Chair: K. Van Dyck.

All Member States were represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Information on format and deadline for submission of data for the annual report on the irradiation of food

The Commission reminded Member States of the need to send data on the checks carried out at their irradiation facilities and at the product marketing stage. At the request of a few Member States, the deadline for submitting the data was set to 30 June 2012.

A.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft amendment to the Guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.

The Commission presented the text as revised following the last meeting of the hygiene working group at which the document had been discussed. Some Member States reiterated their disappointment in not having the legal base to be able to introduce binding requirements for sprout production, but generally supported the proposed amendments.

A.3 Presentation and possible endorsement by the Committee of the EU-Guide to Good Hygienic Practices for Packaged Water in Europe

A representative of the European Federation of Bottled Water (EFBW) and a representative of the Coca-Cola Group presented the guide to good hygienic practices they had drafted, which had been assessed and reviewed by a restricted working group of Member States’ experts. The United Kingdom requested more time to read the guide, so endorsement was not possible.
A.4 Possible endorsement of the EU guide on Principles of Good Practice for the Microbiological Classification and Monitoring of Bivalve Mollusc Harvesting Areas with regard to Regulation 854/2004 (Guide prepared by EU RL for microbiological and viral contamination of Bivalve Molluscs in cooperation with the experts of IS, PL, DK, ES, NO, UK, NL, AT, DE, IE, FR, IT, SI)

Professor David Lees, director of the European Union Reference Laboratory (EU-RL) for microbiological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs in Weymouth (UK) explained the most important points of the guidance document. All Member States except Greece (which needed more time) agreed to endorse it. Greece’s comments are expected by the end of May 2012, with a view to possible endorsement at the next SCFCAH in June 2012.

B.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the use of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination from bovine carcases (see item 3 of the SCFCAH of 18 April 2012) (Doc. SANCO/11970/2011 rev. 4)

The Commission presented the text (rev 4) which gives more flexibility to food business operators as to where they would apply lactic acid solutions during the slaughter process. A constructive exchange of views and discussion followed. The Commission presented the outcome of a mission by the Commission and the Danish Presidency to the United States, including a visit to two slaughterhouses. Some Member States raised concerns about the application of sampling requirements to comply with Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs and its practical implications.

Vote postponed

C.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards prohibitions concerning animal feeding of processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminant animals (SANCO/10843/2011 rev. 8)

The Commission presented revision 9 of the text, aiming at reintroducing processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminants in aquafeed. Except for some minor points which still need to be clarified, most Member States considered this version to be a good compromise. Several delegations spoke but none opposed the text during the tour de table organised by the Commission. The text is planned to be presented for a vote at the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012.

C.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 as regards the methods of detection of constituents of animal origin in feed (Doc. SANCO/10635/2012)
The Commission presented the text, whose main objective is to introduce the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method as an official control method in Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 in order to verify correct implementation of the measures proposed in the feed ban text. Only minor questions were raised by the Member States. This text will be voted on with the text on the feed ban on 18 June 2012.

C.3 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I, III, VII, VIII, IX and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards definitions, control and eradication measures in small ruminants, rules for intra-community trade in small ruminants, rules for imports and laboratory testing (Doc. SANCO/13001/2011 rev.2)

The Commission presented revision 3 of the draft Regulation regarding the proposed amendment of annexes I, III, VII, VIII, IX and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Only minor questions were raised by the Member States. They were informed that this text would be proposed for a technical vote at the June SCFCAH followed by SPS notification and a formal vote after the summer.


The Commission presented the text as revised following the last meeting of the hygiene working group at which the document was discussed. Minor comments were made by some Member States. There was a request to further improve the wording of the definition of a batch. A few Member States were in favour of more precise wording on the length of time documents should be kept.

C.5 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Doc. SANCO/10976/2012)

The Commission presented the text as revised following the last meeting of the hygiene working group at which the document was discussed. A vote on the draft Regulation is planned at the June meeting.

C.6 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on the approval of establishments producing sprouts pursuant to Regulation (EC) 852/2004 of the Parliament and of the Council (Doc. SANCO/13009/2011 rev 3) (see item 6 of the SCFCAH of 22 February 2012)
The Commission presented the text as revised following the last meeting of the hygiene working group at which the document was discussed. Some Member States expressed their reluctance to have establishments producing sprouts approved, as they consider registration is sufficient. Some Member States expressed their disappointment at not having the legal base to be able to introduce legally binding requirements for this type of production, but generally support the Commission’s efforts to cover all aspects in the proposed Regulation and in the guidance document (see item A2).

C.7 **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards microbiological criteria for seeds intended for direct human consumption and for sprouted seeds (Doc. SANCO/10038/2012) (see item 7 of the SCFCAH of 18 April 2012)**

The Commission mainly reported on the outcome of a restricted working group meeting on this issue held on 14 May. Some Member States said they had provided written comments. One Member State commented on the amendment for Salmonella in fresh poultry meat. Member States asked to receive the revised draft as soon as possible following the restricted working group.

C.8 **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts (Doc. SANCO/10064/2012) (see item 5 of the SCFCAH of 18 April 2012)**

The Commission presented the draft Regulation on certification requirements for the import of sprouts and seeds intended for sprouting. Changes made as a follow-up to previous discussions were explained. Several Member States made comments especially about certification requirements and import conditions; however, no major concerns are expected during further discussions.