B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry.

The Commission presented the draft regulation drawing the attention of the delegates in particular to the changes following the discussion in the working group of 21st November 2013. It provided clarification on various provisions. Most of delegations expressed a broad support to the approach of the new draft. However, a group of Member States expressed different concerns for which they would not be able to support it. Most important concerns were based on the requirements of Article 5 (1) (a) regarding the place of rearing of pigs to be indicated. Five delegations expressed the view that the period of at least four months of rearing was too long, taking into account the system for pigs production in two separated steps (breeding and fattening), one other considered four months too short and preferred six months. Two delegations expressed a position of principle against labelling at Member State level and reminded of their preference to stay at an indication of the EU/non-EU origin or provenance of the meat. Three delegations expressed their request to allow mixing of batches of meat of different origin/provenance along the process arguing that forbidding it involves a major burden for the industry.

Four Member States preferred converting the three quarters of life of rearing required for sheep and goats into a number of months in absolute value.

The Commission services asked the reactions of Member States on possible alternatives for compromise, such as:

- A rearing period of at least three months for pigs,
• Maintaining at least four months of rearing for pig slaughtered with more than six month of age and the whole rearing period between piglets stage (X Kg) and slaughter for pigs slaughtered with less than six months of age.

In order to allow time for consideration of the possible alternatives and to take into account positions expressed on other points, the draft was not put to the vote.

Vote postponed