1. **Trade of mechanically separated meat between “old” and “new” Member States. Information to the Chief Veterinary Officers (Comitology Register: CMT/2004/3195)**

The Commission outlined to the Member States the absence of legal basis to permit, since 1 May 2004, trade between the old and the new Member States of non-heat treated mechanically separated poultry meat, until the application of the new Hygiene Regulation on 1 January 2006.

Nevertheless, some Member States expressed their wish to see transitional measures adopted before then and the Commission therefore invited them to provide an official request for the continuation of such a trade.


The Commission presented the 2003 Report on the Monitoring of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy in the EU, which was accepted by the Member States.


Commission Decision 2002/657/EC of 12 August 2002 implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of the results entered into force on 1 September 2002. Advice and training on validation of analytical methods according to this Decision has been offered in workshops organised by the Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) for the benefit of the national reference laboratories (NRLs) under the CRL-NRL framework.
A working group of experts was held in Brussels on 15 July 2004 with the purpose of formulating recommendations/guidelines to facilitate a harmonised implementation of the Decision. These guidelines reflect the views of the meeting participants. It deals in particular with procedures for the calculation of CCα and CCβ and their relation with the MRPLs.

The United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden indicated that they would send comments in writing before 15 October 2004.

The Commission explained that the document had already been distributed through the CRL-NRL network for information and comments.

4. Distribution pour information / Distribution pour information:


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 distributed for information the "Report for 2003 on the results of residue monitoring in food of animal origin in the Member States". The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council on the results of actions taken at regional, national or Community level, bearing in mind the report distributed in the SCFCAH on 21 September 2004, the Member States comments on it and the information included in the answers to the questionnaires on the actions taken in response to non-compliant results reported by the Member States.

Two remaining Member States were invited to submit their questionnaires before the end of September 2004.


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision recognising the Community standard testing method for *Enterobacteriaceae* and Total Viable Count in meat, as equivalent to the US testing method for *Escherichia*
coli, as well as approving an additional set of audit guidelines, including guidelines on animal health legislation.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision lifting the embargo on Portugal and removing all restrictions on the export of cows, beef and related animal products. The embargo was adopted in November 1998 because of the high rate of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in Portugal at that time combined with inadequate management of the disease.

An inspection by the FVO in February 2004 showed that Portugal has fully implemented the rules and taken all the actions required by the legislation. Currently, the BSE incidence rate in Portugal, calculated over the previous 12 months, is well below the upper limit for countries with a moderate BSE risk as defined in the International Animal Health Code (200 cases per million of adult cattle in the previous 12 months). Furthermore, the test results indicate that the BSE incidence rate is on a downward trend.

**Vote: 114 votes in favour, 10 votes against (qualified majority)**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision adding the PJSC “Lianozovo Dairy” (Moscow, Moscow), “Altayholod” Ltd (Barnaul, Altayskiy Territory) and PJSC “Lipetskii Hladokombinat” (Lipetsk (Lipetsk Region) establishments in Russia in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import milk and milk-based products for human consumption.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards the inclusion of the M/s. Narmada Gelatines Ltd. (Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh), M/s. Kerala Chemicals & Proteins Ltd., Gelatine Division (Kochi, Kerala), M/s. Sterling Gelatine (Village Karakhadi, Gujarat), M/s. Raymon Patel Gelatine Pvt. Ltd. (Vasad, Gujarat) establishments in India in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import gelatine intended for human consumption.

**Vote : Unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of live crustaceans from Antigua & Barbuda and approving the Caribbean Seafood (St. John’s, Antigua), White’s Fish Market (St. John’s, Antigua), Lincoln Burton (Codrington, Barbuda), Eric Burton (Codrington, Barbuda), Reginald Nicholas (St. Mary’s, Antigua), The Lobster Shack (St. John’s, Antigua), A. B. Supply Sales & Support Service (St. John’s, Antigua), Premier Seafood Ltd. (Codrington, Barbuda), St. John’s Fisherman Cooperative (St. John’s, Antigua), and Wesley Beazer (Codrington, Barbuda) establishments.

**Vote : Unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Hong Kong, excluding bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods in whatever form and approving the Lee Kum Kee (Hong Kong) Foods Limited CONDEMAR S.A. (Tai Po) establishment.
Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from El Salvador, excluding bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods in whatever form and approving the Productos Pesqueros Veralmar, Productos Pesqueros Calvo Coservas El Salvador, Cámara No 1 de almacenamiento – Calvo Concervas El Salvador, Cámara No 2 de almacenamiento – Calvo Concervas El Salvador, Montelucia (Calvo Pesca El Salvador, S.A. de CV) and Monterocio (Calvo Pesca El Salvador, S.A. de CV) establishments.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 Antigua & Barbuda, Hong Kong, El Salvador and Slovakia (Document SANCO/10217/2004, Rev. 2) (Legal Basis: Council Decision 95/408/EC) (Voting Result: CMT/2004/3325)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft 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, adding Antigua & Barbuda, Hong Kong, El Salvador and removing Slovakia (following its accession to the European Union on 1 May 2004).

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending Decision 98/695/EC laying down special conditions governing imports of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Mexico as regards the designation of the competent authority and the model of health certificate. Indeed, following a restructuring of the Mexican administration, the competent authority in Mexico for verifying and certifying compliance of fishery and
aquaculture products with the requirements of Directive 91/493/EEC has changed to the “Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios (CFPRS) and Decision 98/695/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote : Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented a draft decision for changing the annexes to the EU-Canada agreement on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products.

Equivalence (‘Yes-1 status’) for pig meat on public health measures and for bovine semen on animal health measures has been concluded on reciprocal basis. For Canadian exports to the EU some special conditions are laid down in the Canadian Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures. As regards equivalence for Canadian exports of pig meat to the EU ante and post mortem provisions, the definition of market hogs and other hygiene requirements are to be reviewed when the new EU Food Hygiene Regulations will be applied. Similarly as regards equivalence for EU exports of pig meat to Canada some provisions are to be reviewed when the Canadian Meat Inspection Regulation will be amended.

Based on the Community experience with products imported from Canada, and animal welfare considerations, the Community agreed to reduce the frequency of EU identity and physical import checks for certain Canadian fish and fishery products.

Some Member States raised some questions as regards the reference to EU legislation in the annexes to the Agreement and the Canadian Meat Hygiene Manual. The Commission agreed to review these references.


The Commission presented a draft decision for establishing simplified certificates for bovine semen and pig meat (public health) based on the model attestation for a ‘Yes-1 status’ in Annex VII to the Agreement.
The purpose of this draft decision is also to amend Decision 2004/639/EC laying down animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the importation of bovine semen from third countries in order to clarify that the use of the model certificate laid down in Decision 2004/639/EC is required without prejudice to specific certification requirements based on Community agreements with Third Countries.


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down harmonised standards for the testing for certain residues in products of animal origin imported from third countries.

The scope of the proposal is twofold:

– it lays down the reference points for action for residues of substances whose use is prohibited or not authorised in the Community when analytical tests carried out pursuant to Directive 97/78/EC on imported consignments of products of animal origin confirm the presence of such substances, and the action to be undertaken after such confirmation;

– it applies whether analytical tests are carried out routinely, under reinforced checks procedures or under a safeguard measure on consignments of products of animal origin imported from third countries.

The draft Decision also specifies the action to be taken in case of confirmed presence of a prohibited or non-authorised substance.

Vote: 106 votes in favour, 10 votes abstention, 8 votes against (qualified majority)

Statement of the Commission:

Council Directive 97/78/EC requires that each consignment of food of animal origin imported from third countries shall be subject to veterinary controls. These checks may include analytical tests for residues of pharmacologically active substances in order to verify whether the consignments fulfil the requirements of Community legislation.

The Community established a harmonised approach for the control in imported consignments of residues of substances prohibited or not authorised in the Community laying down harmonised standards for the testing for certain residues in products of animal origin imported from third countries.

The Commission and the Member States agree to apply this approach, with the necessary changes, to food of animals origin produced within the Community.
This implies in particular that the Minimum Required Performance Limits (MRPLs) set according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC shall be used as reference points for action. This also applies to emergency measures.

This approach moreover means that any detection of substances whose use is prohibited or not authorised in the Community shall be followed by an investigation into the source of the substance in question and appropriate enforcement measures in particular aimed at the prevention of recurrence in the case of documented illegal use.

Commission evaluation of National Residue Monitoring Plans shall be consistent with this statement.

As a follow up to the Reflection Paper on residues in food of animal origin, the Commission will pursue its work for the revision of the Regulation (EC) No 2377/90 and Council Directive 96/23/EC.


Point withdrawn from the Agenda.

18. Miscellaneous

- The Commission presented to the Member States the state of play as regards the approval of national residue monitoring plans in food of animal origin for 2004 (Directive 96/23/EC):

  Plans approved (letters to the Ambassadors sent in July 2004): Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Austria.

  Plans ready to be approved: Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Ireland.

- The Commission distributed to the Member States a “Report of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) Notifications Concerning Positive Tests of Sudan Dyes in Chilli and Chilli Products”.

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
Agendas, summary records and voting results are available on the Comitology Register:

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