FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS
A L’ATTENTION DE TOUTES LES REPRESENTATIONS PERMANENTES
ZU HÄNDEN VON ALLEN STÄNDIGEN VERTRETUNGEN

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1. Information from the Commission on the state of play of approval of national residue plans for 2003 in the Member States

The Commission updated the state of play of the approval of the Member States national residue monitoring plans for 2003.

The situation could be divided in 2 groups:

1. Plans from Austria, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and United Kingdom were approved in October 2003.
2. Plans from Spain, France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Greece, Ireland were discussed at the last working group of experts on 1 December 2003 and the formal letters to the Member States have been sent on 18 December 2003. If there are no comments, the plans are deemed to be approved within 10 working days after this date.

2. Information from the Commission on the working procedure for reporting results in the framework of Directive 96/23/EC

The Commission distributed a working document (SANCO/2003/5300) including the harmonised documents to be used for the reporting of the results of the implementation of national residue monitoring plans for 2003. All results should be transmitted electronically using the standard documents provided by the Commission.

3. Information at the request of the Czech delegation about difficulties of stamping food after 01 May 2004

The Czech Delegation made a presentation on health marking and labelling after its accession into the EU.
4. **Documents for distribution / Documents pour distribution:**

- Working document on details and work programmes of Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (biological risks) for 2004 (Document SANCO/133/2003) JCC (see Point 8)

  The Commission distributed copies of the workprogrammes for 2004 and explained them. The MS endorsed the workprogrammes of the Community Reference Laboratories for biological risks.

- Working document on details and work programmes of Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (residues) for 2004 (Document SANCO/2003/5076 – CMT/2003/5596) ABR (see Point 9)

  The Commission distributed copies of the workprogrammes for 2004 and explained them. The MS endorsed the workprogrammes of the Community Reference Laboratories for residues.

5. **Distribution pour information / Distribution for information:**

- Report of a mission carried out in Estonia from 06 to 10 October 2003 in order to review the plan submitted by the Estonian authorities for the upgrading of fishery products and egg products establishments [DG(SANCO)/9235/2003 – CMT/2003/5570]

- Report of a mission carried out in Cyprus from 06 to 10 October 2003 in order to review the plan submitted by the authorities of Cyprus for the upgrading of poultry meat and egg products establishments and the organisation of pre-slaughter inspection and post-mortem inspection of poultry [DG(SANCO)/9236/2003 – CMT/2003/5571]


- Report of a mission carried out in Lithuania from 20 to 24 October 2003 in order to review the plan submitted by the Lithuanian authorities for the upgrading of poultry meat and egg products establishments and the organisation of pre-slaughter inspection and post-mortem inspection of poultry [DG(SANCO)/9228/2003 – CMT/2003/5573]

The Commission distributed an update of the three-monthly report established on the basis of Member States' reports as requested by Decision 2003/460/EC on emergency measures regarding hot chilli and hot chilli products. In addition, a summary of the Rapid Alert System notifications indicating positive findings of Sudan dyes, a summary of favourable tests carried out by Member States and the analytical method used to detect the four Sudan dyes were also provided.

The Commission presented a draft Decision extending the current measures to cover the four Sudan dyes and a further chilli product (curry powder). Following a Member State request, the Commission explained that the operators should bear the cost of sampling and analyses in relation to Article 2 paragraph 1 and 3 but not for the checks on the market covered by Article 3. Member States voted in favour of the draft measure.

Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)

7. Exchange of view and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the implementation of surveys for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds to be carried out during 2004 (Document SANCO/10737/2003, Rev.1 – CMT/2003/5575)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision providing that Member States should submit for approval to the Commission by 15 March 2004 plans for the implementation of surveys of avian influenza in poultry and wild birds, and fixing the rate of the Community’s financial contribution.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour

8. Exchange of view and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (biological risks) for the year 2004 (Document SANCO/5188/2003 – CMT/2003/5678)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (biological risks) for the year 2004.

Vote: 84 votes in favour, 3 votes abstention (qualified majority)

9. Exchange of view and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the veterinary
public health field (residues) for the year 2004 (Document SANCO/5209/2003 – CMT/2003/5581-5680)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (residues) for the year 2004.

