Chair: K. Van Dyck

Twenty-five Member States were represented during the whole meeting. Portugal was absent and not represented. Latvia was absent and not represented when voting on item 2 took place.

1. Overview report of a series of Audits in Member States on food hygiene (within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), traceability, labelling and bottled water (FVO)

The series consisted of 26 audits to Member States (MSs) to assess the official control systems in place for food hygiene for food of non-animal origin and composite products at all stages of processing and distribution, as well as food of animal origin at retail level, and to evaluate the implementation of the EU legislation in the areas of traceability, labelling and bottled water.

Official controls in the area of food hygiene have been implemented in all of the MSs visited. However, in relation to the assessment of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), labelling of allergens and sampling methods, considerable weaknesses were encountered in most MSs. In addition, the level of implementation of procedures based on HACCP principles was relatively low.

2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Denmark and Panama (Doc. SANCO/12605/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: third subparagraph of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (see item 6 of the SCoFCAH of 16 November 2011)

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision aiming at amending Commission Decision 2007/453/EC in order to bring it into line with the latest World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Resolution No 17 adopted in May 2011, which classified Denmark and Panama as negligible BSE risk countries.

Vote: Qualified majority in favour (329 votes for, 16 votes absent).

The Commission presented for discussion the draft Commission Implementing Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 approving the modified national scrapie control programme of Denmark. A Danish colleague provided further details on Denmark’s programme and epidemiological situation regarding scrapie. No comment was received from the Member States’ representatives.


This proposal, as well as those mentioned under points 5, 6 and 8, constitutes follow-up to the E. coli crisis of last summer and lays down legal provisions to address the public health risk posed by sprouted seeds based on a recent European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion. As a general conclusion on the four proposals, the Commission indicated that a specific technical meeting was to be held on 26 January 2012, at which the proposals would be further elaborated.


The Commission explained that the draft Regulation lays down provisions implementing the traceability requirements set by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 relating to food business operators in respect of seeds intended for direct consumption and sprouted seeds. Food business operators are required to make available in an appropriate form to the food business operator to whom the food is supplied and, upon request, to the competent authority, information relating to the consignment. Major concerns about the import provisions for third countries were expressed by one Member State. A few other Member States requested clarifications.

and for sprouted seeds (Doc. SANCO/10038/2012) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Art. 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004)

See comment made under point 4.

7. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the use of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination from bovine carcases (Doc. SANCO/11970/2011 rev. 2) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 3(2)) (see item 10 of the SCoFCAH of 17 October 2011)

The Commission presented a revised text. Member States generally welcomed the modifications made to the proposal, namely the reference to ‘reduction’ rather than ‘removal’ of microbial surface contamination and the limitation of the scope of the proposal to the use of lactic acid only in carcasses at the level of slaughterhouses. Further explanation on compatibility with the legislation on food additives was given. The great majority of Member States have asked for labelling provisions to be included for informing the final consumer.

8. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a model declaration for import of seeds intended for direct human consumption or for the production of sprouted seeds (Doc. SANCO/10064/2012) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Art. 48(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004)

See comment made under point 4.