SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 JUNE 2012
(Section Biological Safety of the Food chain)

Chair: K. Van Dyck.

26 Member States were represented.

Portugal was absent and not represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Presentation of a Commission Staff Working Document on lessons learnt from the 2011 outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) O104:H4 in sprouted seeds.

The Commission presented a Commission Staff Working Document on lessons learnt from the 2011 outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) O104:H4 in sprouted seeds. The presentation covered the issues of food safety requirements, preparedness and monitoring, outbreak management and communication, along with the current legal framework, the main action taken at EU level during the crisis, the challenges encountered and the lessons learnt. Member States made no comment. The document will be published on the website of the Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG SANCO) after being presented to the Health Security Committee on 27 June.

A.2 Endorsement by the Committee of the EU-Guide to Good Hygienic Practices for Packaged Water in Europe.

The EU Guide to Good Hygienic Practices for Packaged Water in Europe had been presented to the Committee at its previous meeting on 15 May. On that occasion the United Kingdom had requested more time to make comments. At this meeting the Guide was accepted by the Committee.

A.3 Endorsement of a draft amendment to the guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.
The amendments to the Guidance Document on the implementation of certain provisions related to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 are intended to provide guidance for production and transport of sprouts and on personal hygiene. They also provide clarification as regards primary and secondary production of food of non-animal origin. One Member State disagreed to calling sprout production primary production. All the other Member States accepted the amendments, but a few expressed some doubt about the efficiency of guidance. The Commission acknowledged that the guidance is not binding, but it does provide a good example or reference against which to check the general hygiene requirements. The Guidance Document was endorsed by the Committee.


The guide had been presented to the Committee at its previous meeting on 15 May. On that occasion Greece had requested more time to make comments. At this meeting the guide was endorsed by the Committee.

B.1 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards prohibitions concerning animal feeding of processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminant animals (see item C.1 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012).

The Commission presented revision 10 of the text aiming to reintroduce processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminants in aquafeed. Three delegations said they could not support the text. One of them raised the demographic clause in the Treaty and asked the Commission to make sure that, if the text was submitted for a vote and subsequently approved by the Member States, the number of votes obtained would represent at least 62% of the population of the Union. The vote was postponed until the next Standing Committee meeting.

Vote postponed

B.2 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 as regards the methods of detection of constituents of animal origin in feed (see item C.2 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012).

The Commission presented revision 2 of the text whose main objective is to introduce the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method as an official control method in Annex VI to Regulation 152/2009 in order to verify correct implementation of the measures envisaged in the feed ban text. This text was supposed to be voted in parallel with the feed ban text. As the vote on the feed...
ban text had not taken place, it was decided not to vote on this text either and the vote was postponed until the next Standing Committee meeting.

**Vote postponed**

**B.3** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of rapid tests.

The Commission presented revision 1 of the text. The aim was to add the Prionics - Check PrioSTRIP SR (visual reading protocol) to the list of approved rapid tests for detection of TSE in small ruminants.

**Vote taken:** Qualified majority in favour (333 votes for, 12 votes absent)

**B.4** 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 (see item B.1 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012) (TECHNICAL AGREEMENT).

The Commission presented revision 4 of the text which gives food business operators more flexibility to apply lactic acid solutions where they deem it more efficient in order to reduce microbial surface contamination. The proposal was not put to a vote.

**Vote postponed**


The Commission presented a new revision of the draft Implementing Regulation, including two minor changes proposed by Ireland. A short discussion took place. Technical agreement was reached on the draft, which will now be notified to the SPS Committee.

**Vote taken:** Technical agreement

**B.6** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on the approval of establishments producing sprouts pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the Parliament and of the Council (see item C.6 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012).
The Commission presented the draft Regulation. Some Member States expressed reluctance, as they did not see the added value of approval, in particular because the annex was too minimal. The Commission explained that approval should reflect a need for closer control of these establishments and that the requirements had to remain within the legal bounds.

**Vote taken:** Qualified majority in favour (257 votes for, 29 votes against, 47 votes abstained, 12 votes absent)

**B.7** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards microbiological criteria for sprouts and the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh poultry meat (see item C.7 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012) (TECHNICAL AGREEMENT).

The Commission presented the draft Regulation on microbiological criteria for sprouts, including an amendment (for clarity purposes) on the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh poultry meat. The new draft was based on the discussions in the expert group held on 14th May 2012 and contained some changes with respect to the last version that was presented to the Member States. The Commission explained these changes. Three Member States informed that they would not support this proposal as they were of the opinion that the risk of sprouts could be dealt with better during the managing process than with the introduction of microbiological criteria. One Member State expressed the need to get more time to discuss with food business operators some practical issues related to the sampling of big batches. Another delegation expressed the need to send additional questions to the Commission regarding the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh meat. The proposal will be presented during the next Standing Committee meeting.

**Vote postponed**

**B.8** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts (see item C.8 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012) (TECHNICAL AGREEMENT).

The Commission presented the draft Regulation on certification requirements for the import of sprouts and seeds intended for sprouting. Changes made to follow up previous discussions were explained. Several Member States made comments, especially on certification requirements and import conditions, and the Commission amended the draft accordingly. Technical agreement was reached on the draft, which will now be notified to the SPS Committee.

**Vote taken:** Technical agreement