STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Section on General Food Law

Summary Record of Meeting of 26th June 2006

Chairman: Mr Basil Mathioudakis

The agenda was adopted.

1. Information of the Commission on the state of play of the applications for authorisation of the genetically modified maize hybrids NK603xMON810, MON863xMON810, MON863xNK603 and MON863xMON810xNK603 submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on GM food and feed.

The Commission informed Member States of the state of play of the applications for authorisation of the genetically modified maize hybrids NK603xMON810, MON863xMON810, MON863xNK603 and MON863xMON810xNK603 submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on GM food and feed. Positive opinions on these four applications have been transmitted by EFSA to the Commission on 3 April 2006. The public comments received within the month following this transmission were distributed to Member States and EFSA was requested to identify whether these comments contain any new scientific information that would need to reconsider the outcome of the safety assessment. In accordance with the conclusions of the College on 12 April 2006 on genetically modified organisms, the Commission asked EFSA to provide more detailed justifications on how the comments addressed by Member States to EFSA in the framework of its safety assessment had been taken into account in the opinion of the GMO panel. EFSA has requested Member States to identify for the end of June which of their specific comments they considered as not appropriately addressed in the scientific opinions. EFSA has committed to deliver more detailed justifications on these elements to the Commission and the Member States. In the light of EFSA's reply, the Commission will proceed with the applications and submit to the Standing Committee a draft Decision in due time.

2. Discussion and possible opinion on the Draft Commission Regulation of [...] authorising the placing on the market of infant formulae based on hydrolysates of whey protein derived from cows' milk protein for a two year period (SANCO document 2037/2006).

The Committee agreed to revise the draft directive to take into account the protein conversion factor that applies to protein hydrolysates under Directive 91/321/EEC and voted in favour of the amended draft Regulation by unanimity.


The Commission presented the draft recast of Directive 91/321/EEC on infant formulae and follow-on formulae. During the introduction the Commission explained that the powers delegated to the Commission through the framework legislation of Council Directive 89/398/EEC on foods for particular nutritional uses did not extend to the introduction of an authorisation procedure.
Moreover, introducing an authorisation procedure in a directive would be likely to create technical and legal difficulties, as each Member State would transpose in its own way in national legislation.

Some Members of the Committee raised the issue of the protein conversion factor. The Commission explained that the conversion factor applied to the final product and not to the individual ingredients in the product. The Committee was informed that the draft would be revised to take into account legal drafting changes and it was planned to present the draft for possible vote in the next meeting of the Committee.


Denmark presented its draft measure, explaining that it is justified because, despite the fact that good results have been observed in terms of reducing contamination by salmonella and campylobacter at the production level, contaminated fresh poultry meat is still found at retail level and it is necessary to inform all consumers that good culinary hygiene practices must be followed with the product concerned.

Indeed, the number of intoxication cases has increased very significantly last year in Denmark and, becoming a public health concern, it requires that public awareness should be improved.

Denmark also indicated that the wording of the information will be left to the choice of the operator, and that, due to the urgency and the fact that the product concerned is fresh, a short transitional period would be granted.

During the discussion which followed, many MS pointed out that the issue should be discussed and settled in the framework of the hygiene legislation, and that they could also support the idea of a relevant labelling requirement at Community level.

Netherlands recalled that, in the absence of Community labelling rules, a similar measure is in force in that MS since 2001.

Iceland reported that such labelling is producing good results in terms of diminishing the number of intoxication cases in Iceland.

The Commission will soon decide on that notification, in the light of the information provided and of the result of the discussion.


No vote was taken, as the draft Directive was sent too late to the Delegations. It will be tabled for possible vote at the next meeting.

However, several MS asked that the deadline for transposition would be extended from 6 to 12 months after the date of entering into force.


The SCFCAH gave a favourable opinion by qualified majority (275 votes in favour; 46 votes against).

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Items 10, 11 and 12 were not discussed because there was not enough time.