SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 17 FEBRUARY 2014 - 18 FEBRUARY 2014
(Section Animal Nutrition)

Documents were distributed.

A.02 Feed Additives - Applications under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 Art. 9
Discussion on EFSA Scientific Opinions on the safety and efficacy of:

A.2.1. Lactobacillus brevis (DSM 23231) as a silage additive for all animal species - Annex
A.2.2. Lactobacillus brevis (DSMZ 16680) as a silage additive for all animal species - Annex
A.2.3. Lactobacillus plantarum (CECT 4528) as a silage additive for all species - Annex
A.2.4. Lactobacillus fermentum (NCIMB 30169) as a silage additive for all species - Annex

A common Annex was submitted for all four micro-organisms. Following the discussion, a draft Implementing Regulation will be proposed for possible vote at a future meeting.

A.2.5. Lactobacillus plantarum (KKP/593/p and KKP/788/p) and Lactobacillus buchneri (KKP/907/p) as a silage additive for cattle and sheep

Following the discussion, new information will be requested to the applicant.

A.2.6. Ronozyme® Rumistar (alpha-amylase) as a feed additive for dairy cows

A.2.7. Safizym® X (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) as a feed additive for chickens and turkeys for fattening and laying hens

Following the discussion, new information will be requested to the applicant.
A.2.8. L-carnitine and its forms for all animal species (05/2012 & 05/2012) - Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.9. Vitamin B1 and its forms for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting. The method of analysis in water needs to be submitted by the company.

A.2.10. Taurine and its forms for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.11. Pantothenic acid and its forms for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a draft Implementing Regulation will be proposed for possible vote at a future meeting.

A.2.12. Vitamin C and its forms for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.13. Betaine and its forms for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.


Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.15. Biotin for all animal species – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.16. Vitamin A for all animal species and categories – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.17. Beta-carotene for all animal species and categories – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.18. Canthaxanthin as feed additive for poultry and for ornamental birds and ornamental fish – Annex.

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.19. Scansmoke SEF7525 for cats and dogs – Annex
Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.20. Brilliant Blue FCF (E 133) as feed additive for cats and dogs – Annex

Following the discussion, a new Annex will be submitted to a future meeting.

A.2.21. Allura red

- statement on Allura Red AC and other sulphonated mono azo dyes
- authorised as food and feed additives
- statement on Allura Red AC (E 129) in feed for cats and dogs

The Scientific Opinion delivered by the FEEDAP panel concluded: "the genotoxicity of Allura red cannot be excluded and the mouse carcinogenity study may not be appropriate for investigate the risk of colon cancer. The available data are insufficient to demonstrate the safety of Allura Red”.

The safety assessment performed by the ANS panel concluded also that the available data are insufficient to demonstrate the safety of this colorant.

It is necessary to verify if the company is going to provide additional information in conformity with the EFSA requirements. The Commission will inform on this issue.

A.2.22. Cu-, Fe-, Mn- and Zn-chelates of amino acids, hydrate - updates of opinions

A Commission representative clarified that the chapters 2 of the four opinions published in January 2013 are void and have to be replaced by the respective chapters published in October 2013.

A.2.23. Iodine compounds - state of play

A Commission representative informed the Committee that the updated opinions on iodine are scheduled for end 2014.

A.03 Discussion on the use of certain additives in water in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

Not discussed.


- State of play applications based on Art 32(2)

A Commission representative informed the Committee that the majority of the applicants for the pending dossiers had recently withdrawn their applications. Consequently, only 6 applications for high concentrate products are remaining. The withdrawal letters have been made available to the Member States via Circa BC. The
list with the existing products published on the homepage of DG Sanco will be adapted accordingly. As a transitional measure, the feed concerned from the deletion of the essential nutritional characteristics and being legally placed on the market before 1/9/2010, may be placed or remain on the market until stocks are exhausted.

- State of play on applications for revision of existing entries

A Commission representative informed the Committee about new applications based on Article 10 and gave an update on the pending applications.

- Discussion of Annex entry

The distributed draft Annex entries for the revision of 3 existing and 2 new intended uses were discussed. In the light of the discussions a draft Commission Regulation will be prepared for potential vote in the next Committee.

- Discussion on the classification of fermented feed in feed legislation

The issue under discussion was feed containing living micro-organisms (naturally present or after incorporation of additives) e.g. silage, fermented cereals, soured milk. These could be classified as feed materials as long as the intended use of the respective product is not linked to functions due to the content of micro-organisms e.g. as gut flora stabiliser (“no micro-organism claim for such feed materials”). Thus, the micro-organisms in the feed material would be residual and not the main objective to use the feed. The inactivation of the micro-organisms as required for the feed materials listed in Chapter 12 of Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 was not deemed to be appropriate. Also a fixed maximum level for colony forming units in feed materials would be too rigid and not prudent with respect to the different cases in practice.

A.05 Discussion of borderline issues feed-veterinary medicines-biocides.

A Commission representative informed the Committee that in the margins of national product authorisations of biocides, based on the respective EU authorisation act of the active substance, the Member States’ authorities are mandated to establish maximum contents for the active substance in food and feed. The Member States were alerted that this might lead to contradictions e.g. if the active substance is a trace element where -in consideration of animal and public health- a maximum content is established in the feed additive legislation.

A.06 Update and exchange of views on recent RASFF notifications.

The Commission representative provided an over view of the recent RASFF notifications:

- 6 notifications on high levels of aflatoxins in peanuts for birdfeed from Sudan. Given that information was received from UK that these 6 notifications were the result of 6 controls, meaning that each consignment controlled was found to be non-compliant, it was proposed for inclusion in the annex to Regulation (EC) 669/2009 of
24 July 2009 for increased frequency of control at import. The proposed frequency of control is 50% and is expected to become applicable as from 1 April 2014 and will be applicable for peanuts intended for feed and food originating from Sudan. 

- further notifications on high levels of aflatoxins in maize from Italy and Croatia, in sunflower seeds from Egypt and in soybeans from Kazakhstan
- notifications on a too high level of dioxins in the feed additive zinc oxide from Greece and in the feed materials fish oil from Lithuania and leonardite from Russia
- notifications on too high levels of cadmium in the feed additive ferrous sulphate from China and in the feed materials monoammonium phosphate from Belgium and in fish meal from Spain
- 2 notifications on too high level of cyanide in linseed from Germany and from the Netherlands
- furthermore the attention was drawn to the findings of the non-labelled presence of narasin and nicarbazin in compound feed for broilers from the Netherlands at carry-over levels exceeding the 3% of the maximum authorised dose
- Finally attention was drawn to the presence of unopened bottles of phosphine tablets in a consignment of maize from Romania and Bulgaria, which could cause serious danger for the operators and inspectors when the tablets come into contact with humidity and release the very toxic phosphine gas
- there was also a RASFF notification on the presence of dichlorvos in maize from Serbia, above the MRL of 0.01 mg/kg but this finding could not be confirmed by follow-up analysis

Finally, a delegation requested information on the legal status of irradiated feed following a RASFF notification of irradiated dog chews from China. Irradiation of feed is, contrary to food, not regulated at EU level and consequently there are no legal requirements (irradiation of feed is not authorised but also not prohibited). Irradiated feed can only be blocked and prohibited to be placed on the market if there is evidence that the irradiated feed is unsafe for its intended use (have an adverse effect on human or animal health) according to Article 15 (1) of Regulation (EC) N°178/2002. Furthermore, Article 15 (6) of Regulation (EC) N°178/2002 provides that, in the absence of Union rules, feed shall be deemed to be safe when it conforms to the specific provisions of national law governing feed safety of the Member State in whose territory the feed is in circulation.

A.07 Undesirable substances in feed.

- arsenic

As regards arsenic in calcareous marine shells, it is proposed to align the maximum level of arsenic with calcareous marine algae.

- endosulfan

As regards endosulfan, following the comments received from the stakeholders it seems appropriate to reduce the maximum level for endosulfan from 0.2 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg for maize and maize products derived from the processing thereof and from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg for oilseeds and products derived from the processing thereof other than soya bean and cotton seed. For soya bean and cotton seed and products
derived from the processing thereof the maximum level is proposed to remain at 0.5 mg/kg. No objections were raised as regards these proposed changes.

- nitrites

As regards nitrites, a position paper was presented questioning the appropriateness and need of the existing maximum levels for nitrites in feed materials as the establishing of maximum levels for nitrites in feed materials does not necessarily protect livestock from nitrite poisoning. Given that endogenous conversion of dietary nitrate to nitrite occurs, the levels of nitrate in the diet are therefore likely to have the largest impact on nitrite exposure.

Delegations indicated to need more time before being able to form an opinion as regards this position paper.

- chlorates

Delegations were informed of draft guidelines as regards targeted monitoring to be undertaken as regards the presence of chlorates in feed and food. These guidelines will be discussed and possibly agreed at the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health section Pesticide residues on 24 and 25 February 2014. Although the presence appears mainly related to food there are some products such of maize which are also relevant for feed. Delegations were requested to pass their comments, if any, to their colleagues dealing with pesticide residues.

- botanical impurities

"trace amounts not quantitatively determinable" : one delegation asked more clarification as regards the provision in the Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC that harmful botanical impurities may only be present in feed in trace amounts not quantitatively determinable and if it was possible to be more concrete on this. The Commission representative indicated to investigate this with laboratories currently performing the microscopic analysis and to report back in one of the next meetings of the Committee.

A.08  Aflatoxins in maize.

At the end of 2012 and in 2013, severe problems have been found with the presence of aflatoxins in maize. Contaminated maize was used for the production of feed for dairy cows, and the milk was found to contain too high levels of aflatoxin M1. This has resulted in the blocking of farms, resulting in significant economic losses for affected farmers.

Several reasons for this situation were identified:
- climatic conditions resulted in a high prevalence of aflatoxin contamination of maize produced in the south of Europe.
- the contamination of aflatoxins in a lot is very heterogeneous and the sampling performed by the business operators to check compliance with the EU maximum levels proved to be not representative for the lot.
- a lack of communication between the different operators on the obtained results and on the way how the sampling has been performed.
Contrary to what is claimed in the reaction from certain stakeholders, the experience has shown that the practices used by business operators to manage the food and feed safety concerns along the supply chain showed several shortcomings and have not ensured the safety of the supplied maize. Also the business-to-business communication as regards the findings on aflatoxins was not at all sufficient.

It is not the intention of the guidance to increase the burden on operators neither to increase the administrative burden. The aim is to outline an approach which pro-actively prevents the occurrences of problems at the end of the cereal chain by addressing the issue at the beginning of the cereal chain and by ensuring good communication along the cereal supply chain, enabling the operators along the cereal chain to assume their responsibilities to put safe feed and food on the market.

Therefore the Committee agreed that the work on this guidance needs to be pursued and further developed to improve the transparency in the production and trade chain of cereals and in order to improve the consistency of analytical results following sampling at different stages of the trade.

A.09 Regulation (EU) No 691/2013 on sampling.

The guidance document was developed following intense discussions at two meetings of the working group "Sampling feed".

The sampling guidance covers 3 main topics

* specific aspects of the sampling procedure (sampling and sample preparation, sampled portion, assistance/co-operation from feed business operator to enable the inspector to perform the sampling correctly in acceptable conditions)
* sampling of large batches /lots – silo's
* sampling of packaged feed
* sampling of roughage and succulent feed materials.

The Committee agreed to submit the document for comments to the relevant stakeholder organisations with the disclaimer "This guidance document does not necessarily reflect the views of the Standing Committee", given that time has been to short to examine the document in detail by the Committee.


This point was not discussed.

The draft proposes to re-authorise and to give an authorization for a new use of to the above enzymes as zootechnical additives.

**Vote taken:** unanimous in favour.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning the authorisation of a preparation of 6-phytase produced by Trichoderma reesei (CBS 126897) as a feed additive for poultry, weaned piglets, pigs for fattening and sows (holder of the authorisation ROAL Oy).

The draft proposes to authorise the above enzyme as zootechnical additive.

**Vote taken:** unanimous in favour.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing concerning the authorisation of a preparation of endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase produced by Tricoderma reesei (CBS 126896) as a feed additive for chickens for fattening and weaned piglets (holder of the authorisation ROAL Oy).

The draft proposes to authorise the above enzyme as zootechnical additive.

**Vote taken:** qualified majority (345 votes in favour, 7 votes against)

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing amending Regulation (EC) No 1289/2004 as regards of the withdrawal period and Maximum Residues Limits of the feed additive decoquinate.

The draft proposes to modify the conditions of authorization of the above coccidiostat.

**Vote taken:** unanimous in favour.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing concerning the authorisation of preparations of Enterococcus
faecium NCIMB 10415, Enterococcus faecium DSM 22502, and Pediococcus acidilactici CNCM I-3237 as feed additives for all animal species.

The draft proposes to authorise the above micro-organisms as silage additives.

**Vote taken:** unanimous in favour.

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**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing concerning the authorisation of propionic acid, sodium propionate and ammonium propionate as feed additives for all animal species other than ruminants, pigs and poultry.**

The draft proposes to authorise the above substances as silage additives.

**Vote taken:** qualified majority (325 votes in favour, 27 votes against)

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**M.01 AOB**

- Discussion on contamination of choline chloride with GM rice BT63.
  The Member States involved in this alert, at present France and Belgium, presented the situation and the measure taken. From first information it was possible that other Member States had already received contaminated products, due to the use of rice for technical reasons. The same issue was proposed for the discussion at the GM SCFCAH. Since the situation is still ongoing, it was decided to put the point for the discussion at the next SCFCAH.

- The Commission informed on the 7th International Feed Regulators Meeting organised in Atlanta on 27-28 January 2014.

- The Commission informed on the Proposed Rule of the USA Food and Drug Administration on Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis Risks-Based Preventive Controls for Food Animals. MS were welcomed to submit comments.

- On request of one Member State, a Commission representative confirmed that a specific mandate to EFSA for the revision of the maximum contents of copper in feed would have to be sent because the ongoing work is restricted to zinc. Several delegates were in favour of such a mandate.

- Presentation of the scope of a possible “EU guide to good hygiene practice for the industrial manufacture of safe feed materials (sector oleochemical processing)”. The intention of the European Oleochemicals Producers Association (APAG) to develop such guide was presented by the Commission. In accordance with Art 22(1) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (feed hygiene Regulation), the Committee provided a favourable opinion on the scope of such guide but requested to carefully avoid overlaps with existing EU guides.