Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were represented.

1. Presentation of the EFSA scientific opinion on the control of Campylobacter

   The Commission gave EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) a mandate concerning the control of Campylobacter at different stages of the broiler-meat production chain. An EFSA expert presented the scientific opinion published on 7 April 2011 in which possible control options are identified and ranked according to their impact on public health. The opinion also suggests targets in primary production and at slaughterhouse level. Member States welcomed the comprehensive work done by EFSA. The Commission announced its intention to look further into the costs and benefits of the suggested control measures.

2. Request on the usage of EU baseline data on Campylobacter

   In relation to item 1 on the agenda, experts involved in the EFSA's scientific opinion on the control of Campylobacter asked for the Member States' opinion on the use of data from the model prepared by EFSA and the data from baseline surveys relating to Campylobacter. The Commission presented this written request on behalf of the scientific institutions involved. Member States had no objections to using data from the EU-baseline survey, provided no food-business operators' data were published.

3. Information from the Commission on a new application for carcase decontamination

   The Commission informed Member States that a new application dossier had been submitted for the approval of a substance intended to remove microbial surface contamination from raw poultry products. The Commission explained that the dossier will be examined under Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

4. Information from the Commission on the use of recycled hot water on carcases

   The Commission informed Member States on the state of play and on its position regarding the use of hot recycled water as a decontamination technique for meat carcases. The Commission intends to start a discussion with Member States on this subject.

The purpose of the current draft Commission Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 is to require food business operators to ensure that information on the date of production and freezing of frozen food of animal origin is available in an appropriate form to the food business operator to whom the food is supplied and, upon request, to the competent authority. At the request of certain Member States, the date from which the Regulation will apply was changed to July 2012.

**Technical vote.**
The draft will now be submitted to WTO in the framework of the SPS Agreement.


The purpose of the current draft is to require food business operators to ensure that information about the consignment is available in an appropriate form to the food business operator to whom the food is supplied and, upon request, to the competent authority.

**Technical vote.**
The text will now be submitted to WTO in the framework of the SPS Agreement.


The third revision of the draft Regulation was presented for discussion. It lays down a template for a harmonised model document to be signed by the captain to facilitate imports when fishery products are imported into the Union directly from a freezer vessel. The objective is to keep the format parallel to the model health certificate for fishery products in order to fit into the electronic system for exchange of health certificates and import documents between the National Competent Authorities (TRACES).

There were some minor comments, mostly of a technical nature. The meeting discussed whether the captain who signs such a document needs a special authorisation and whether to provide an exact explanation on how to specify a fishing area. As fishing areas are specified in numerous ways such detailed instructions will not be included in the model document unless there are particular reasons to do so.

The Commission presented the first revision of SANCO/10842/2011. There was no objection to the proposal to proceed with the transitional target for Salmonella control in broilers. Member States did not comment on the articles. The Commission agreed to take into account the comments on the Annex concerning trained persons, documentary checks on antibiotic use and the optional pooling of samples. Member States had diverging views on the application of the 3-weeks sampling period prior to slaughter.


The Commission presented the draft Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005 in order to approve a new method for the routine testing of Trichinella in meat. The method has been validated by the European Union Reference Laboratory for parasites. No substantial comments were made by the Member States.


The Commission briefly presented the draft proposal to partially lift the feed ban and the outcome of the discussions of the ad-hoc working group that was held the day before. Several delegations expressed concern over the fact that this text will probably increase the administrative burden for the competent authorities in terms of controls. Some delegations argued for a more stepwise approach, i.e. limiting the current scope of the relaxation. The Commission said that it intended to organise another working group on this proposal in May or June 2011 to further discuss the issue and to try to adopt the text by the end of 2011. However, the Regulation's entry into force would be postponed until 2012 in order to give the national laboratories enough time to get up and running with the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method. This method will be needed to check whether the planned measures are being correctly implemented.
Other business

The Commission informed Member States that, at a meeting in May, the Standing Committee would be asked to vote on a proposed Decision to include the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland in the list of Member States authorised to revise their BSE monitoring programmes. This was necessary because, on 14 April 2011, EFSA had adopted a new opinion on the revision of BSE monitoring in certain Member States. The Commission intended to adopt and publish the Decision before 1 July 2011.