Vote: 69 votes in favour, 10 votes against, 3 votes abstention, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft decision amending Commission Decision 2003/126/EC as regards the financial assistance for two Community reference laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (biological risks) in Spain and the United Kingdom for the year 2003.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the quantitative assessment of the residual BSE risk in products derived from bovine animals (Document SANCO/4943/2003 – CMT/2003/5583)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the quantitative assessment of the residual BSE risk in products derived from bovine animals.

Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the evaluation of methods to detect processed animal proteins in feedings stuffs (Document SANCO/4944/2003 – CMT/2003/5585)
The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the evaluation of methods to detect processed animal proteins in feedingstuffs.

**Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision as regards the inclusion of the Mecom Ltd. (Silistra) establishment in Bulgaria and the Kukori Kft. (Szatymaz) establishment in Hungary in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorize imports of ratite meat.

**Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision as regards trade in ovine and caprine animals for breeding, no longer extending restrictions on animals entering holdings wishing to send breeding sheep and goats for intra-community trade to sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

A technical agreement was reached with one Member State against, one abstaining and one absent. The document was notified to the WTO under the SPS Agreement.


This point was postponed.

This point was postponed.

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision repealing Decision 96/293/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to fishery products originating in Mauritania (Document SANCO/10647/2003 – CMT/2003/5591)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision repealing Decision 96/293/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to fishery products originating in Mauritania.

Vote : 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 95/328/EC establishing a health certification for fishery products from third countries which are not yet covered by a specific decision (Document SANCO/10786/2003 – CMT/2003/5592)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision prolonging health certification for fishery products from third countries which are not yet covered by a specific decision until 31 December 2005.

Vote : 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 96/333/EC establishing health certification of live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods from third countries which are not yet covered by a specific decision (Document SANCO/10787/2003 – CMT/2003/5593)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision prolonging health certification of live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods from third countries which are not yet covered by a specific decision until 31 December 2005.

Vote : 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision on the Community’s financial assistance to Community reference laboratories under Article 28 of Decision 90/424/EEC.

*Vote*: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority)


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision recognising the system of surveillance networks implemented in France in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC and repealing Decision 2002/907/EC.

*Vote*: Unanimous vote in favour

22. Miscellaneous/divers


- The Slovak Delegation made a presentation and distributed to the Commission and the Member States detailed reports on 5 outbreaks of classical swine fever in domestic pigs in Slovakia (in Nitrica, Dolne Vestenice, Koš, Rajcova Kostolna Ves & Ruskovce).

  The Commission informed the Member States that an expert had been sent to Slovakia in order to provide technical assistance.

- The Italian Delegation reported on recent cases in Italy of 8 cases of histamine contamination from vacuum-packed frozen tuna filets, imported directly from Indonesia, via the Netherlands. The Italian delegation further announced the presence of salmonella and suspected a treatment with carbon monoxide, which is not authorised in the EU.

  The Commission informed the Italian Delegation and the other Member States that all the information had been distributed through the Rapid Alert System and that Indonesia had been asked to de-list the 2 establishments involved.
Moreover, it was announced that the FVO had been asked to include Indonesia in its 2004 work programme for fishery products.

- The French Delegation reported on cases of scrapie in 3 ARR/ARR resistant sheep of 5, 8 and 17 years of age.

- The Commission announced to the Member States that it would propose at the 28-29 January 2004 SCFCAH meeting to reduce testing of residues of nitrofuranes in poultry meat from Brazil from 100% to 20%.

- The Commission confirmed that there was no problem with the importation of live bivalve molluscs from Morocco as all the relevant zones are open.

- The Commission announced to the Member States that the suspension of the importation of fishery products from Angola was lifted. Nevertheless, products caught, tested and produced before 31 November 2003 still cannot be exported into the Community.

- The Commission distributed to the Member States a report on Rapid Alert System (RASFF) notifications concerning positive tests of Sudan dyes in Chilli and Chilli Products.

- The Commission reported to the Member States on a proposal made by the United States of America on minimal BSE risk regions. A draft reply of the Commission presenting the case of the EU to the US authorities was distributed and Member States were invited to send their comments by 17 December 2003 at the latest.

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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