Chair: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Presentation of the proposed European Food Safety Authority’s (EFSA) Data Warehouse access policy

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented its data warehouse access policy. Consultation is on-going until 26 April 2013. A pilot phase on the data warehouse will be launched with a limited number of Member States. One Member State expressed reluctance.

A.2 Presentation of the EFSA opinion on VTEC-seropathotype and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment and discussion on harmonised recommendations to consider food with VTEC as unsafe

The EFSA presented the Scientific Opinion on VTEC: ‘Scientific Opinion on Verocytotoxin producing E. coli (VTEC) — seropathotype concept and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment’. The opinion, which was a request from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health, was adopted on 7 March 2013 and published on 9 April 2013. Member States made no comments.

A.3 Presentation of the EFSA opinion on the public health risks related to mechanically separated meat derived from poultry and swine

The EFSA presented its opinion on the public health risks related to mechanically separated meat (MSM) from poultry and swine. The main conclusions are that the public health risks for MSM are the same as for fresh meat, minced meat and meat preparations, and increase with the degree of reduction of the meat. Calcium is an appropriate parameter for the pressure applied and for measuring the degree of reduction of the meat. An independent validated analysis method is available to measure calcium. The data available for this EFSA opinion was not sufficient to differentiate the levels of calcium in fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations and MSM.
The Commission presented an overview of the test result received at that moment: 7,259 tests were carried out by the competent authorities in the 27 EU countries. 4,144 samples were tested for the presence of horsemeat DNA of which 193 revealed positive traces of horsemeat DNA (4.66%). 16 (0.51%) of the 3,115 samples tested for the presence of phenylbutazone showed traces of phenylbutazone.

In addition, Member States reported another 7,951 tests for the presence of horsemeat DNA performed by food business operators (producers, processors and distributors). Of these, 110 contained horsemeat DNA (1.38%). All Member States have reached the number of tests recommended by the Commission.

Belgium queried the need to review the temperature requirements for the transport of meat and the need to introduce more flexibility. Belgium presented scientific documentation supporting the request and asked the Commission to give the EFSA a mandate.

The proposal was presented by the Commission. Member States mainly commented on the proposed official controls on the processing hygiene criterion for Salmonella on pig carcases. The Commission accommodated these comments by making certain amendments to the proposal.

Vote postponed

The proposal for strengthening the process hygiene criterion for Salmonella on pig carcases was presented by the Commission. No major comments were made.

Vote postponed

The Commission presented for an opinion a draft Regulation for the review of Trichinella controls. The Regulation includes a risk-based approach based on the
status of holdings (controlled housing conditions), on gradually ending systematic testing for holdings with a lower risk, and on simplifying procedures. A majority of Member States supported the draft. Some Member States made comments that will be reflected in a new text which will be presented for vote at the next Standing Committee meeting in May.

Vote postponed


The list of establishments authorised to use non-compliant milk has been modified in accordance with the Romanian request. No extension of transitional measures is envisaged.

Vote taken: unanimous in favour.


Based on the EFSA opinion and international agreement the current limit for yessotoxins has been increased from 1 mg/Kg to 3.75 mg/Kg.

Vote taken: unanimous in favour.

C.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for the introduction into the European Union of raw milk and dairy products intended for human consumption as regards the inclusion of import conditions for colostrum

The Commission presented the draft Regulation, which is intended to enable the import of colostrum/colostrum-based products within Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, the aim being to apply the same animal and public health conditions as for raw and sterilised milk. The proposal will also be discussed at the next Standing Committee section: Animal Health and Welfare.

M.1 Request from France concerning milk filters

Inspections conducted by the official services on the premises of some milk producers in France found equipment (microfilters and centrifuges) designed to alter the quality and composition of milk. The Commission reiterated its position that this practice is not allowed and that raw milk must comply with the requirements laid down in Regulation EC (No) 853/2004 on somatic cell count and total flora. The Commission will inform all Member States in writing on this
The Commission clarified that a financial Decision will be presented at the Standing Committee together with the technical Decision on the monitoring requirements themselves. No financial Decision had been presented yet because the technical requirements had not yet been finalised.

M.2 Co-financing monitoring of antimicrobial resistance

The Commission clarified that a financial Decision will be presented at the Standing Committee together with the technical Decision on the monitoring requirements themselves. No financial Decision had been presented yet because the technical requirements had not yet been finalised.