SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HEL D ON 16 DECEMBER 2009 IN BRUSSELS
(Section: Biological Safety of the Food Chain)

Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All the Member States were represented.

Request from EFSA concerning additional information from Member States on the quantitative aspects of the scientific opinion on setting new targets for Salmonella in laying hens

The EFSA Representative explained that the experts dealing with the modelling work needed to obtain further detailed information at sample level from the data collected by Member States through their National Control Programmes (NCP). This information was not currently being reported for the production of the EFSA Community Summary Report.

In order to provide quantitative estimates that reflect the situation in 2008 and take account (to the extent possible) of the differences between Member States, the EFSA requested further sample level details for each flock during production. These details should include the following:

- Total number of flocks tested;
- Time at which the flocks were tested (i.e. weeks of age of the flock or weeks after starting production);
- Whether the tests were official or own checks;
- Results of the test (i.e. negative or positive for all testing times and all flocks);
- Vaccination status of the flocks tested (i.e. vaccinated or not vaccinated);
- Type of production of the flocks tested (i.e. cage, barn, free range);
- Size of the flock (i.e. estimated number of birds).

EFSA would appreciate it if Member States could supply the requested information by 20 January 2010.

1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2009/719/EC authorising certain Member States to revise their annual BSE monitoring programmes (SANCO/10660/2009) (subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament, legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 article 6(1b))

The draft decision was discussed at the previous SCFCAH meeting in November 2009.
The purpose of this proposal is to authorise Cyprus to revise its annual monitoring programme and to lay down 48 months as the new age limit for BSE testing in that Member State. 
In 2008, Cyprus submitted an application to revise its annual BSE monitoring programme. One year later the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) carried out an inspection in Cyprus in order to verify compliance with the epidemiological criteria. The results of that inspection acknowledged that the rules on protective measures regarding BSE laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 were being properly implemented in Cyprus.
In the light of all the available information, the Commission decided to authorise Cyprus to revise its annual monitoring programme and to lay down 48 months as the new age limit for BSE testing in Cyprus. 
The Cyprus representative thanked the Commission for the decision and also asked about the changes that had been made to the text since the previous Standing Committee meeting.
The Commission replied that the draft decision had been discussed with the Legal Service, which had made some changes to the text.

**Vote:** Unanimously in favour.

2. **Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards Enterobacteriaceae in pasteurised milk and other pasteurised liquid dairy products and Listeria monocytogenes in food grade salt (SANCO/6967/2009) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, legal basis Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 art. 4)**

The draft Regulation has two main purposes. Its first aim is to add food grade salt to the list of ready-to-eat foods in which regular testing of *L. monocytogenes* is not required, because scientific evidence indicates that the presence and survival of *L. monocytogenes* in salt is unlikely in normal circumstances. 
The second aim of the proposal is to amend the analytical reference method set out for Enterobacteriaceae in pasteurised milk and other pasteurised liquid dairy products, which has been shown to be difficult to use for routine analyses in own checks since it is very laborious and time consuming. Due to the development in methodology, it is proposed that the analytical reference method should be replaced by a quicker and easier method without affecting the sensitivity of testing. As a result, the criterion of the limit of Enterobacteriaceae in pasteurised milk and other liquid dairy products needs to be changed.
During the discussion which followed the presentation of the proposal, one Member State expressed doubts about food grade salt being a possible vehicle of Listeria contamination.

**Vote:** Favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 316 votes, abstention: 29 votes)


Initially the intention had been to take a vote on this agenda item, but because more discussion was needed on this proposal, the vote was postponed. 
The Commission official explained in detail the main purpose of the proposal, which is to amend Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for
food of animal origin. The draft covers the whole range of issues relating to Annex III and will make the Regulation more "user-friendly". The proposal is due to be put to a vote at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.


This item had been put on the agenda for an exchange of views and a possible opinion. However, the vote had to be postponed for two different reasons. First of all, the Commission had to take into consideration a number of substantive comments received from Germany and other Member States. Moreover, the Legal Service had tabled some changes to the wording of the recitals.

The aim of the draft Regulation is to amend Annexes I and II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The Commission official distributed a paper version of the document and explained the content of the proposal in detail.


The purpose of this draft is to amend the list of certain milk processing establishments listed in Annex I and Annex II to Commission Decision 2009/861/EC that have been allowed, by way of derogation from Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, to continue to process compliant and non-compliant milk after 31 December 2009 provided that the processing is carried out on separate production lines and without separate production lines.

The Bulgarian Authorities sent a revised and updated list of those establishments to the Commission on 20 November 2009. It is appropriate, before the entry into force of Commission Decision 2009/861/EC, to modify the previous list so as to avoid any ambiguities in the application of the provisions of Commission Decision 2009/861/EC after 31 December 2009.

Member States had no questions regarding the draft Regulation. The proposal was put directly to the vote.

**Vote**: Unanimously in favour.

**Miscellaneous**

The representative of Belgium raised a matter relating to the effect that the Lisbon Treaty was having on the work of the Standing Committee. The Commission explained that, for the time being, the Committee will continue to meet and vote on the proposals. The new Comitology will be applicable only when the basic acts are amended.

Eric Poudellet
Director
*(Signed)*