Chairman: Mr Patrick Deboyser

1. Draft Commission Decision concerning a draft Regulation from the Federal Republic of Germany on the labelling of fruits, vegetables and potatoes treated after harvesting

Pursuant Article 19 of Directive 2000/13/EC, the Commission has notified the German Authorities with a negative opinion regarding a draft national regulation requesting the labelling of fruits, vegetables and potatoes treated after harvesting.

The draft Commission Decision submitted to the Committee would confirm this negative opinion and request the German Authorities not to adopt their draft regulation, as it would create unjustified obstacles to the free circulation of the concerned products on the internal market.

During the exchange of views, very few delegations commented on the draft Decision, France expressing support to the German draft because the issue is not addressed at Community level.

It has been concluded that, due to the absence of several delegations, the discussion could continue before vote at the meeting on 16 July 2004.

2. Draft Regulation on the monitoring of temperatures in the means of transport, warehousing and storage of quick-frozen foodstuffs

The Committee discussed a draft proposal for a Regulation concerning the monitoring of temperatures in the means of transport, warehousing and storage of quick-frozen foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

This proposal aims to promote a harmonized approach in this sector imposing the use of European standards for the instruments for measuring temperature during transport, warehousing and storage of quick-frozen foodstuffs. In addition, the proposal fixes a date from which also transport by rail, which is currently exempt, must be provided with suitable equipment for the measuring and monitoring of temperatures. To facilitate a gradual application of those measures by operators, the use of already installed measuring instruments is allowed during a transitional period.

The draft was welcome. However, further suggestions were made by the Member States in order to clarify and improve the text. In particular it was suggested to prolong the transitional period (31/12/2009) and introduce an obligation for the operators to keep documents showing that the
instruments installed in their establishments conform to the relevant EN standards.

In conclusion it was decided to redraft the proposal taking into account the suggestions made by the Member States and submit the point in July for a vote

3. **Draft Commission Regulation (EC) No …/.. of … laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the European Food Safety Authority’s mission**

The Committee discussed the above mentioned draft proposal.

The present draft implementing Regulation lays down the criteria to be applied by the Member States when proposing the inclusion of a competent organisation on the list relating to the network to be drawn up by the Authority’s Management Board acting on a proposal from the Executive Director.

It also lays down certain operating procedures for the network. These include arrangements for identifying the types of tasks that may be entrusted by the Authority to the designated bodies, as well as procedures for granting financial support.

The Committee welcomed the draft. However, further suggestions were made by the Member States in order to clarify and improve the text. It was suggested in particular to specify more precisely the procedures in relation to the functioning of the network and notably the modalities for the involvement of the Advisory Forum.

In conclusion, it was decided to redraft the proposal taking into account the suggestions made by the Member States and submit it in July for a vote.

4. **Miscellaneous:**

Exchange of views on the labelling mention applying to fluoride for natural mineral waters: discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting.