1. **State of play and positions of the Member States and the Commission on the implementation of the definition of mechanically separated meat (MSM)**

The Commission informed the Member States that none of the options for the implementation of the definition of MSM had received enough support. Because of this situation, Member States felt that scientific advice should be sought regarding the risks related to the various production processes before opening any future discussion on possible changes to the legislation.

Several Member States voiced the need for swift action to select an independent method to measure the muscle fibre modification in the light of an actual case of distortion of competition. Member States agreed to exchange the available information on MSM with the Commission. This information will form part of the mandate to EFSA.


The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation, the purpose of which was to grant special guarantees to Denmark for Salmonella in respect of the trade in table eggs. Denmark presented the most recent data on the prevalence of Salmonella in flocks of laying hens. There were no comments.

**Vote: Qualified majority in favour (276 votes for, 56 votes against, 13 abstentions).**
3. Exchange of views and possible opinion 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. 3) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 3 (2)) (see item 9 of the SCFCAH of 22 February 2012) (Technical agreement)

The Commission presented the latest draft of the Regulation, which provides more flexibility for food business operators as to when lactic acid solutions can be applied to carcases or half carcases or quarters. Several Member States made comments.

Vote postponed.

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2002/840/EC adopting the list of approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of foods (Doc. SANCO/10343/2012) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Directive 1999/2/EC, Article 9(2))

The Thai authorities informed the Commission that one of the approved irradiation facilities in Thailand had changed its name. The list of approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of foods would need to be amended accordingly. The Commission therefore proposed and presented the draft Implementing Decision.

Vote: Unanimously in favour.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a model certificate for import of sprouts and seeds intended for sprouts production (Doc. SANCO/10064/2012) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Art. 48(2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) (see item 8 of the SCFCAH of 22 February 2012) (Technical agreement)

The title of this item has been amended as follows:

Draft Commission Regulation on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation on certification requirements for the import of sprouts and seeds intended for sprouting. Changes which had been introduced as a follow-up to the previous discussions and the inter-service consultation were explained. Several Member States made comments. A further discussion on the draft will take place in a meeting of the working group to be held on 4 May 2012.

Vote postponed.

The title of this item has been amended as follows:

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation on traceability requirements for sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation, the aim of which is to enhance the traceability requirements for sprouts and seeds intended for sprouting. An explanation was given of the changes that had been made as a follow-up to the previous discussions and the interservice consultation. Several Member States made comments. A further discussion of the draft will take place at a meeting of the working group to be held on 4 May 2012.


The title of this item has been amended as follows:

Draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards microbiological criteria for sprouts.

The Commission presented the latest version of the draft Regulation and informed the Member States of the outcome of the discussions of the working group on microbiological criteria. A reduced expert group will be organised in May to finalize the document.