1. Information from the Commission on research project on semicarbazide (GG)

The Commission asked the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to co-ordinate a project that would improve the performance of analytical methods to detect semicarbazide (SEM) and nitrofurazone in food. The project is divided into 2 parts with a total of five subprojects focusing on:

- The identification of an alternative indicator (marker residue) for nitrofurazone;
- The development and validation (in-house and collaborative trial) of analytical methods for SEM analysis in various food products;
- Baby food analysis (method validation, monitoring and investigation of sources for contamination);
- The development and validation of a screening method for semicarbazide for food products;
- The determination of the content of SEM in selected food products that are likely to contain this substance.

Together with the activities managed by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), focusing on the determination of the significance of SEM in food for human health, the JRC project would contribute to the determination of the sources of SEM, allow to better differentiate these source through chemical analysis and to, hopefully, unambiguously display any illegal use of nitrofurazone in food-producing animals.


As laid down in Article 8 of Directive 96/23/EC, the Commission has to report to the Member States on the outcome of the checks carried out, in particular on the implementation of the national plans and the developments of the situation in the various regions of the Community. To this end, the Commission presented the "Report for 2002 on the results of residue monitoring in food of animal origin in
the Member States". The Commission will prepare a communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of actions taken at regional, national or Community level, bearing in mind the report, the Member States comments on it and the information included in the answers to the questionnaires on the actions taken in response to positive findings by the Member States distributed to the Member States in the SCFCAH on 19 March 2003.

The Commission informed the Member States that the Commission staff working paper on the implementation of national residue monitoring plans in the Member States in 2001 has been published in the SANCO website http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/workdoc_2001_en.pdf

3. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down transitional measures for the marketing of certain products of animal origin obtained in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia (Document SANCO/10803/2003, Rev. 1) (HJB)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down transitional measures for the marketing of certain products of animal origin obtained in the new Member States, in order to facilitate the transition from the existing regime to that resulting from the application of the Community veterinary legislation, in particular as regards the structure of and hygiene in establishments and the control and the health marking of the products. Those measures take into account the origin of those products of animal origin and the stocks of packaging and packing and labels material bearing printed marks.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down the transitional measures to be applied by Hungary with regard to veterinary checks on live animals entering Hungary from Romania (Document SANCO/10160/2003, Rev. 3) (NGB)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision setting down the procedures required for the carrying out of veterinary checks on live animals received at the border between Hungary and Romania border. For a transitional period of three years, the use of veterinary inspection centres a short distance from the actual border crossing point will be permitted. Documentary checks will be carried out at the actual border crossing point, and then consignments will be moved under supervision of the competent authority to the inspection centres for any physical or identity checks to be carried out.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision on transitional sanitary and certification conditions under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards importation of technical gelatine intended for the photographic industry from Japan into The Netherlands (Rotterdam), and from the United States of America into France (Le Havre) and the United Kingdom (Liverpool & Felixstowe).

Vote : Postponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation on transitional measures as regards the import and transit of certain products from certain third countries. It concerns a derogation regarding the importation from Australia, Canada, China and the United States of America and would apply from 1 May 2004 until 31 October 2005, in relation to products from processing plants.

Vote : Postponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down the conditions to authorized the imports from Morocco of bivalve molluscs belonging to the species Acanthocardia tuberculatum and harvested under the conditions of Decision 96/77/EC (Document SANCO/10083/2004) (CL)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision authorizing the import from Morocco of processed and canned bivalve molluscs belonging to the species *Acanthocardia tuberculatum*. The Decision aims at putting these bivalve molluscs for human consumption after having undergone, following a suitable heat treatment reducing the level of paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) to undetectable levels, a test lot by lot to demonstrate that the products do not contain a residual PSP level detectable by the bioassay method.

Vote : Postponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH
8. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Romania (Document SANCO/10084/2004, Rev.1) (CL)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Romania and authorising the Condemar S.A. (Constanta), Europesca S.R.L. (Timis), Black Sea Sturgeon S.R.L. (Tulcea), Kaviar House S.R.L. (Bucuresti), MF Import Export S.R.L. (Bucuresti), Blapis Prod S.A. (Brasov) and Conectii International S.A. (Galati) establishments.

Vote : Posponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Zimbabwe and authorising the Lake Harvest Aquaculture Pvt Ltd (Kariba) establishment.

Vote : Posponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH

10. 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 is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Romania and Zimbabwe (Document SANCO/10088/2004) (CL)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Romania and Zimbabwe.

Vote : Posponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 1999/813/EC laying down special conditions governing imports of fishery products originating in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as regards the nomination of the competent authority (Document SANCO/10784/2003) (CL)

Following a restructuring of the Vietnamese administration, the competent authority for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of the Community legislation has changed to the “National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary Directorate (NAFIQAVED)”. The Commission therefore presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending the conditions
governing imports of fishery products originating in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as regards the nomination of the competent authority.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

12. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2000/333/EC laying down special conditions for the import of bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods originating in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as regards the nomination of the competent authority (Document SANCO/10785/2003) (CL)**

Following a restructuring of the Vietnamese administration, the competent authority for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of the Community legislation has changed to the “National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary Directorate (NAFIQAVED)”. The Commission therefore presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending conditions for the import of bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods originating in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as regards the nomination of the competent authority.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

13. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards the import of cervid products from Canada and the United States of America (Document SANCO 3440/2003, Rev. 3) (JM)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation amending Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the import of cervid products from Canada and the United States of America. The regulation would aim at minimising the potential public and animal health risk posed by the importation of fresh meat, meat products and meat preparations of farmed and wild cervidae.

**Vote: Possponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH**

14. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on protective measures with regard to certain live animals and animal products originating in or coming from Albania (Codification of Decision 94/621) (YB)**

The Commission presented to the Member States, in the interests of clarity and rationality, a codified version of Decision 94/621/EC on protective measures with regard to certain live animals and animal products originating in or coming from Albania, which has been substantially amended several times.
Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States, a draft Regulation approving, under certain conditions and for certain categories of materials, the processes of alkaline hydrolysis, high pressure high temperature hydrolysis, high pressure hydrolysis biogas, biodiesel production and Brookes gasification. The draft also amends Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards biogas transformation and processing of animal fat, which is necessary as a consequence of the approval of the above processes.

Vote: Postponed until the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH

16. Miscellaneous/Divers

- The Commission informed the Member States on the 16 March 2004 joint meeting of the Biological Safety of the Food Chain section of the SCFCAH and the Technical Waste Management Committee.

- The Commission informed the Member States that the 17 March 2004 meeting of the Biological Safety of the Food Chain and Controls and Import Conditions sections of the SCFCAH would take place in the morning only and would be followed by a meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers in the afternoon.

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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