SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 17 MARCH 2004
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

President: Eric Poudelet for points 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-17; Patricia Brunko for point 6b;
Michael Scannel for points 3, 4, 6a, 7-10.
All the Member States were present.

1. Draft report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of TSE in the EU in 2003, including the results of the survey of prion protein genotypes in sheep breeds (KDS)

The Commission presented a preliminary version of the 2003 report on TSE monitoring in the EU. Member States were requested to forward the information still missing to update the figures where necessary

2. Distribution pour information / Distribution for information:


- Report of a follow-up mission carried out in Hungary from 19 to 23 January 2004 concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and animal nutrition [DG(SANCO)/7004/2004 – MR]

- Report of a follow-up mission carried out in Poland from 19 to 23 January 2004 concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and animal nutrition [DG(SANCO)/7005/2004 – MR]

- Report of a follow-up mission carried out in Lithuania from 19 to 23 January 2004 concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and animal nutrition [DG(SANCO)/7006/2004 – MR]


3. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 99/710/EC as regards the inclusion of establishments in Iceland in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of minced meat and meat preparations (Document SANCO/10140/2004) (RM)
The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards the inclusion of the Kaupfelag V-Huntvetninga (Hvammstangi) and Kaupfelag Skagfirdinga (Saudarkrokur) establishments in Iceland in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of minced meat and meat preparations.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/365/EC as regards the inclusion of establishments in Iceland in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of meat products (Document SANCO/10141/2004) (RM)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards the inclusion of the Kaupfelag V-Huntvetninga (Hvammstangi), Sölufélag A-Hunvetninga (Blonduos), Nordlenska (Husavik) and Kaupfelag Skagfirdinga (Saudarkrokur) establishments in Iceland in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States authorise imports of meat products.


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.

Technical vote: The document was notified to the WTO under the SPS Agreement.


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.

Vote: 74 votes in favour, 8 votes abstention, 5 votes against (qualified majority)

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 95/30/EC to lay down the conditions for imports from Morocco of bivalve molluscs belonging to the species *Acanthocardia tuberculatum* harvested and processed under the conditions of Decision 96/77/EC (Document SANCO/10083/2004, Rev. 2) (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: 84 votes in favour, 3 votes against (qualified majority)

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: Unanimous vote in favour

9. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Zimbabwe (Document SANCO/10087/2004, Rev. 1) (CL)

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: Unanimous vote in favour
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 Rumania and Zimbabwe (Document SANCO/10088/2004, Rev. 1) (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: 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.

Technical vote: The document was notified to the WTO under the SPS Agreement

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards processing of animal by-products of fish origin and commercial document for the transportation of animal by-products (Document SANCO/4708/2003, Rev. 4) (KSV)


Technical vote: The document was notified to the WTO under the SPS Agreement.

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision extending the scope of Decision 2003/322/EC implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the feeding of certain
necrophagous birds with certain Category 1 materials (Document SANCO/5366/2003, Rev. 2) (KSV)

Point removed from the agenda


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: 63 votes in favour, 10 votes abstention, 14 votes against (qualified majority)

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the import and transit of certain products from certain third countries (Document SANCO/4076/2003, Rev. 7) (KSV)

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: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision clarifying the method of calculation for the conversion of the results of the bacteriological tests of meat set out in Decision 2001/471/EC

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour
16a. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2001/881/EC and 2002/459/EC as regards changes and further additions to the list of border inspection posts (Document SANCO/10145/2004) (NGB)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards changes and further additions to the list of border inspection posts.

**Vote:** Unanimous vote in favour


Several Member States took measures to temporarily prohibit the placing on the market of jelly mini-cups containing additives derived from seaweed because they constitute a life-threatening risk. Even if the shape and size are the main cause, the risk also originates from the chemical and physical properties of these additives. In the present case, warning through labelling would not be sufficient to protect human health, especially with regard to children.

The Commission therefore presented to the Member States a draft Decision suspending the placing on the market and import of jelly mini-cups containing the food additives E400, E401, E402, E403, E.404, E405, E406, E407 and E407a and the use of these additives in jelly mini-cups and imports of jelly mini-cups containing these additives in order to protect human health. The Commission announced it would present the draft Decision for a formal vote at the 25 March 2004 meeting of the Animal Nutrition section of the SCFCAH.

17. Miscellaneous/Divers

No points were raised by the Commission or the Member States under Miscellaneous.

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](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html)
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