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HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 07 JUNE 2012
(Section Genetically modified Food & Feed)**

Chair: Dorothee Andre

All Member States were present except Cyprus and Poland.

A.1 Introductory presentation on the JRC, the EURL and the ENGL

In introduction, the chair highlighted the useful work of European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) and European Network for Genetically Modified Organism Laboratories (ENGL), which is often referred to in the SCFCAH discussions. A representative of the Joint Research Center (JRC) introduced the JRC, and the EURL mandates under Regulations (EC) No 1829/2003 and 882/2004 and the ENGL.

A.2 Presentation on ENGL achievements

The Commission's representative recalled the various achievements from ENGL over its 10 years of existence (2002-2012) and the successful cooperation between the Commission and the Member States on Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) analysis over that time. He also highlighted international cooperation and global networking as "the next steps" beyond ENGL.

A.3 Presentation on EURL activities

The Commission's representative presented the various activities undertaken daily at the EURL to support harmonised GMO detection as a key part of the implementation of EU GMO-legislation.

A.4 Presentation on activities of a national GMO control laboratories

A representative from one of the ENGL testing laboratories made a presentation concerning GMO controls on feed. The representative highlighted the challenges

related to detection of "unapproved GMOs", and outlined the "element screening" approach (based on a standard plate with 27 different screening elements).

A.5 Update on RASFF notifications

The Commission's representative outlined the number and type of notifications which had been received through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed since the last meeting, and highlighted that the majority of these continued to concern rice products originating from China. The Commission also highlighted a number of alerts which had been notified concerning Genetically Modified (GM) papaya imported from Thailand. It was again stressed that the Thai authorities had responded to the Commission detailing the action that has been taken, and in particular that all affected plots had been destroyed and that increased surveillance would be implemented.

A.6 Update on revision of Regulation (EC) No 1981/2006 on detailed rules for the implementation of Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 1821/2003

In view of the need to update the Regulation a Commission representative invited the Committee members to submit the names and contact details of those National reference laboratories which would assist the EU Reference Laboratory in testing and validating the method of detection and identification, as provided for in Articles 6(3)(d) and 18(3)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

A.7 Update on LLP Commission Regulation (EC) No 619/2011

The Commission's representative indicated that it is still reflecting on proposals to review the measure according to Article 8 of the Regulation.

A.8 Ruling of the European Court of Justice on the regulatory status of genetically modified pollen in honey

The Commission's representative explained that no new development has arisen since the last meeting of this Committee. The Commission is still shaping its position on the need to clarify the Honey Directive.

The EURL confirmed that a report on the verification of a DNA extraction method from honey will be available and submitted to DG SANCO by end of June 2012.

A.9 Update - Commission Decision 2011/884/EU repealing Commission Decision 2008/289/EC and introducing new emergency measures regarding unauthorised genetically modified organisms in rice products originating

from People's Republic of China

In the previous meeting Committee members were invited to submit comments on their experience with the implementation of this Decision, since its adoption in January 2012.

In their submissions Member States expressed concerns about the number of replicates to be analysed for processed products (which increases the analytical costs) and the occurrence of false positives. Some Committee Members highlighted that the requirements set out in the Decision should be fully aligned with the requirements provided for in Regulation (EC) No 669/2009. In addition some Committee members indicated that official controls carried out by the Member States have shown that the scope of Commission Decision 2011/884/EU did not encompass all the products which could contain rice as an ingredient.

The Commission's representative also highlighted that the EURL guidance on the Chinese rice Decision will need to be updated according to the new Decision text.

A.10 EFSA opinion related to the emergency measure notified by France on MON810 - Presentation by EFSA

EFSA presented the opinion related to the emergency measure notified by France on MON810 maize cultivation which was published on 21 May 2012. EFSA concludes that based on the documentation submitted by France, there is no specific scientific evidence, in terms of risk to human and animal health or the environment, that would support the notification of an emergency measure under Article 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and that would invalidate its previous risk assessments of maize MON810.