UECBV’s European Newsletter No.6 - ADDENDUM

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Orbán: Hungarian Presidency resulted in stronger EU

Source: EU – Date: 24 June 2011. “The EU has become stronger than it was before, so the Hungarian Presidency’s work has finally ripened,” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán pointed out in Brussels, on 24 June 2011 following the European Council’s meeting. He welcomed the summit’s approval on the Roma Strategy, the Danube Strategy and the conclusion of the accession negotiations with Croatia. Read more...

Opening the way to Croatia's membership

"This European Council will be remembered as the meeting which paved the way for Croatia's membership of the European Union. It is a milestone for Croatia and for the Western Balkans as a whole", said President Herman Van Rompuy after the European Council meeting on 24 June. Negotiations with Croatia on its becoming the 28th member state of the EU should be concluded by the end of June 2011.

European leaders confirmed that the negotiations with Croatia on its accession to the EU have reached their final stages: the Commission has issued its positive assessment and the Council is examining the remaining negotiation chapters. They asked the Council of the EU to "take all necessary decisions" so that the accession negotiations with Croatia could be concluded by the end of June 2011.
The European Council confirmed that it expected Croatia to continue reforming its judicial system and improving the situation concerning fundamental rights. Fulfilling these conditions will help Croatia "to assume fully the obligations of membership from the date of accession". The EU will continue to monitor these efforts up to accession. The accession treaty with Croatia is expected to be signed before the end of the year.

"This future accession of Croatia brings new momentum to the European vocation of the countries of the Western Balkans", said President Van Rompuy.

More information: Press statement (pdf)

EU BUDGET - Investing today for growth tomorrow

Source: European commission RAPID. Date published: June 29 2011

The European Union has a small budget, but with a big impact for Europe's citizens. The Commission's proposal for a multi-annual budget for 2014-2020 responds to today's concerns and tomorrow's needs. It focuses on priority funding at the EU level that provides true added value. For instance, a Connecting Europe Facility that funds cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology to strengthen the backbone of our internal market; significantly more money for Research and Innovation to invest in our competitiveness; and more funds for Europe’s youth – these are just some of the new elements in the Commission proposal. At the same time, this innovative EU budget remains focused: The overall amount proposed for the next seven years is €1,025 billion in commitments (1.05% of the EU GNI) and €972.2 billion (1% of EU GNI) in payments. In the current times of fiscal austerity all across the EU, the Commission has presented an ambitious but realistic proposal for the next MFF, explains commissioner for financing programming and budget Janusz Lewandowski: through smart reallocation of the budget we have created room to finance new priorities such as cross-border infrastructure for energy and transport, research and development, education and culture, securing external borders and strengthening our neighbours to the South and East. Furthermore, we have modernised virtually all our policies by simplifying our programmes and by putting more conditionality on how funds are being spent.

For a greener, more modern agriculture
With €371.72 billion, a modern Common Agricultural Policy, which is a truly common European policy, remains of strategic importance for our economy and environment, safe and healthy food and the development of rural communities. It illustrates how one euro can and must serve many goals. 30% of direct support to farmers will be conditional on "greening" their businesses. The Commission also proposes to open the European Globalisation Fund to farmers. Also, the discrepancy in direct payments between Member States will be reduced.

For a safer Europe
Building a safer Europe means improving our environment and protecting our climate. The Commission proposes to mainstream these across the board. The Commission intends to increase the proportion to at least 20% for climate related spending, with contributions from different policy fields subject to impact assessment evidence.
The Commission also proposes to invest €4.1 billion in European security to fight crime and terrorism and €3.4 billion in migration and asylum policies, which are crucial for our competitiveness and social cohesion. Both funds will have an external dimension to work with third countries. Read more...

**Successful start of Iceland's membership negotiations with the EU**

Source: EU – Date: 27 June 2011 - The first four chapters of negotiations on Iceland’s accession to the EU were opened at the intergovernmental conference today and two of these chapters have been already provisionally closed.

Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: "This accession conference marks an important step forward in Iceland’s accession process. I am pleased that at this early stage of negotiations we open four and even close two negotiating chapters, and I am confident that this achievement provides momentum to meet the challenges of the accession process."

The EU's common negotiating positions were presented at the conference by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in response to those of the Icelandic government. The chapters in question cover public procurement, information society and media, science and research, as well as education and culture. In these areas Iceland has already taken on a large part of EU legislation due to its membership in the European Economic Area. Simultaneously, negotiations on two chapters – science and research and education and culture – were provisionally closed in view of Iceland's advanced state of preparedness. Read more...

**EU encourages Serbian government to step up its efforts towards the economic and social integration of Roma**

Source: EU – Date: 23 June 2011. Members of the Roma communities remain among the most marginalised in Serbia. In a positive contribution to more inclusiveness, the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission organised a comprehensive seminar to discuss and find solution to the challenges the Roma community faces: civil registration, education, employment, health, social and housing care. The conference was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Božidar Djelić and Pierre Mirel, Director for the Western Balkans in Directorate General for Enlargement.

**Commission steps up its efforts in fighting fraud against the EU budget**

Source: EU – Date: 24 June - In 2009 alone, Member States reported €280 million in suspected fraud cases involving EU funds. Although this represents less than 0.2% of the EU’s total budget, the Commission is determined to push the fight against fraud a step further. In this context, the Commission today adopted its new Anti-Fraud Strategy to update and modernise its policies to fight against fraud. This Strategy proposes a set of measures to ensure that the
Commission will manage or supervise EU funds, at all levels and in all sectors, with the best possible tools to prevent and detect fraud to the EU budget. This new Strategy will cover the whole "anti-fraud cycle", i.e. from the prevention and detection of fraud at an early stage to investigations, sanctioning and recovery of misused funds. It will also cover both the revenues and expenditure sides of the EU budget, including the budget which is partly managed by EU Member States. An EU Action Plan to fight against smuggling of cigarettes and alcohol along the EU Eastern border accompanies today's Strategy. Read more...

Mr. László ANDOR EU Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion "Balancing economic integration and social protection" Conference on Fundamental Social Rights and the Posting of Workers in the framework of the Single Market Brussels, 27 June 2011

Source: EU - Date: 27/06/2011

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first welcome you all to this Conference. I am delighted to see that so many have accepted our invitation to discuss the two main topics at the centre of this Conference: the posting of workers and the exercise of fundamental social rights in the framework of the single market.

In the Single Market Act, the Commission announced its intention to present soon two proposals to clarify and improve the situation regarding these two subjects which are closely related. At this stage, it is essential for us to consult key stakeholders and to take their opinions into account in our impact assessment.

This is the main objective of this Conference: to present our ideas and views, hear your reactions and discuss possible solutions. This discussion should be based on the latest evidence available on the economic impact of posting and the legal dimension of the problems we want to remedy. For that reason, we have invited the authors of several studies, as well as the promoters of cooperation projects, to come forward and present their conclusions to you all.

What problems do we want to solve?

First, we want to clarify to what extent trade unions can use industrial action to protect workers' rights, when it may create obstacles to the exercise of economic freedoms.

Second, we want to set the right conditions for better implementation and enforcement on the ground of the Posting of Workers Directive. This is to ensure that the Directive effectively accomplishes its original twofold objective – to facilitate the provision of cross-border services, and to protect the rights of posted workers.

The public debate around these two problems has been fuelled by the European Court's judgments in the Viking-Line, Laval, Rüffert and Luxembourg cases. However, the problems were not created by the rulings.

As Mario Monti rightly put it in his 2010 report, the Court rulings exposed "the fault lines that run between the single market and the social dimension at national level". They did no more than reviving "an old split that had never been healed: the divide between advocates of greater market integration and those who feel that the call for economic freedoms and breaking up regulatory barriers is code for dismantling social rights protected at national level".
Moreover, some of the difficulties linked to the implementation of the Posting Directive have been identified well before the rulings.

Facilitating economic integration while fostering at the same time social protection may indeed appear to many to be a "mission impossible".

However, I personally believe that these two objectives are and should be reconcilable. Finding the right balance is possible, even if it constitutes a big challenge. It is especially important if we want to make a highly competitive social market economy a reality with common ground for all workers and businesses across the Union.

This is why the Commission is determined to address both problems head-on. While these challenges are interconnected, they do not necessarily require the same solution.

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Economic aspects and impact

Before elaborating in further detail on the general approach that will shape the Commission's future legislative initiatives, allow me to make some remarks on the economic importance of the posting of workers.

Each year, around one million workers in the EU are posted from their country of employment by their employer to perform work temporarily in another country.

The work carried out by these workers is vital to enable the cross-border provision of services in a number of sectors — such as construction, agriculture and transport — but it also plays an important role for service activities requiring a specialised, high-skilled workforce, such as in the IT sector. Cross-border posting is also naturally related to the growing role of temporary work agencies.

Posting contributes to temporary migration flows, which are set to rise with higher cross-border trade in labour-intensive services. It will continue to be a feature of modern labour markets as long as wage and skill differences persist between the countries and regions of the Union.

But it would be misleading to say that workers are only posted in one direction — from the newer to the older Member States. Recent reports and data from 2009 indicate that the main sending countries of posted workers are Poland, France and Germany whereas the most important countries of destination are Germany, France and Belgium.

The phenomenon is widespread and the problems it raises are far from new. And they are not necessarily linked to recent enlargements of the Union. The large case-law on posting dating back to the 1990s makes that clear.

Posting has certainly been affected by the economic crisis — but much less than cross-border labour movements as a whole. According to the provisional conclusions of the (draft) OECD International Migration Outlook 2011, the number of posted workers in Europe has declined between 2007 and 2009 by only 5-6%, against a 40% decline in general cross-border labour migration.

Let me stress that our determined effort to find a workable solution for the problems I have described is economic, as well as political and legal. To keep on a steady path of recovery, the European economy needs a strong Single market. But the Single market will not function properly without a clear, up-to-date and balanced legal framework that is able to re-establish confidence among businesses, citizens, workers and national authorities.
Monti II

Having made the diagnosis, it is now time to turn to possible solutions and plan the way forward.

In terms of the protection of workers' rights and trade unions' right to take collective action, I believe the Court's judgments call neither the principle, nor the substance of workers' rights into question.

The Court has recognised that the right to take collective action is a fundamental right. It has also confirmed that trade unions will continue to be able to take action to protect workers, provided this is done in line with existing Community law.

However, we should and cannot ignore the concerns expressed by the unions that, as a result of the Viking and Laval rulings, primacy might be given to economic freedoms over fundamental social rights in national as well as European courts. Read more...

**Commission and European Parliament launch Joint Transparency Register to shed light on all those seeking to influence European policy**

Source :EU – Date : 23 June 2011 – In an effort to give a further boost to the transparency of the EU's decision-making process, the European Parliament and the European Commission are today launching a joint, public Transparency Register which provides more information than ever before on those who seek to influence European policy.

The new Register replaces the one set up by the Commission in 2008, which already contains more than 4000 organisations. These will be gradually transferred to the Joint Transparency Register over the coming 12 months. It also extends its coverage well beyond traditional lobbyists to include law firms, NGOs, think tanks - indeed any organisation or self-employed individual engaged in influencing EU policy making and implementation. This is a key step towards the EU's goal of a more participatory democracy.

Read more...

**Q's & A's: Transparency Register**

**EU Meat Company & Industry**

**Agreement between EU and Canada on equivalency in Organic Products**

Source: EU – Date: 24/06/2011. The EU and Canada have reached agreement on an equivalency in organic products. Respective decisions on organic equivalency follow long and intensive discussions between the European Commission and Canadian authorities. The review of each other's rules for organic production and control systems have led to the conclusion that in the EU and Canada the rules governing production and controls of organic agricultural products are equivalent to those laid down in each other's legislation. Both sides furthermore carried out on the spot checks of the production rules and control measures applied in the EU and Canada. On the EU side, the regulation adding Canada on the list of recognised countries has been published on 21 June 2011 (Official Journal L 161). Canada, on its side, confirmed in writing on 23 June 2011 that it now recognises all EU organic products as equivalent to the Canadian Organic Products Regulation. The equivalency reached will facilitate and hence boost...
trade in agricultural organic products between the EU and Canada. Following this equivalency, the respective organic logos will be authorised to be used on each other's market.

**Specialized food products: Commission's initiative to provide better information to consumers**

Source: EU – Date: 20 June 2011 – The European Commission adopted today a draft regulation that will better inform consumers across the EU and achieving the aim of better and clearer legislation.

For example, lactose-free food, slimming products or protein bars could be covered by the dietetic food legislation (Directive 2009/39/EC). The proposal repeals this directive and abolishes the concept of dietetic foods because its application differs significantly between Member States and creates distortions in the internal market. Dietetic foods will be solely covered by other already existing legislation, such as, for instance, the one on nutrition and health claims (Regulation 1924/2006) and/or the regulation on the addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to foods.

The draft regulation strengthens and clarifies provisions for foods intended for vulnerable groups of the population who need particular protection – namely infants and children up to three years old, and people with specific medical conditions, such as cancer patients or individuals with metabolism disorders.

It does so by maintaining the existing compositional and labelling rules applicable to infant and follow-on formulae, processed cereal-based foods and other baby foods and foods for special medical purposes. Further, the proposal establishes a single EU list of substances, instead of the existing three, that can be added to these foods. The substances covered in the list include, among others, minerals and vitamins. [Read more...]

**Less red tape for small businesses**

Source: EU. On 30 and 31 May, the Competitiveness Council discussed a number of initiatives aimed at reducing red tape in order to make life easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The watchwords were simplification, smart regulation, smooth procedures and assistance.

The Council reviewed the Small Business Act (SBA), which, since its launch two years ago, has made a significant contribution to improving the business environment for SMEs.

In future, efforts will mainly be focused on cutting bureaucracy, facilitating access to finance, supporting businesses' access to new markets and stimulating entrepreneurship.

Ministers assessed progress on creating a new type of company - the European Private Company, or SPE (from the Latin Societas Privata Europaea) - with the intention of addressing the problems faced by SMEs seeking to operate across borders. Setting up branches in other member states is currently a costly and time-consuming affair as each member state has its
own specific rules on forming companies. The European Private Company will provide for a flexible company law regime across the EU, reducing the compliance costs connected with establishing and running SMEs. Read more...

More information: Press release (pdf); Public debate; Press conference webcast

Better standards to boost European competitiveness and promote consumers’ interest

Source: EU – Date: 1 June 2011. The European Commission proposes a series of legislative and non-legislative measures to develop more and faster standards. Standards are sets of voluntary technical and quality criteria for products, services and production processes. They help businesses work together and to save money for consumers.

The most important steps that the Commission took are the following:

- push for more international standards
- develop more market-driven European standards for services
- propose a light and fast way to recognise the increasingly important ICT standards
- enhance its cooperation with the leading standardisation organisations in Europe (i.e. CEN, CENELEC and ETSI)
- involve organisations representing those most affected, or most concerned – consumers, small businesses, environmental and social organisations in the drafting of standards

Press release

UECBV News

UECBV AGM / YEMCo Conference - 22nd, 23rd, 24th September 2011

WEINFELDEN, Switzerland

The forthcoming UECBV AGM will be held in Switzerland between 22nd and 24th September 2011. On the same occasion, the YEMCO annual conference will be held. The program will also include a visit to one or two Swiss meat plants, visit to a typical Swiss cattle farm, UECBV/YEMCo welcome party in a barn on 23rd September and Swiss folklore night with typical Swiss food, Swiss music and Swiss culture on Saturday 24th September.

The main topics for the UECBV AGM are:
- Daily problems in the business and what the practical trader expects from UECBV
- Which influence do open borders have on meat and livestock traders?

The UECBV AGM/YEMCo conference will be held in the Congress Centre & Hotel HURGAUERHOF (Thomas-Bornhauser-Straße, 10, CH-8570 Weinfelden) and will be organized by the Swiss livestock traders’ federation.
European Agriculture

Dacian Cioloş on the G20 meeting in Paris

Source: EU – Date: 24 June 2011. Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş welcomed the unanimous support of G20 members to the action plan on food price volatility and agriculture yesterday in Paris. "This is an important step in our objective to give more visibility and predictability to farmers all over the world. In the context of growing demand and climate change we need to invest more in agriculture at a global level to tackle price volatility. This is crucial to increase food availability for all. The European Commission welcomes the launch of the AMIS project (agricultural market information system) will show its commitment to increasing the transparency of markets by publishing, as from October, short-term forecasts for the main agricultural products. We will strengthen our cooperation with developing countries especially with the African Union, with which we have already launched projects to increase production capacities, enhance producer organisation and quality. The European Commission will also increase by 50% its investment in research in agriculture for developing countries. On export restrictions, I welcome the commitment of G20 ministers to guarantee that World Food Programme will not be affected by these restrictions, but call for strengthening international rules on this issue. Finally, as set out in last year's Communication on the Common Agricultural Policy towards 2020, mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be a key priority for the European Union's future agricultural policy."

Agricultural policy after 2013: greener, fairer, more competitive

Source: EP – Date: 23 June 2011. MEPs want to keep the EU agriculture budget unchanged until 2020 so that farmers have incentives to provide secure food supplies, environmental protection, create new jobs and provide for a competitive EU farming sector

Ahead of Commission proposals on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy the Parliament is staking out its position for the next long-term budgetary period, running from 2014 to 2020. In response to rumours of cuts in aid for rural development, MEPs stressed their support for adequate funding for this area.

"The vote sends a clear, strong signal to the commissioner [Dacian Cioloş] and I hope the Commission will bear in mind what we have put into the report and incorporate it in the final legislative proposal", said Albert Dess (EPP, DE), who drafted the resolution.

Making the CAP greener

If the EU's agriculture policy is to provide both secure supplies of high quality food and contribute to environmental protection and renewable energy, it must be adequately funded, say MEPs, to give farmers an incentive to use modern, environmentally friendly techniques.

Direct payments to farmers should be more directly linked to "greening measures" (low carbon emissions, low energy consumption). An EU wide incentive system, 100% financed by the EU, should be set up to support farmers who go in for sustainable production methods.

Fairer distribution of EU funding

Agricultural funding should be distributed more fairly among Member States and among different categories of farmers. Parliament proposes that each EU country should in the future receive a minimum percentage of the EU average payment. MEPs agree with a ceiling on direct
payments per farmer but emphasise that new rules must take the size, employment record and environmental performance of each farm into account.

To avoid misuse of public money, direct payments should be reserved for "active farmers", i.e. those who actually use their land for production.

Stability: speculation, crisis management and farmers' bargaining power

Fighting speculation in agricultural commodities and extreme price volatility requires a global-level solution, say MEPs, in order to guarantee greater stability for farmers and secure food supplies for wide public. Parliament proposes a worldwide notification system of current states of stocks to counter speculation in agricultural commodities.

The milk market

To guarantee security of milk supplies, MEPs ask the Commission to monitor the milk market and use suitable policy instruments for milk and milk products even after 2015. The current quota system is to be scrapped in 2014.

Next steps

Today's non-legislative resolution was adopted by show of hands. The Commission will present its draft legislative package in the late autumn and Parliament will co-decide - together with the Council - on the final content of the legislation.

**Commissioner Dacian Cioloş comments following the EP plenary adoption of the Dess report on the CAP after 2013**

Source: EU - Date: 24 June 2011."I welcome the vote by the European Parliament on the report by Albert Dess on the post-2013 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is a welcome contribution to the debate triggered by the Communication we published last December. Above all, it shows a coherent EP approach to the reform - and a logical extension to the own initiative report by George Lyon last year. The EP timing is such that these ideas can now feed into our deliberations as we prepare to publish our legislative proposals, probably in October. Finally, the positive attitudes towards the CAP in yesterday's plenary debate and the fact that such a large majority of MEPs have backed the report shows to me that the European Parliament has already grasped how important the CAP will be in the coming years for addressing the broad challenges of food security, the sustainable management of natural resources, green growth and the need to maintain the territorial balance in rural areas."

**EU Food labelling and quality**

**Consumers enabled to make healthier dietary choices**

Source: Council of the EU – Date: 21 June 2011. A compromise text aimed at ensuring that food labels carry essential information in a clear and legible way has been endorsed today by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The draft regulation was negotiated by the Hungarian Presidency with representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission on 14 June. In order to enter into force it must be approved by the European Parliament (early July) and the Council (probably after the summer break) in second reading and published in the Official Journal of the EU.
The main objective of the new regulation is to enable consumers to make balanced and healthier dietary choices. In order to achieve this, pre-packed food must in future be labelled with the energy value and the quantities of fat, saturates, carbohydrates, protein, sugars and salt. As a general principle, the energy value and the amounts of these nutrients (which together form the "mandatory nutrition declaration") will have to be expressed per 100g or per 100ml, but can additionally be indicated on a per portion basis.

Furthermore, they can also be indicated as a percentage of reference intakes, better known as GDA (Guidelines Daily Amounts). Food business operators can use additional forms of expression or presentation as long as certain conditions are met (e.g. they do not mislead consumers and are supported by evidence of consumer understanding). All elements of the nutrition declaration should appear together in the same field of vision but some of them may be repeated on the “front of pack”.

The draft regulation requires labelling to be clear and legible. In order to improve legibility the new regulation establishes a minimum font size for the mandatory information of 1.2 mm for the x-height. If the largest surface of a food package is less than 80 cm² the minimum font size is reduced to 0.9 mm.

The new piece of legislation extends the compulsory country of origin labelling to fresh meat of pork, lamb and poultry. Currently, the indication of the country of origin is compulsory notably for fresh beef (for which a separate piece of legislation was introduced during the BSE crisis), fruits and vegetables, honey, olive oil and where the failure to do so misleads consumers. The Commission must examine within two years after the entry into force of the new regulation the possible extension of the compulsory labelling of the country of origin to meat used as an ingredient. One year later, the Commission must examine the same question with regard to other types of meat (than beef, pork, lamb and poultry), milk, milk used as an ingredient, unprocessed foods, single-ingredient products and ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food. See more. See also Q&A on the same subject link.

Food labelling: final deal one step closer

Source: EP – Date: 22 June 2011. Parliament’s negotiating team has received the Council's green light for the provisional agreement reached last week on new EU legislation on food labelling. The deal, which aims to ensure that food labels become clearer in future, now needs to be approved by Parliament in a plenary vote in July.

"The deal is a milestone in the EU`s food legislation that will benefit both the consumer and food business operators", commented Parliament’s rapporteur Renate Sommer (EPP, DE), adding that "In future, European citizens will find much more information on the packages than before".

What the new rules will mean

Read more...

Food quality labels: simpler rules for farmers, more clarity for customers

Source: EP – Date: 21 June 2011. To help EU food producers to compete with imports from third countries, quality labels for agricultural products must be made easier for producers to register and use to explain value added to customers, said the Agriculture Committee on Tuesday. The committee amended draft labelling rules to cut the time taken to register a label, empower producers to do more to protect their products and allow a new label for mountain produce. Labels for island produce and farm gate sales may follow soon.
The proposed new legislation on quality labelling for agricultural products, on which Parliament co-decides with the Council, would provide a single set of rules for quality labelling schemes for foods such as fresh meat, cheese, beers, fruits, vegetables, oils, bread and pastry, etc. - that originated in a given geographical area or were produced or processed in line with a traditional practice.

Simplifying and strengthening current rules

To encourage more producers to register their agricultural, fishery and aquaculture products and foodstuffs and to enable customers to make more informed choices, the whole procedure must be streamlined and shortened, rules simplified and protection of registered products strengthened, argue MEPs.

The new rules would cut the time allowed for the Commission to respond to a request to register a label from 12 to just 6 months. The Committee also shortened the time allowed for raising objections.

Quality labelling schemes described

Read more...

SEE MORE.

Public and Animal health issues

State Aid – Belgium: Funding of TSE tests for bovines in 2003-04 partly unlawful

Source: European Commission RAPID Date published: June 29 2011

Background

Following a complaint, the Commission examined the aid granted by Belgium to finance BSE tests during the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. As it had doubts concerning the compatibility of the financing of these tests, the Commission opened an investigation into this aid (see IP/08/1777) to obtain more information on the amounts paid by Belgium and on the system established by Belgium to finance the BSE tests.

On 29 June 2011, the European Commission has decided that the aid given by Belgium to fund screening tests for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) for bovines between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2004 was not compatible with the rules on State aid in agriculture. This aid should be recovered from the beneficiaries. The total to be recovered amounts to EUR 6.6 million, not including interest. The Commission has examined the information presented by Belgium following the opening of an official enquiry in 2008. It has concluded that the aid was financed with more than EUR 40 per test. Before 1 January 2003, in view of the BSE crisis, State aid could be granted for the total cost of the tests in order to protect public health. However, from 1 January 2003 the applicable rules provide for State aid to be capped at EUR 40 per test. