SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 OCTOBER 2013
(Section Biological Safety of the Food chain)

Chairman: Mr Koen Van Dyck

27 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent and not represented. Croatia and Greece partially attended

A.1 Training Programme (BTSF) priorities 2014-2015

The Commission informed the Member states about the training priorities which have been included in the Better Training for Safer Food programme for 2014-15. Special emphasis was put on new training actions.

A.2 Listeria project

EFSA presented a project to further analyse Member States data collected within the frame of the 2011 baseline survey, in view of performing a quantitative microbiological risk assessment and whole genome sequencing. No comments were obtained from Member States on the request to use their raw data.

A.3 Information from France and The Netherlands on Antimicrobial Resistance:
A reduced and prudent antimicrobial use in the context of the revision of Directive 2001/82 on the Community Code relating to veterinary medicinal products

France and the Netherlands presented a proposal for the acceleration of work for reduced and prudent antimicrobial use in veterinary medicine and for the control of antimicrobial resistance. The proposal has the support of the Chief Veterinary Officer of 15 Member States.

A.4 Third European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) report on consumption of veterinary medicines in the EU

The Commission presented on behalf of the European Medicines Agency the results of the third report of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project covering the data from sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in 25 EU/EEA countries in 2011.
A.5 Information from the Commission and discussion on a draft guidance text on the implementation of the definition of mechanically separated meat

A draft guidance text on the implementation of the mechanically separated meat definition was distributed during the meeting for a first discussion. Member States welcomed the draft and addressed certain technical issues, but need to discuss the draft with national stakeholders. The draft will be discussed in detail in the 21 October Food Hygiene Working Group.

A.6 Presentation of the draft annual report on Food and Food Ingredients treated with Ionising Radiation for the year 2012

Presentation postponed

A.7 Update by the Commission and Member States on multinational foodborne outbreaks of Hepatitis A in 2013

The Committee gave an update on the state-of-play of the on-going multinational outbreaks of Hepatitis A, which concern Scandinavian countries and Italy/Ireland. A presentation on the tracing-back/forward of suspected foodstuffs was given by Poland and the different measures taken in the Member States (consumer advice, investigations) were discussed.

A.8 Food Communicators Network

The Commission proposed to establish a communicator's network for the management of multinational foodborne outbreaks to streamline harmonised and updated information in case of major disease events. A letter will be sent by the Commission to Member States to nominate the relevant persons.


The draft proposed by the Commission was aimed to grant two year more (until 31.12.2015) to Bulgaria as regard the processing of non-compliant raw milk in certain milk processing establishments. The list of establishments authorised to process non-compliant milk was also modified (some establishments are not anymore in that list and decided to process only compliant milk).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion by qualified majority (329 votes, 23 vote absent)

Vote postponed


The Commission presented a draft Commission Regulation as regards certification for intra-EU trade of un-skinned wild game. Some further suggestions were made by a few Member States. They will be further discussed in a working group meeting.

C.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation granting a derogation from certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs as regards the transport of liquid oils and fats by sea

Discussion postponed

M.1 Request of the European Food Safety Agency in relation to a mandate on the deterioration of table eggs.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) received a mandate from the European Commission on the public health risks of table eggs due to deterioration and development of pathogens (Question number EFSA-Q-2013-00400). EFSA requested additional information on existing national legislation or guidelines on the storage conditions of eggs. The Commission will send out a questionnaire to the Member States.

M.2 Presentation of a draft proposal aimed to amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 - Moldova.

Presentation of a draft proposal aimed to amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for Moldova in the lists of third countries from which certain meat, meat products, eggs and egg products may be introduced into the Union.