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

Chair: K. Van Dyck.

All Members States were represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Guidelines on sampling the food processing area and equipment for the detection of Listeria monocytogenes

The European Union Reference Laboratory for Listeria monocytogenes (EU-RL) presented the ‘Guidelines on sampling the food-processing area and equipment for the detection of Listeria monocytogenes’. The guidelines had been drafted by the EU-RL in collaboration with National Reference Laboratories and some stakeholders and they would be published on the internet site of the EU-RL. Member States agreed that the guidelines would be very useful for food-business operators and it would be worthwhile translating them into other languages.

B.1 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 Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Croatia and Nicaragua

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision to amend Commission Decision 2007/453 establishing the BSE status of Member States or third countries in order to bring this Decision into line with Resolution No 16 adopted in May 2012 by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). This Resolution classified Austria, Belgium, Brazil and Colombia as negligible BSE-risk countries, and Croatia and Nicaragua as controlled-BSE risk countries.

Vote taken: unanimity.

B.2 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 B.1 of the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012)

The Commission presented Revision 10 of the draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 aiming at reintroducing processed animal proteins derived from non-ruminants in aquafeed under specific conditions. One Member State asked for a printing error to be corrected; the Commission agreed. The United Kingdom (UK) made a following statement:

*The UK Government recognises the importance of risk based, proportionate policies, underpinned by good science and supports the principles outlined in TSE Roadmap 2. However, it has decided to abstain on the Commission's proposal to permit the feeding of pig and poultry processed animal protein to farmed fish, given that effective controls to prevent infective material entering the food chain must be guaranteed, tests which can differentiate the species of origin of PAP have only just been developed, and consumer acceptance of any change is expected to be low.*

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion by qualified majority (258 votes in favour, 58 votes against, 29 abstentions).

B.3 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 B.2 of the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012)

The Commission presented Revision 4 of the draft Regulation amending Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 the main objective of which is to introduce the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method as an official test for the detection of constituents of animal origin in feed in order to verify the correct implementation of the reviewed feed ban.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion by qualified majority (316 votes in favour, 29 votes against).

B.4 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see item C.5 of the SCFCAH of 15 May 2012)

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a target for the control of Salmonella in flocks of turkeys. The purpose of the draft is to confirm the EU target set for the control of Salmonella in flocks of fattening and breeding turkeys, as introduced on a transitional basis in 2010 for the two serotypes most relevant for public health (S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium)
after taking into account the opinion of European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Member States.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion by qualified majority (304 votes in favour, 12 votes against, 29 abstentions).

**B.5 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 B.7 of the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012) (TECHNICAL AGREEMENT)**

The Commission presented the proposal on microbiological criteria for sprouts, including an amendment (for clarity purposes) to the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh poultry meat. The new draft was based on the discussions held during the Standing Committee meeting of 18 June 2012 and contained some changes with respect to the latest version presented to the Member States. The main changes were the restructuring of Chapter 3.3, the possibility of an alternative sampling strategy to obtain the sample for the preliminary testing and the inclusion of two sentences in recital 7 (one referring to the conclusions of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risks of STEC in seeds and sprouted seeds and the other to the revision of microbiological criteria). The Commission explained the document and the changes.

The proposal had been presented for technical agreement and received it.