



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 12 JANUARY 2012
(SECTION GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD & FEED AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK)**

Chair: Sabine Pelsser (am) and Dorothée André (pm)

All Member States were represented.

Adoption of the agenda

MORNING SESSION

(JOINT SCFCAH AND DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC COMPETENT AUTHORITIES MEETING)

- 1. EFSA opinion on application for the placing on the market of genetically modified MON88017 maize for cultivation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto – Presentation by EFSA.**

EFSA, accompanied by two GMO panel members, presented an opinion on MON88017 maize which was adopted in October 2011. EFSA addressed in its presentation questions raised by Member States during the consultation period as well as additional comments sent after the adoption of the opinion. This presentation was followed by additional questions of Member States.

- 2. EFSA opinion on application for the placing on the market of genetically modified GA21 maize for food and feed uses and cultivation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Syngenta – Presentation by EFSA.**

EFSA, accompanied by two GMO panel members, presented an opinion on GA21 maize which was adopted in November 2011. EFSA addressed in its presentation questions raised by Member States during the consultation period as well as additional comments sent after the adoption of the opinion. This presentation was followed by additional questions of Member States.

3. Any other business

3.1. Unauthorized GM rats.

The Czech delegation informed about the occurrence of GM rats in the Czech Republic and the measures taken. The Commission will follow up this case.

3.2. Public hearing of Commissioner Dalli on monitoring of GM crops.

The Commission informed that a Public Hearing on Environmental Monitoring of GM crops will be organized on 29 March 2012 in Brussels. It is the 3rd hearing of a series of meetings related to GMOs, after the public hearings organized last year on GMO Risk Assessment and Risk Management (17 March 2011) and Socio-Economic Dimensions of GMO Cultivation (18 October 2011). The hearing aims to discuss experience and results of monitoring of GM crops in EU Member States and third countries. It is intended for Members of the European Parliament, Competent Authorities of Member States, stakeholders from private companies and non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and other interested parties.

3.3. Working group on socio-economic issues of GM crops.

Commission informed that a letter will be shortly sent to Member States to nominate one expert to take part in the Working Group on Socio-Economic issues of GM crops. The meetings of this WG will take place in Sévilla.

3.4. Evaluation of the GMO legislation.

The Commission distributed booklets of the two evaluations and invited Member States to transmit comments in writing if they wish.

3.5. New techniques.

The Commission informed that the report of the Working Group on New Techniques was finalized and has been sent to all Competent Authorities (CAs). The Commission intends to discuss the report with the CAs for Directives 2001/18/EC and 2009/41/EC, possibly in a joint meeting.

AFTERNOON SESSION

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

EFSA made a presentation of the status reports regarding the safety of pollen from Gt73 and Ms8xRf3 oilseed rape, following a request of the Commission. EFSA explained that these status reports are based on previous opinions and a literature review. At this stage, neither indication of potential concerns over the safety of the newly expressed proteins nor the occurrence of unintended effects in Gt73 and Ms8xRf3 pollens have been identified. EFSA is continuing its literature search in order to support and further complement the data described in these reports. Updated reports will be provided by the end of January 2012.

A representative of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) explained that quantification of GM pollen to total pollen is still very challenging since no markers present in all pollen species and not in other parts of the plant have been identified. However, quantification of GM pollen to total honey (per weight) is theoretically possible but needs to be checked by other experts.

A Member State explained that although MON810 is cultivated in its territory no samples out of the 11 samples of local honey analysed contained MON810 pollen.

A Commission representative concluded the discussion by explaining that the Commission is still shaping its position as regards the need to clarify the honey Directive.

2. Draft Commission Regulation on implementing rules concerning applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations No (EC) 641/2004 and (EC) No 1981/2006 - State-of-play.

A Commission's representative provided a presentation of a revised draft of the Commission Implementing Regulation on applications for authorisation of GM food and feed. This revised draft is based on previous discussions that took place in the Standing Committee as well as on recent opinions and revised guidances of the EFSA GMO Panel.

Several Member States welcomed the revised draft and a preliminary exchange of views took place on some of the key elements of this revision.

The Commission representative also outlined the next steps that will be taken before submitting the draft Regulation for vote. A first in-depth discussion with Member States is scheduled at the next meeting of the Standing Committee. A meeting of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health is planned for 14 February 2012.

The adoption of this draft Regulation is subject to the examination procedure. In this context, the European Parliament and the Council have been informed of this proposal.

3. Impact of the implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) No 619/2011 on the feed and food chain – Update.

The Commission representative provided a summary of the impact assessment reports which stakeholders had submitted regarding the implementation of the above Regulation. These reports stressed the uncertainty that operators are experiencing concerning the current scope of this measure. Operators also highlighted that there is a need to extend the scope to food given the interconnectedness of the food and feed chain. A number of Committee Members who requested the floor supported the extension to food. The Commission indicated that an analysis of the impact assessments and the comments from the Member States' representatives would be assessed in the light of the next steps to be taken.

4. Application of the GM labelling rules in case of botanical impurities – Discussion.

The Commission representative invited Committee Members to reflect on experiences to date concerning the working document which was submitted for discussion at the SCFCAH meeting of 19/10/2009, and to send their comments in writing for evaluation.

5. Any other business.

The Commission representative summarised two recent RASFF notifications concerning the presence of unauthorised GMOs in basmati rice imports from Pakistan and India. The JRC EU-RL for GM food and feed explained that their counter analysis of the original sample confirmed the presence of an unauthorised GM event. The Commission also presented the outcome of a meeting with the representatives from India and Pakistan concerning the notifications, and confirmed that both countries had been requested to submit detailed information on GMO policy in their respective countries. Committee Members were requested to submit results to the Commission of analysis on basmati rice which had been carried out over the previous two years.