SHORT REPORT
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 FEBRUARY 2003
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

President: Mrs. Patricia Brünko for points 1, 2 & 9; Mr. Henri Belveze for points 3 to 8.
All the Member States were present.

1. Final report of a mission carried out in the Netherlands from 9-12 September 2002 in order to evaluate the controls over the production, processing and placing on the market of Casein and other milk-based products, including milk-based products not intended for human consumption (DG(SANCO)/8659/2002)

The Commission reported on the mission carried out in the Netherlands from 9-12 September 2002 in order to evaluate the controls over the production, processing and placing on the market of Casein and other milk-based products, including milk-based products not intended for human consumption

2. Distribution for information / Distribution pour information:

The Commission distributed the following documents:

- Final report of a mission carried out in Cyprus from 21 to 25 October 2002 in order to evaluate food safety controls (food hygiene, contaminants, and pesticides residues) (DG(SANCO)/8712/2002)

- Draft report of a mission to Cyprus from 4 to 6 July 2002 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/8662/2002)

- Draft report of a mission carried out in the Czech Republic from 24 to 27 June 2002 in order to evaluate food safety controls (food hygiene, contaminants, and pesticide residues) (DG(SANCO)/8640/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in the Czech Republic from 15 to 26 April 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Czech authorities for the up-grading of certain classes of food processing establishments and to review associated live animal controls (DG(SANCO)/8532/2002)

- Draft report of a mission carried out in Lithuania from 18 to 22 November 2002 in order to evaluate food safety controls (food hygiene, contaminants, and pesticide residues) (DG(SANCO)/8705/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Poland from 15 to 26 April 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Polish authorities for the up-grading of certain classes
of food processing establishments and to review associated live animal controls. (DG(SANCO)/8541/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Slovakia from 27 May to 7 June 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Slovakian authorities for the up-grading of certain classes of meat processing establishments and to review associated live animal controls. (DG(SANCO)/8642/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Bulgaria from 25 February to 1 March 2002 in order to carry out a general evaluation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and BSE-related measures (DG(SANCO)/8520/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Lithuania from 21 to 25 January 2002 in order to carry out a general evaluation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and BSE-related measures (DG(SANCO)/8519/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Latvia from 25 February to 1 March 2002 in order to carry out a general evaluation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and BSE-related measures (DG(SANCO)/8518/2002)

- Final report of a mission carried out in Malta from 25 to 28 February 2002 in order to carry out a general evaluation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and BSE-related measures (DG(SANCO)/8521/2002)

- Final report of a mission to Slovenia from 9 to 13 September 2002 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/8681/2002)

3. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 93/13/EEC laying down the procedures for veterinary checks at Community border inspection posts on products from third countries.** (Doc SANCO/10553/2002)

For the proper functioning of the system of veterinary checks in the internal market, all the information pertaining to a product introduced into the Community should be included in a single simplified document with a uniform format, in order to reduce as far as possible the problems associated with the use of different languages in different Member States. The existing certificate (Annex B to Commission Decision 93/13/EEC) needed to be updated to take into account the requirements of Directive 97/78/EC in comparison to Directive 90/675/EEC, which was now repealed.

The Commission therefore presented to vote a certificate of veterinary checks on products from thirds countries, the ‘Common Veterinary Entry Document’ (CVED), be used from 1 September 2003 and which was to meet the requirements of the United Nations Lay Out Key for trade documents. This CVED certificate would be similar to the single administrative document (SAD) already harmonised in the EU for Customs purposes.

**Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)**
4. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/569/EC as regards the inclusion of Hungary, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic establishments in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of wild game meat products (SANCO/10025/2003)**

The Commission proposed to add the following establishments to the provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of wild game meat products:

- Mavad-Vecsés Vadfeldolgozó Kft and Öreglaki Vadfeldolgozó Kft from Hungary;
- MIP d.d. Salame Tolmin and Droga Izola from Slovenia;
- FONS SLOVAKIA spol. s.r.o. from Slovakia.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

5. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Sri Lanka (SANCO/10041/2003)**

This point was postponed until the 18 March 2003 SCFCAH.

6. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/296/EC drawing up the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products for human consumption is authorised, with respect to Sri Lanka (SANCO/10042/2003)**

This point was postponed until the 18 March 2003 SCFCAH.


Following a restructuring of the Latvian administration, the competent authority for health certificates for fishery products, the “State Veterinary Service (SVS) of the Ministry of Agriculture”, has changed into the “Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) of the Republic of Latvia”. The Commission therefore proposed to amend Decision 2000/85/EC laying down special conditions governing imports of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Latvia.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

The Commission proposed to add the following countries to the list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of certain products subject to Council Directive 92/118/EEC, with respect to imports of frogs' legs: Egypt.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

9. MISCELLANEOUS

(1) The Commission informed the Committee that it had received no comments on the notification under the SPS Agreement of the Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/657/EC as regards the setting of Minimum Required Performance Limits (MRPLs) for certain residues in food of animal origin. Therefore, the procedure for formal adoption of the Decision would now be launched.

(2) Information on the dioxin contamination incident in Germany:

A plant in Thüringen (DE) produced dried bakery waste for use in feed. Due to a bad drying process, the dried bakery waste contained dioxin above the EU maximum limit. The regional control authorities detected the contamination during a routine monitoring programme. As soon as the authorities in Thüringen realised that the problem had extended to other Länder and to the Netherlands, they informed the Federal authorities, who triggered the RASFF.

At the meeting, Germany and the Netherlands made a detailed presentation of the situation. In Germany, all the bakery waste had been traced and all feed producers and farms blocked. Testing was on-going. Since 17 February, contamination of sugar beet pulp dried in the same plant in Thüringen had been identified. Here also tracing was going on and the same approach applied. It seemed that this product had been distributed only locally. The German representative confirmed that, besides the 1200 tons of bakery waste and the 950 tons of sugar beet shreds, nothing else had been dried in the drying plant during the period at risk.

In the Netherlands, all feed and concerned farms had also been traced and blocked; testing was being carried out.

It was agreed that no feed or food above the limit fixed at EC level could enter into the feed or food chain. If necessary, the issue would be placed on the agenda of the Standing Committee on 20 February 2003.

With regard to action to avoid the recurrence of this kind of contamination, The Commission recalled:

- The Recommendation of March 2002 on dioxin monitoring, which asked the Member States to control the production of feed materials
the Recommendation of 10 February 2003 on the coordinated inspection programme for 2003, which specifically asked the Member States to perform control of contamination of by-products of the food industry used in feed as a result of drying processes. Member States were requested to report on actions taken to implement this Recommendation at the next meeting of the Standing Committee – Section on animal nutrition on 19-20 March.

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html

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