

SUMMARY
WORKING GROUP ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS OF THE
TOXICOLOGICAL SAFETY SECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED (SC-PAFF)

5 December 2016

BORSCHETTE building (CCAB) Room AB-2D, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels 1040.

Chair: European Commission (COM), DG SANTE Unit E2

Participants: All Member States (MSs) and Norway except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Slovenia; European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC); European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); Council of Europe (CoE).

From 10:00 – 18:00

1) Discussion on follow up to JRC study on food contact materials

- a) The JRC gave a presentation on the findings of its work carried out on materials for which no specific measures exist at EU level. The JRC reported that the work highlights variations in national risk assessment schemes as well as the presence of a multitude of national measures. There is also a strong presence of SMEs in many FCM sectors.

The COM stated that the work will provide a reference point of national measures for non-harmonised FCM sectors in the EU as well as the basis for further evaluation of FCMs at EU level. The study will be published shortly on the JRC website.

- b) The COM described the present situation for FCMs at EU level including the framework legislation. It highlighted the intention to carry out an ex-post evaluation of the current situation at EU level to understand whether the current framework is effective, efficient and sustainable and whether the EU procedures are adequate. The ex-post evaluation will build on the JRC study and help to inform on the way forward concerning current measures as well as possible future harmonisation.

2) Union Measure on printed food contact materials

The COM introduced a new initiative that it will undertake in 2017 with a foreseen adoption in 2018. The COM explained that the development of a measure on printed FCMs is being undertaken on the basis of health concerns and from the notification by Germany of its intention to introduce national legislation. The COM stressed that it would seek to develop a simplified measure in light of the complexities of the supply chain and the potential number of substances involved. The measure is under preparation internally and will be discussed in detail in Working Groups during 2017.

3) COM consultations

- a) The COM explained that a consultation on EFSA's opinion on future Guidelines¹ is postponed until further progress is made on the evaluation. Any further work on

¹ 'Recent developments in the risk assessment of chemicals in food and their potential impact on the safety assessment of substances used in food contact materials'; EFSA Journal 2016;14(1):4357

Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 except for authorisations will also be postponed therefore.

- b) The COM introduced a new initiative started to investigate information transfer in the supply chain. This will be carried out in the form of surveys targeting business operators as well as those in MSs responsible for enforcement. It feeds in to a possible redrafting of Articles 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 concerning the Declaration of Compliance and Supporting Documentation. It also informs the development of future measures at EU level, in particular the measure on printed FCM.

4) Authorisation of recycling processes

No discussions took place on this agenda item; a task force meeting took place the following day.

5) Any other business

- The COM introduced planned activities in 2017 (see presentation). Some MSs also highlighted the need to work on biocides in FCMs.
- On request by MSs, the COM explained that progress of the draft measure on bisphenol A (BPA) was postponed until the adoption of the endocrine disruptors measures. The draft measure remains unchanged after the latest advice from EFSA and the COM aims to adopt the measure in 2017.