



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Held in Brussels on 14 December 2010

(Section Genetically Modified Food & Feed and Environmental Risk)

Chair: Dorothee André (point 5)
Sébastien Goux (points 1 to 4)

All member states were represented.

Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

- 1. EFSA Opinion on an application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MIR604xGA21 (SYN-IR604-5xMON-00021-9) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council**
- 2. EFSA Opinion on an application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11xMIR604 (SYN-BT011-1xSYN-IR604-5) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council**
- 3. EFSA Opinion on an application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11xMIR604xGA21 (SYN-BT011-1xSYN-IR604-5xMON-00021-9) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

The three opinions were presented by a representative of EFSA in one single presentation mainly because of the presence of the same single event MIR604 in all the three applications.

The presentation was focused on comments received from Member States during the consultation period and EFSA provided replies to them. In addition, one week before the meeting some Member States presented further comments which were analysed by EFSA and discussed during the meeting. Some clarifications were made mainly on the molecular characterization and the protein expression of the double and triple stacked events. Three Member States still indicated, as general comment, that the performance of a 90-day on stacked events would provide further reassurance for the safety assessment. One Member States indicated that nutritional studies should not only be performed on birds but also on mammalian species.

Member States were generally satisfied by the EFSA presentation and the clarifications provided by EFSA during the discussion. One Member State indicated that the annex G of EFSA opinions addressing the comments received by Member States during the safety assessment phase should be more detailed and that exchange of views after the publication of the EFSA opinion could be further improved. EFSA indicated its willingness to address these expectations. The Chairman of the meeting indicated that this was an essential part of the authorisation procedure.

The Chairman indicated that the Commission will submit draft decisions of authorisations for these three applications at the next SCFCAH meeting for a vote in accordance with the Comitology procedure.

4. EFSA Opinion on an application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton 281-24-236x3006-210-23 (DAS-24236-5xDAS-21Ø23-5) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

A representative of EFSA provided a summary of the opinion as well as more detailed information related to the main questions asked by Member States during the consultation period. Some Member States sent additional comments one week before the meeting which were duly addressed by EFSA in its presentation. A detailed discussion took place on the safety assessment of the Cry proteins which are expressed in the GM cotton. At the end of the meeting Member States were satisfied by EFSA and the replies provided.

The Chairman indicated that the Commission will submit a draft decision of authorisation for this application at the next SCFCAH meeting for a vote in accordance with the Comitology procedure.

5. Commission Regulation laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed as regards the presence of genetically modified material for which an authorisation procedure is pending or the authorization of which has expired

The draft Commission Regulation was already considered during the previous meeting where it was decided that further technical discussions would be needed.

An extensive exchange of view took place regarding the scope of the draft Regulation. While the current draft is limited to feed, a majority of Member States indicated that they would welcome an extension of the scope to food. The main argument which was put forward by these Member States was the fact that some of the products at stake (e.g. maize grains) are destined to be processed into feed (corn gluten feed) and food (oil). In addition, there is a clear demand from operators of the food and feed chain to cover all these products. By contrast, some Member States indicated that they were currently not supporting the proposal of the Commission, even if limited to feed.

Different aspects related to sampling and analysis were also discussed. Several Member States indicated that they would welcome a further alignment of the sampling procedures to procedures which are already in place for the control of other substances such as contaminants.

The Chair of the Committee concluded the discussion by indicating that the Commission would now consider how the comments of Member States could be taken into account. The Commission is willing to submit a draft for vote at the next meeting of SCFCAH. Member States were invited to provide their comments in writing in the coming days.

6. Presentation of the new Comitology procedures

A Commission representative provided a presentation of the new comitology procedures which will apply as a consequence of the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon.

In accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon, non legislative (secondary) acts are now classified either as "delegated acts" or as "implementing acts". The main aspects of the procedures that will apply to these two types of acts have been outlined. Decisions of authorisation are "implementing acts" and the new procedure will apply as of 1st of March 2011.