat food from Thailand;
⇒ 1 notification on arsenic in sea algae meal from France, 1 notification on high aflatoxin levels in white sunflower seeds from Egypt and 1 notification on aflatoxins in cotton seed from Greece.

The attention was drawn to the 22 notifications on high, sometimes very high, levels of aflatoxins in peanuts intended for bird feed from India. The situation is totally
unacceptable and the Indian authorities have not yet provided a satisfactory answer to this high number of non-compliances. Therefore, the Commission services are considering further measures to address this situation.

On a request of a delegation as regards the findings of high levels of arsenic in palm kernel expeller from Malaysia, the Commission representative informed the Committee that the Malaysian authorities have informed the Commission that their investigations showed that the source of the contaminated palm kernel expeller was from an unlicensed and non GMP+ certified company. The company bought the palm kernel expeller from palm kernel crushers and stored these goods in its premises (warehouse). It is strongly believed that the palm kernel expeller was contaminated with unidentified foreign materials (dirt) due to mishandling of the palm kernel expeller in the warehouse of this company.

Guarantees were received from the Malaysian authorities as regards future controls on the presence of arsenic in palm kernel expeller for export to the EU and from the traders in the EU (COCERAL) as regards auto-controls on the presence of arsenic in palm kernel expeller from Malaysia. Given that there have been no new findings of non-compliance since mid-October 2011, it was decided by the Commission services not to list palm kernel expeller from Malaysia in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 on increased frequency of controls at import but to reconsider the issue at the next review of the Annex.

On the request of a delegation, the Commission's representative informed the Committee that currently no specific provisions are foreseen for slow release forms of complementary feed and that the maximum level for undesirable substances in complementary feed also applies to these slow release forms (boluses). However, it is recognised that these slow release forms contain in some cases very high concentration of certain trace elements whereby it is in some cases difficult to comply with the maximum levels for complementary feed, although the daily exposure to the undesirable substances of the animal is lower with these slow release forms than with normal complementary feed. The Commission's representative indicated that they would further examine this issue and discuss it in more detail at a future meeting.

4. Discussion on a possible amendment to Commission Recommendation 2006/576/EC of 17 August 2006 on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding, following the availability of the scientific opinion on T-2 and HT-2 toxin in feed (and food)

The Commission's representative presented the document whereby it was highlighted that the guidance values suggested for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 toxin for the feed materials were based upon the occurrence data available in the EFSA database. The guidance levels suggested in compound feed are based upon the toxicological information available in the scientific opinion on T-2 and HT-2 toxin on the sensitivity of the different animal species to adverse health effects from T-2 and HT-2 toxin in feed. Cats are, according to the scientific opinion, very sensitive to toxic effects from T2 and HT-2 toxin and no safe level could be determined. Some comments were made on the proposed levels and the discussion will be continued at a next meeting.
5. Follow-up of 6th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding

The general outcome of the meeting was briefly mentioned and the coming work in this area as the electronic Working Group will be starting its work soon.

6. Information from the Commission on the borderline between biocides and feed

A Commission's representative presented to the Committee the main consequences of the new regulation on biocides, in particular with respect to the use of disinfectants and preservatives in water for animals and in feed. Whereas use of such products in feed is clearly a feed application (not biocide), their administration to animals via water requires further clarification. Though the new biocide regulation will foresee a "dual use option", preference was stated to further reflect on an unequivocal qualification of the substances at stake. The Chairman thus concluded the discussions by suggesting two possible options:

⇒ (a) all substances used to disinfect animal drinking water including those protecting the water against deterioration caused by micro-organisms or their metabolites (preservative function) are dealt with exclusively under the scope of the biocides legislation;
⇒ (b) all substances used to disinfect animal drinking water including those protecting the water against deterioration caused by micro-organisms or their metabolites (preservative function) are dealt with under the scope of the biocides legislation with the exception of preservatives specifically designed to be administered into water by farmers which would be also covered by the feed additive legislation. In this case, for substances that may be used both as a disinfectant and as a preservative, applicants will then have the option to comply with both biocides and preservatives authorisation regime.

Member States were invited to express in writing their preference and to indicate possible problems that these options could present.

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 554/2008 as regards the minimum content of 6-phytase as a feed additive in feed for turkeys for fattening

(Document SANCO/13028/2011)

(Legal basis: Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The vote was postponed.

8. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 554/2008 as regards the minimum content of sodium benzoate in feed additive for weaned piglets

(Document SANCO/12888/2011)

(Legal basis: Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)
The vote was postponed.

9. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning the authorisation of Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-4407 as a feed additive for rabbits and amending Regulation (EC) No 600/2005 (holder of the authorisation Société Industrielle Lesaffre)

Document SANCO/13030/2011)

(Legal basis: Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

A discussion took place and the vote was taken on the text with minor amendments. The draft Implementing Regulation received a favourable opinion by unanimity.

10. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning the authorisation of potassium diformate as a feed additive for all animal species and amending Regulation (EC) No 492/2006

(Document SANCO/13029/2011)

(Legal basis: Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

A discussion took place and the vote was taken on the text with minor amendments. The draft Implementing Regulation received a favourable opinion by unanimity.


(Document SANCO/10920/2011)

(Legal basis: Article 8 (1) of Directive 2002/32/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the regulatory procedure with scrutiny)

The draft Commission Regulation proposes to amend Annex I of Directive 2002/32/EC as regards:
- the maximum levels of arsenic, fluorine, lead and mercury in calcium and magnesium carbonate;
- the maximum level of arsenic in di copper chloride trihydroxide and in complementary and complete feed for pet animals, containing fish, other aquatic animals and products derived thereof and/or seaweed meal;
- the maximum level for endosulfan in complete feed for Salmonids;
- the maximum levels for dioxins in crustacean meal and the related action level;
- the addition of an footnote to the provision of Ambrosia spp. to clarify that there is no need to clean the grains and seeds containing non-compliant levels of seeds of Ambrosia spp. before milling or crushing on the condition that prevention measures are taken to avoid dissemination;
- the maximum level for the unavoidable carry-over in non-target feed for the coccidiostats diclazuril and lasalocid A sodium following recent changes in the conditions of authorisation.

The delegation of Germany made following statement:

The delegation of France made following statement:
"L'endosulfan est classée comme substance prioritaire dangereuse au titre de la directive cadre sur l'eau (DCE – 2000/60/CE). Les États-membres se sont donc engagés à supprimer les rejets, pertes et emissions.

Le fait d'augmenter les limites maximales en endosulfan dans les aliments pour animaux permettrait donc l'augmentation des rejets des exploitations piscicoles (via les aliments non consommés et les déjections) en contradiction avec les objectifs de la DCE.

Par ailleurs, l’endosulfan est interdit en Union européenne depuis juin 2007. L'objectif principal d’augmentation des teneurs en endosulfan dans les aliments pour animaux est donc de permettre l’utilisation de matières premières provenant de pays tiers où la substance est autorisée. Dans ces conditions, ne pas augmenter les teneurs en endosulfan dans ces matières premières peut avoir un impact indirect sur les pratiques culturales de ces pays.

En raison du risque pour l’environnement, la délégation française s’oppose à ce texte."

The Commission's representative highlighted that no change in the maximum levels of endosulfan in the feed materials was proposed and that the proposed increase in complete feed for Salmonids relates to the progressive replacement of fish oils by vegetable oils in fish feed in view of increasing the sustainability of Salmonid fish farming. The Commission's representative committed to continue to closely follow-up this issue.

The Committee expressed a favourable opinion by qualified majority on the proposed draft measure (in favour 316 votes, 29 votes against).

12.A.O.B.

- Sampling provisions for feed

On the request of some delegations, the Commission's representative confirmed that the work on the review of the sampling provisions for feed will be continued and a working group, in follow-up of the working group of 21 December 2011, is foreseen to take place in the first half of April 2012. It is planned to finalise the technical discussions on this review before the summer break 2012.
• **Update of the Catalogue of feed materials (Regulation (EU) No 575/2011)**

A Commission's representative informed the Committee about a recent meeting with FoodDrinkEurope and a scheduled meeting with the Feed Chain Task Force on the issue. He thanked the Member States who sent comments on the draft and encouraged the others to also do so. Depending on the potential progress by the Task Force, the Committee will come back on the issue in its next meeting.

• **Approval of feed business operators**

At the request of a Member State, a Commission's representative confirmed that Chapter I of Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 still applies to the products listed in the second part though Directive 82/471/EEC is meanwhile repealed. This could be revised once Annex IV is updated as already announced in the Committee meeting in January.