Chair: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were represented.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A.1 Exchange of views of the Committee and possible endorsement on a draft modification of the guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on the hygiene of food of animal origin: Guidance on the term 'obviously contaminated' in relation to parasites in fishery products

The hygiene Regulation states that fish and fishery products cannot be placed on the market if they are 'obviously contaminated' with parasites. Various interpretations of 'obviously contaminated' by Member States cause trade problems. The Commission presented a guidance text on the term 'obviously contaminated' in relation to parasites in fishery products to be added under Technical Issues as new Points 5.15 and 5.16 in the ‘Guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on the hygiene of food of animal origin’. The guidance text was endorsed with Spain being against.

A.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft text on the hygiene Regulations and import of food of animal origin to the European Union

This draft Statement, requested by Italy and Spain, addresses the basic principles of the hygiene Regulations for a harmonised import regime, the state of play during the on-going transitional period and the rules for non-harmonised products when imported into one Member State and thereafter placed on the marked in another Member State. After discussion with the Member States the Commission decided that a more complete and detailed document will be elaborated and presented probably at the Standing Committee in July.

A.3 Exchange of views of the Committee and possible endorsement of Assifonte’s European Guide for the hygienic manufacture of the processed cheese

The guide serves as a reference for designing food-safety control systems for processed cheese, from planning and documentation to implementation.
Some points in the guide still need to be clarified and to allow for further discussion, it will probably be presented for endorsement in June.

A.4 Exchange of views of the Committee and possible endorsement of EDA-EUCOLAIT European guide on cheese as raw material in the manufacture of food products

The guide is intended for use by any food business operator using cheese material as a raw material in the manufacture of food.

It was clear from the discussion that some points in the guide still needed to be clarified. The Commission and the Member States agreed that further discussion was needed.

A.5 Draft Guidelines for the validation of new methods for the detection of Trichinella larvae in meat samples

The Commission reported on the EU Reference Laboratory’s review of the guideline for the validation of alternative methods for detecting Trichinella in meat. The aim was to establish a quicker and more flexible procedure. The guideline was endorsed unanimously.

A.6 Request on the use of EFSA zoonoses monitoring data as part of an EU IP PROMISE (265877 PROMISE) to study trends and patterns in reported incidence of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and anti-microbial resistance

The Promise Consortium, funded by the Commission’s Research Directorate-General, had asked to be able to use the zoonoses monitoring data reported by Member States to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to produce its trend analyses. This was accepted on condition that the analyses be presented to the Committee before publication and subject to possible additional comments to be submitted by the end of the week.

B.1 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards histamine in fishery products (see item C.4 of the SCFCAH of 19 February 2013)

The draft Commission Regulation aligns the EU legislation on microbiological criteria for foodstuff regarding the food safety criterion for histamine in fish sauce made by fermentation with the Codex Alimentarius standard 302-2011, and lays down the sampling plan. In addition it addresses some unclarities related to the present text and footnotes of Chapter 1 of Annex 1 to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.

Vote taken: unanimous in favour.

This draft Commission Regulation on a review of pigmeat inspections includes provisions on competent authority monitoring of compliance with the process hygiene criterion for Salmonella on pig carcasses, the introduction of visual post-mortem inspection as the routine inspection, the dropping of the special health mark and restricting meat from emergency slaughter to national markets only. After some initial discussion on the date of application, it was decided that the proposed date of 1 June 2014 should be maintained.

**Vote taken:** qualified majority (289 votes in favour, 22 votes against, 34 votes in abstention).

**B.3 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards Salmonella in pig carcasses (see item B.2 of the SCFCAH of 16 April 2013)**

The draft aims to strengthen existing process hygiene criteria in order to reduce the tolerance margin for the presence of Salmonella on carcasses of slaughter pigs. No substantial comments were made by the Member States.

**Vote taken:** qualified majority (335 in favour, 10 votes against).

**B.4 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005 laying down specific rules on official controls for Trichinella in meat (see item B.3 of the SCFCAH of 16 April 2013)**

The draft Commission Regulation includes a review of Trichinella controls, involving a risk based approach taking account of holdings’ status (controlled housing conditions), the phasing-out of systematic testing (for holdings with less risk) and procedural simplification. This reflects the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) approach. Member States discussed the date of application of the derogation for pigs aged less than five weeks.

**Vote taken:** qualified majority (269 votes in favour, 10 votes against, 66 votes in abstention).

**C.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of frogs' legs, snails, gelatine, collagen, material for the production of collagen and gelatine and honey, royal jelly and other products of apiculture for human consumption and the health certificates requirements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and repealing Decision 2003/812/EC**

This draft Commission Implementing Regulation consolidates the lists of third countries from which certain products of animal origin can be imported and the model health certificates to be used. It establishes some new lists and certificates in the on-going process to harmonize the imports according to the hygiene Regulations. It also lays down animal health requirements for imports of raw materials for the production of gelatine and collagen.

In addition to written comments from two Member States some additional comments were presented in the meeting. No major concerns were expressed.
After making amendments, inter alia based on input from Member States and stakeholders, the final draft Implementing Regulation shall be voted in the next SCFCAH – Section Animal Health & Welfare.

C.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria. Member States made technical comments about aspects of the analytical methods, sampling procedures and the number of samples, and reiterated the need for co-financing.


The aim of this draft is to extend, from 31 December 2013 to 31 December 2016, certain transitional arrangements on the hygiene package under Regulation (EC) No 1162/2009. The extension is needed pending the adoption of final provisions under the on-going revision by ordinary procedure of the basic acts. The Lisbon Treaty provides for different procedures for the extensions in question and two different acts (see point C4) are required. Member States made no comments on the draft Commission Regulation.

C.4 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on transitional arrangements for the application of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the accreditation of official laboratories carrying out Trichinella controls

A discussion took place on the extension of transitional measures for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (accreditation of Trichinella laboratories). Three Member States expressed objections of principle to the draft Regulation.