SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 JUNE 2014
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)

Chair: Paolo Caricato

26 Member States were present. Malta was absent and represented by Italy. Cyprus was absent and represented by Slovakia.

A.01 State of play of iron oxyde irradiated, outcome of ESFA advice and possible follow-up.

The Member States (MS) underlined that the use of irradiated iron oxide should be forbidden as soon as possible. While waiting for EFSA opinion on finished products, products already on the market could remain, but the use of irradiated iron oxide should be stopped immediately.

A.02 Exchange of views and possible endorsement by the Committee of the revised technical guidance document of EURL Listeria m. for conducting shelf-life studies on Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods.

MS endorsed the latest version of the EURL guidance document for conducting shelf-life studies in ready-to-eat food (RTE).

A.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a request from EURL Listeria m. to have access to certain data gathered by EFSA during the base line survey on Listeria.

MS agreed that the EURL for Listeria monocytogenes should get access to the temperature related data collected by Member States in the framework of the latest EFSA base line survey on Listeria. This data will be very useful for the work to be conducted by the EURL, in particular to improve and develop further EURL guidance for conducting shelf-life studies. SANCO will therefore instruct EFSA to send the data to the EURL. The identity of Member States will be kept strictly confidential by the EURL in any document containing this data.
A.04 Exchange of views on a draft guidance document on the application of Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 as regards food where shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) has been detected.

Presentation by the Commission of the latest version of the guidance on VTEC. MS, albeit welcoming this new version, asked for more discussion at the working group level. Written comments will be sent to the Commission.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards a Union financial contribution towards the discriminatory testing of historical BSE cases (see point C.02 of the SCFCAH of 13 May 2014).

No vote possible since the text should be revised following publication of the new financial framework which will introduce new procedures. The provisions of this text will probably be introduced in a new legislative vehicle to be presented for opinion as of September.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission implementing decision establishing the work programme for the year 2015 on financial contribution to the European Union reference laboratories (EURLs)

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the work programme for the year 2015 on financial contribution to the European Union reference laboratories. The Commission explained that the document presented is setting the objectives of the Commission to be achieved during the coming year throughout the implementation of the activities of the EURLs, and the resources which will be made available for their financing. It constitutes the basis for the submission of the programmes of the EURLs for financing, based on the new Regulation on management of expenditure for food and feed which has been adopted on 15 May. The document has been also discussed at the SCFCAH meeting of 6 June 2014.

The Implementing Decision will enter into application as of 3 July 2014.

Vote taken: favourable opinion


Certain MS had some technical comments on the cutting of carcases pending the Trichinella test results. The implementation of the sampling and aspects of the certification for Trichinella were explained by the Commission. The draft will be discussed further during the Working Group for Food Hygiene on 24 June 2014. A vote on the draft is envisaged for the July 2014 meeting.
C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the format of the model health certificates for intra-Union trade in bovine animals and swine and the additional health requirements relating to Trichinella for intra-Union trade in domestic swine.

No major comments from MS.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regards animal health requirements for Trichinella in the model of veterinary certificate for imports into the Union of domestic porcine animals intended for breeding, production or slaughter, and of fresh meat thereof.

No major comments from MS.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex III to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards animal health requirements for Trichinella in the model veterinary certificate for imports into the Union of certain meat products derived from domestic pigs

No major comments from MS.

C.05 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards model documents for food chain information and lists of approved food establishments (see point C.01 of the SCFCAH of 13 May 2014).

Certain technical issues were discussed. The updated draft will be discussed further in the 24 June Food Hygiene Working Group. A possible vote is envisaged for the 8 July 2014 meeting.

M.01 AOB

DE asked to modify the frequency of the submission of the BSE monitoring reports from every one month to every 6 months. This issue will be dealt with in the next TSE Working Group.

PT was asking temperature conditions for graves. The issue will be addressed in the Hygiene Working Group on 24 June.

FR asked for news on temperature requirements for pre-packed fishery products. The Commission replied that the question has been submitted to EFSA.