SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 13 FEBRUARY 2014
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)

A.01 Information and possible endorsement of a guidance on the public health requirements (hygiene Regulations) on imports of food of animal origin into the European Union (see point A2 of the SCFCAHof 17 September 2013).

The purpose of the document is to assist all players importing food to better understand and to apply correctly and in an uniform way, the hygiene and control provisions related to import. The document is a revision of guidance drafted in 2005, extending it scope to import of food for which import rules are not fully harmonized yet. The guidance was endorsed by qualified majority.

A.02 Draft guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 853/2004 on the hygiene of food of animal origin with regard to mechanically separated meat (MSM).

A large majority of the Member States support to exclude certain mechanically produced products from MSM. However the Member States are divided on the classification of such mechanically produced products (fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparation or new category).

A.03 TRACES and EU establishments listing.

The Commission presented an update of technical specifications in relation to the master list and the list of EU approved food establishments and certain other specified food establishments. Some further suggestions were discussed. It is the intension to present a final version for endorsement in the next Committee.

The Commission also repeated its request to introduce the list into the TRACES system before the end of 2014. A specific working group meeting will be organized in March to assist Member States in this transition.
A.04 **FVO HACCP PROJECT (evaluation of the official controls of procedures based on the HACCP principles).**

The FVO presented the HACCP project. The HACCP project aims obtaining an overview of the state of implementation and control of HACCP across Member States and identifying and exchanging good practices and common approaches to problems encountered. The project involves, inter alia, a series of fact finding missions to 9 Member States, a questionnaire to the 19 MS not to be visited and stakeholder consultation.

The results of the project will be summarised in an overview report which will form the basis for meetings with Member State experts, including in the framework of BTSF, to discuss common problems identified and exchange good practice.

A.05 **Information to the Member States on a harmonised method in determining drained weight of glazed seafood products.**

The Welmec Guide on the verification of deglazed weight has been presented to the MS. Full support from the MS. The guide will be published in the SANCO website and inserted in the labelling legislation (Dir 2000/13) as official method.

A.06 **Information on a Commission Implementing Decision as regards a Union financial contribution towards a coordinated control plan with a view to establishing the prevalence of fraudulent practices in the marketing of certain foods.**

See point B.03

B.01 **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission regulation amending Annexes V, VII, VIII, IX and X to Regulation (EC) NO 999/2001.**

The Committee approved at unanimity a draft Commission Regulation aiming to align certain TSE rules with OIE code, to update list of approved TSE rapid tests and the list of Member States with a negligible risk of classical scrapie.

B.02 **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EC) 211/2013 as regard certification requirements for import into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts.**

The draft measure imposes compulsory microbiological tests (Enterobacteriacea) in the exporting country to ensure compliance with the prescribed hygiene rules. This temporary measure will expire on 1 July 2015. This measure will allow to continue the supply of seeds for sprouting with the additional safety assurance.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion by qualified majority (316 votes in favour, 36 votes abstained).
B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Recommendation on a second coordinated control plan with a view to establishing the prevalence of fraudulent practices in the marketing of certain foods

The Recommendation is for a second control plan to determine if undeclared horse meat is being added to certain meat products. The plan is intended to run during the spring and finalised in July. Member States supported the proposal and requested timely follow-up from the coordinating laboratory concerning the calibration of tests.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (342 votes in favour, 10 votes abstained).


The Commission presented a draft, allowing feet to be sent from slaughterhouses to other plants further manufacturing the feet for human consumption. Some Member States requested more information on the further manufacturing, applicable hygiene rules and effective demand. This issue will be further discussed in a working group.

M.01 Hygiene package

The Commission informed the MS on the development of the Hygiene Package revision.

M.02 Australia

COM informed MSs on the AUS revised meat inspection system for export to the EU and hormone free cattle accreditation programme having incorporated COM comments. MSs have a deadline until 28/02 to comment.