Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were represented.

1. **Discussion and possible endorsement of the European Union guide to good manufacturing practice for ‘liquid, concentrated, frozen and dried egg products’**

   A guide was drafted by the egg-processing industry to give guidance on the good manufacturing practice of egg products. Member States did not raise any objections to adopting the guide, but the United Kingdom announced that it had further comments to make. The adoption of the guide was therefore postponed.

2. **Discussion and possible endorsement of the EU Guide to good practice for hygiene and application of the HACCP principles in the production of natural sausage casings**

   Item removed from the agenda.

3. **Discussion and possible endorsement of the statement on foremilk stripping**

   Foremilk stripping is the check carried out at the farm on the first milk when milking. Australian authorities submitted a dossier to the Commission aiming to demonstrate that the Australian system, based on a risk assessment and not on the single cow evaluation, as carried out in the European Union, could be deemed to be comparable to the EU system. A statement on comparable guarantees offered by Australian foremilk stripping obtained the support of the majority of the Member States. The German and Slovak representations made declarations which are annexed below.

   Declaration by Germany — see Annex I.

   Declaration by Slovak Republic — see Annex II.
4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/719/EC authorising certain Member States to revise their annual BSE monitoring programmes (doc. SANCO/11146/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Art. 6(1b) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001)

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the BSE surveillance programmes of 25 Member States (excluding RO and BU). The proposal includes reducing BSE testing as from 1 January 2013 to a sample size, without defining the exact sample size nor testing age. The proposal takes into account the updated EFSA opinion on BSE surveillance in Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia adopted on 13 April 2011 and replaces the Decision, which was endorsed by the Standing committee on 15 February 2011. It will enter into force on 1 July 2011.

Vote: Qualified majority in favour (316 in favour, 29 against).


The draft was presented for discussion only, as the Commission is in the process of sorting out some issues related to correct implementation. The draft aims to provide a standard template document to be signed by the captain to facilitate the import of fishery products into the EU directly from a freezer vessel. The Member States had only minor comments to make, and none were related to the actual text and design of the template to be signed by the captain.

The vote was postponed.


The aim of the draft is to update the requirements for food business operators to ensure that certain fishery products, including those to be consumed raw or almost raw, undergo a freezing treatment to kill viable parasites that may represent a risk to the health of the consumer. It was discussed in the light of a draft guidance text on parasites in certain fishery products that represent a risk to the health of the consumer. The Member States made a few minor comments.
7. **Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on the use of recycled water to reduce microbiological surface contamination of carcasses** (doc. SANCO/11145/2011) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (JOV)

The Commission presented for discussion a draft proposal for the approval of recycled hot water to reduce surface microbial contamination of carcasses. Comments were made, in particular concerning the specific conditions and requirements for its use. The Commission will consider all the comments and discuss further with the Member States.


The Commission presented version 2 of the draft proposal, confirming the transitional target set for *Salmonella* control in broiler production. The Member States gave broad support to the draft proposal. The Commission asked for any additional comments to be sent via e-mail as the working group on zoonoses was not scheduled to meet.


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. A number of technical comments were made and would be further addressed in a workshop of the European reference laboratory with its national reference laboratories.
Australian foremilk stripping method – aspects of equivalence

German position

Australia does not require a systematic practice of foremilk stripping for each cow, and gives the following justifications:

1. The level of mastitis infection in a dairy herd is assessed by somatic cell count (SCC) at herd level.

2. Foremilk stripping is practiced in certain situations with a higher risk of clinical infection, as noted in the FVO report and cited in the Australian supporting document, p. 5: recently calved cows (first 4 days or 8 milkings), adverse weather conditions, elevated herd SCC, evidence of clots on the milk filter sock, higher than normal level of clinical infections in the herd.

3. Given the Australian husbandry of dairy herds including outdoor year round grazing permitted by the climate, dairy herds have usually a low level of mastitis infection, as evidenced by the low SCC levels (average around 200,000 SCC/ml) and most infections are subclinical. Systematic practice of foremilk stripping would not therefore be useful.

4. Critical control points on the Australian milk production and processing chain (detailed in Attachments 1 & 2 to the supporting document) enable to ensure abnormal milk is not used for human consumption.

5. Scientific references, cited in Attachment 3 to the supporting document, point out an increased risk of spreading mastitis in an herd, associated to foremilk stripping.

Germany does not consider the method utilised by Australia as equivalent to prevent that milk with organoleptic or physico-chemical abnormalities is used for human consumption. With regard to the arguments of Australia, our opinion is as follows:

1. The determination of SCC in the bulk milk does not give reliable information on the situation of mastitis in a dairy herd, not even if samples are taken frequently.

2. The practice of foremilk stripping only in certain situations with a higher risk does not give sufficient guarantees that milk coming from cows with clinical mastitis is excluded from human consumption.

3. The Australian average SCC of 208,000/ml leads to the conclusion that the status of udder health (“level of infection”) in Australia is not better than the situation in several EC Member States, e.g. Germany. As a consequence, we assume that with regard to the risk for subclinical mastitis in dairy herds there is no significant difference between Australia and the EC Member States, so routine foremilk stripping is indispensable.

4. The control measures mentioned by Australia (“Food safety plan”) are corresponding to EC requirements described in various legal acts of the EC, as for example traceability, animal identification, application of veterinary drugs etc. These measures can be
considered as standard elements of a professional dairy management system; however, the application of these measures does not prevent clinical mastitis. For that, it is obvious that these control measures are not sufficient to prevent that milk with abnormal organoleptic or physical chemical properties is used for human consumption.

5. Internationally accepted programmes for the prevention and therapy of mastitis acknowledge that correctly performed routine foremilk stripping done every milking is an important measure for the diagnosis of mastitis. A higher incidence of clinical mastitis associated with foremilk stripping is most probably an effect of improvements in the diagnosis of mastitis and not a result of an increased risk for infections.
Position of Slovakia to the document „STATEMENT on Australian foremilk stripping method, endorsed by member States within the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain, section biological safety of the food chain, during its meeting on 17 May 2011“

Slovakia does not support „STATEMENT on Australian foremilk stripping method, endorsed by member States within the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain, section biological safety of the food chain, during its meeting on 17 May 2011“. Slovakia supports the German position which states that the method utilised by Australia is not considered as equivalent to prevent that milk with organoleptic or physico-chemical abnormalities is used for human consumption.