SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 17 JUNE 2013
(Section Biological Safety of the Food chain)

Chair: K. Van Dyck.

26 Member States were present. Portugal was absent and not represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Presentation of the work programme BIOHAZ panel: reflection from past to near future

A Representative of the BIOHAZ unit from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the highlights on recent and on-going activities with regard to risk assessment of biological hazards. She stressed the good cooperation with the European Commission and the clear separation between risk assessment and risk management. Member States had no remarks/questions.

A.2 Presentation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) 2012 Report

The Commission presented the Annual Report 2012. Member States did not have any questions. The hard copy of the report was also provided to participants.

The report is available under the following link:

A.3 Presentation for possible endorsement of the European Guide on meat products/meat preparations

The Commission presented the content of the guidance document, which was endorsed with unanimity with some minor editorial amendments.

A.4 Presentation by France of a document on "definition of temperature of melting ice"

France presented a letter sent to the Commission and all Member States regarding (a) the temperature of melting ice when used with fishery products and (b) whether there is a need to reflect in the legislation new technologies for cooling fishery products, like ‘super-chilling’, etc.
The Commission will provide a copy for information to all Member States of its response to the letter. The Commission will also discuss in the Working Group on the Hygiene Regulations whether there is a need to amend the hygiene legislation due to new technologies.

A.5 Exchange of views on possible proposals for new work and/or revision of existing standards (Codex Committee Food Hygiene, CCFH)

The Commission informed the committee on the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for new work on and/or revision of existing standards to be submitted by 1 September 2013. In particular it was asked if certain Member States intended to submit a request to Codex and, more generally, an exchange of views on possible requests was welcomed. One Member State suggested work on verotoxigenic Escherichia coli (VTEC) serotypes to be considered as pathogenic. The Commission referred to a recent EFSA opinion on this issue and the difficulty to get agreement, probably already within the EU, on such standards. One Member States referred to the code of hygienic practice for fresh fruit and vegetables, indicating the need to cover also residues. This would require collaboration between different Codex committees.

B.1 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional arrangements for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see item C.3 of the SCFCAH of 22 May 2013)

The Commission shortly presented the proposal that prolongs certain transitional measures under Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and 854/2004 (imports of composite products and food of animal origin not fully harmonised, direct supply of fresh meat of poultry and lagomorphs) until 31 December 2016. One Member State opposed because it disagreed with import conditions for egg products. The Commission explained that this would be harmonised in the next months.

Vote taken: qualified majority (306 votes in favour, 27 votes against, 12 votes absent).

B.2 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on transitional arrangements for the application of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the accreditation of official laboratories carrying out Trichinella controls (see item C.4 of the SCFCAH of 22 May 2013)

The Commission shortly presented the proposal that prolongs the derogation under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 as regards accreditation of Trichinella laboratories until 31 December 2016. Two Member State opposed and 4 abstained because they disagree with a further prolongation.

Vote taken: qualified majority (255 votes in favour, 24 votes against, 54 votes in abstention, 12 votes absent).
C.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria (see item C.2 of the SCFCAH of 22 May 2013)

The Commission presented the draft Decision on harmonised monitoring on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria. Only editorial changes were made compared to the previous version except the deletion of monitoring of turkey meat at retail. Apart from some technical questions, main remarks from Member States were on the high number of isolates to be tested (mainly small Member States) and the co-financing. Some Member States wanted everything to become voluntarily. The Commission replied shortly and indicated that 50% financing is envisaged, not only for the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) testing but also for detection of Campylobacter and E. coli. More detailed answers will be given by e-mail if not the case yet.


The Commission presented for discussion a draft proposal intended to clarify the conditions and requirements for the intra EU trade of unskinned wild game. Member States provided some comments intended to improve the document but the proposal was in general well received and no major objections were raised.

C.3 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Costa Rica, Italy, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Slovenia and United States of America

The Commission presented the draft Decision to the Member States and highlighted the consequences, as regards import of bovine products, of the new proposed classification. Member States did not make any comments. The text will be presented for a vote at the next SCFCAH in July.

M.1 Scrapie

The Commission informed the Member States' representatives about the fact that the draft Regulation voted in the SCFCAH of 12 December 2012, under the reference SANCO/13001/2011, would probably be adopted by the Commission on 25 June 2013. The Member States representatives accepted to consider that it will therefore be applicable 20 days after publication (i.e. on 15 July most probably), instead of 1 July 2013 as mentioned in article 2, second indent.

M.2 Recycled hot water

The Commission informed the Member States that the discussion on the use of recycled hot water in slaughterhouses could be reopened due to a strong political interest from certain third countries (Canada). The reopening of the discussion could have a very positive outcome in the commercial relationship with Canada, especially in the trade of meat and meat products from the EU. Three Member States replied that they were happy to review earlier proposal and possibly adopt something alike.
M.3 Certificate for import of sprouts or seeds destined to the production of sprouts for human consumption

The Commission has been informed by a stakeholders' association on difficulties to obtain the required certificate for these commodities from the competent authorities in certain third countries. Stakeholder association was requiring a postponement of the date of the entry into force (1 July 2013). The Member States were not aware about these difficulties. No action is envisaged for the moment.

M.4 Malta: possibility to freeze food of animal origin in an establishment different from the production establishment

Malta requested the views of Member States and the Commission on the conditions under which products of animal origin can be frozen in an establishment different from the one of production. The Commission clarified the legal requirements applicable in such cases, in particular regarding the application of the identification mark and traceability requirements.