A.1 Proposals for the amendment of pig meat inspection.

The Commission outlined the proposed amendments to EU legislation relating to pig meat inspection. The proposals would in particular entail changes to Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and No 854/2004 and Commission Regulations (EC) No 2073/2005 and 2075/2005. The proposals aim to adapt pig meat inspection and make it more effective in relation to the most relevant identified risks. The Commission also informed the Member States of the next steps. The proposals will be discussed in technical working groups.

A.2 Presentation of the draft Report from the Commission on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2011.

The Commission presented the report for 2011 on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation. The report covers checks carried out both in irradiation facilities and at the product marketing stage; it was compiled on the basis of the data received from the Member States’ competent authorities. The Commission informed the delegates that it would proceed with publication of the report.

A.3 Presentation of the draft annual report on TSE monitoring in Member States in 2011.

A PowerPoint presentation summarised the draft report on transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) monitoring in Member States in 2011. Regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, the number of animals tested in 2011 decreased by 15% compared to 2010, as a consequence of the revision of the testing age limit which became applicable as of 1 July 2011 in 25 Member States (72 months in respect of healthy slaughtered cattle and 48
28 months in respect of risk animals). 28 cases were detected in 2011, down from 45 in 2010. With almost 15 years, the average age of the 2011 cases followed the rising trend of previous years. The information available in the Member States on atypical BSE was gathered and presented for the first time. About 25% of the BSE cases submitted so far to discriminatory testing are atypical. Regarding TSE in small ruminants, the level of testing was similar in 2011 and 2010. BSE was excluded after discriminatory testing of all the TSE-positive cases detected in 2010. 1416 cases of classical scrapie and 173 cases of atypical scrapie were detected in sheep in 2011, and respectively 380 and 14 in goats. The prevalence of scrapie remains highly variable among the Member States, with Cyprus and Greece experiencing by far the highest rates in the European Union. No trend could be identified regarding the prevalence of classical scrapie at EU level since 2002. But at individual Member State level the data show a significant decrease in some Member States and a worrying lack of progress in others.

A.4 Request of EFSA to Members States for permission to use 2011 annual monitoring data in the scope of the scientific opinion on “Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin”.

The Commission presented a request from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to Member States for permission to use 2011 annual monitoring data in the scope of the scientific opinion on ‘Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin’. No Member States made comments or opposed the request. Permission had been granted.

A.5 Information on "Report on competition law enforcement and market monitoring activities by European competition authorities in the food sector"

The Commission presented the recently published European Competition Network's Report on Activities in the Food Sector from 2004-2011. Following an introduction, the presentation focused on the general findings with focus on antitrust cases, merger cases and monitoring actions. Special focus was given to the animal products-specific findings of the ECN report and relevant conclusions. The report can be consulted at:


A.6 Discussion on table eggs - point raised by Sweden

Sweden wanted to discuss further the issue of ‘Best before’ date of 28 days for table eggs (quality standards of fresh eggs — AGRI legislation) and ‘Sell by’ date fixed at 21 days (eggs can only be sold to consumers within a maximum time limit of 21 days after laying — SANCO legislation). Member States that had taken the floor supported the idea of a review based on the risk. The Commission said that it would request the EFSA’s opinion on the risk linked to eggs. That opinion would be the basis for a review of this provision. This should also include
a discussion on the 28 days based on the marketing standards.

B.1 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. 4)

The Commission presented to the Committee for a vote the draft Commission Regulation on the use of lactic acid for the reduction of microbiological surface contamination on bovine carcases. The Committee did not deliver an opinion on the Commission’s proposed measures, and no qualified majority was reached either in favour or against. The Commission will therefore submit the proposal to the Council according to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.

**Vote taken:** No opinion (228 votes in favour, 82 votes against, 35 abstentions)

B.2 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I, III, VII, VIII, IX and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards definitions, control and eradication measures in small ruminants, rules for intra-community trade in small ruminants, rules for imports and laboratory testing. (Doc.SANCO/13001/2011 rev.4)

The Commission presented the draft SANCO/13001/2011 Rev. 5., regarding the proposed amendment of Annexes I, III, VII, VIII, IX and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. In addition to a number of minor adjustments, this draft introduces a much clearer distinction between classical scrapie and atypical scrapie. Eradication measures and movement restrictions will no longer apply to holdings where cases of atypical scrapie are confirmed. The conditions applicable to trade in live ovines and caprines and their semen and embryos are made more consistent with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recommendations, which involves the creation of two types of status for holdings with regard to classical scrapie: holding with a controlled risk and holding with a negligible risk of classical scrapie. All future cases of BSE will have to be submitted to further discriminatory testing. The date of entry into force of some of the provisions of the draft was discussed and may still be adjusted in the future. Document SANCO/13001/2011 Rev. 5 was submitted to a technical agreement. The majority of the Member States voted in favour. The text will be presented for a formal vote at the Standing Committee of November 2012.

B.3 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation for the purposes of Council Decision 2009/470/EC as regards Union financial aid to the EUR reference laboratories for feed and food and the animal health sector. (Doc. SANCO/11488/2012)

Item removed from the Agenda.

The Commission presented revision 2 of the draft Implementing Regulation repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 546/2006 and Implementing Regulation (EC) No 233/2012. The provisions of these two Regulations (dealing with national scrapie control programmes) are to be transferred to the draft Commission Regulation having reference SANCO/13001/2011 (please see item B.2). They should therefore be repealed on the same day that SANCO/13001/2011 comes into force. This draft should be put to the vote of the Committee next November, together with the formal vote on the draft Commission Regulation SANCO/13001/2011.


In connection with point A.1, the Commission presented a draft proposal to amend Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and No 854/2004. The proposal includes provisions regarding the information to be included in the food chain information, the tasks of the official auxiliaries in relation to ante-mortem inspection, the presence of the official veterinarian during ante-mortem inspection, and the methodology for post-mortem inspection procedures. The proposal will be discussed in technical working groups.

C.3 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards Salmonella in pig carcases

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs as regards Salmonella in pig carcases. Some Member States supported the initiative but others expressed reluctance as it should be necessary to provide flexibility for small food business operators. The Commission explained that the possibility of reducing sampling for small slaughterhouses is already provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. More discussions will take place in the working group on 12 October 2012.

specific rules on official controls for Trichinella in meat

In connection with point A.1, the Commission presented a draft proposal to amend Commission Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005. The proposal includes several provisions to review the official controls for Trichinella in meat, including provisions on Trichinella testing and recognition of holdings and countries adapted to the actual risk. The proposal will be discussed in technical working groups.

M.1 Austria wished to inform the Committee of a Salmonella Stanley outbreak that is ongoing in several Member States. Austria presented the results of its investigations in regard to humans, food and animals. The Commission briefly presented a joint ECDC/EFSA risk assessment on the outbreak, which would be published the next day. The Commission also asked for available data on the strain typing.