



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels,
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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 24 APRIL 2014
(Section Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk)**

Chair: Dorothee Andre

27 Member States were present, PT was represented by NL

A.01 Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications on Bt63 rice in choline chloride feed additives

The Commission presented an update on the alerts on Bt63 rice in choline chloride feed additives: 22 notifications have been submitted since January 2014. The Commission asked Member States to increase their official controls both on the feed additive and the relative premixtures, in order to have a more complete and reliable overview.

The JRC reported preliminary results on the testing currently being performed on the first samples received by Member States.

The FAMI-QS/FEFANA report on the mission to China was presented. Member States agreed that envisaging the removal of rice from the composition of the feed additive, seems to be more effective than the use of non-GM rice in the production of choline chloride.

The Commission will meet the Chinese Authorities, to discuss the problematic issue. The JRC will provide a technical note supporting the analytical control to be carried out both by operators and official authorities (in the EU and possibly in China).

If the removal of rice is unsuccessful, the Commission and Member States will consider proposing to extend the scope of Decision 2013/287/EU to feed additive and feed materials containing rice and originating from China.

A.02 Proposed amendment to the sampling and testing protocol for Canadian flaxseed exported to the European Union (addition of new mode of transport: lake vessels) - presentation and discussion

The Commission informed the Committee Members that the Canadian authorities had requested an amendment to the sampling and testing protocol for Canadian flaxseed exported to the European Union. This amendment aims to add lake vessels in the

modes of transportation covered by the protocol. The presentation was followed by a discussion in which Member Stated agreed with the amended protocol (see annex), which came into immediate effect.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of herbicide-tolerant genetically modified soybean MON87708 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 – Discussion and vote

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON87708 (tolerant to dicamba-based herbicides) was presented to the Committee and then submitted for opinion.

Reasons for negative votes or abstention:

- No agreed national position;
- National risk assessment not completed;
- Negative public opinion;
- Political reasons;
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient;
- The Regulation on GM food and feed is not considered as the right legal basis to authorise products other than food and feed containing and consisting of GMOs;
- Post market environmental plan deemed not detailed enough.

AT declaration:

Although several scientific questions concerning the risk assessment of soybean MON87708 (MON -87708-9) have been clarified between EFSA scientists and national experts from the Austrian competent authority some important concerns relating to the safety of the product remained.

Austria is of the opinion that the risk assessment which has been carried out is not suitable to give a scientific proof for the safety of this product and, therefore, objects the placing on the market of genetically modified soybean MON87708 (MON -87708-9) due to the following reasons:

- a. *Unintended effects as indicated by significant differences in 100 seed weight cannot be excluded as is also acknowledged in the corresponding EFSA opinion.*
- b. *The threshold levels applied for the determination of adventitious presence of GMO contaminants in seeds used for field trials and comparative assessment are not available.*
- c. *The monitoring plan for post market environmental monitoring is inadequate*
- d. *From the Austrian point of view, products others than food and feed containing or consisting of soybean MON87708 are not within the scope of EU-Regulation 1829/2003 but under Directive 2001/18/EC.*

Vote taken: no opinion

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of genetically modified maize T25 and renewing the existing maize T25 products, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – Discussion and vote

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of genetically modified maize T25 and renewing the existing maize T25 products (tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium herbicides) was presented to the Committee and then submitted for opinion.

Reasons for negative votes or abstention:

- No agreed national position;
- National risk assessment not completed;
- Negative public opinion;
- Political reasons;
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient;
- The Regulation on GM food and feed is not considered as the right legal basis to authorise products other than food and feed containing and consisting of GMOs.

AT declaration:

Although several scientific questions concerning the risk assessment of maize T25 (ACS-ZM003-2) have been clarified between EFSA scientists and national experts from the Austrian competent authority some important concerns relating to the safety of the product remained.

Austria is of the opinion that the risk assessment which has been carried out is not suitable to give a scientific proof for the safety of this product and, therefore, objects the placing on the market of genetically modified maize T25 (ACS-ZM003-2) due to the following reasons:

- a. *Absence of available toxicological data from animal studies.*
- b. *Insufficient agronomic data sets due to field trials not adhering to EFSA guidelines and analysis of only a limited number of endpoints.*
- c. *From the Austrian point of view, products others than food and feed containing or consisting of maize T25 are not within the scope of EU-Regulation 1829/2003 but under Directive 2001/18/EC.*

Vote taken: no opinion

M.01 Status of the GM-free labelling report

The Chair informed Member States that no decision has been taken yet concerning the publication report.

M.02 Timing and delay in the final adoption of GM food/feed decisions

Upon a question from a Member State, the Chair reminded that any complaints regarding timing for final adoption of GM food/feed decisions should be done in written to the Commission.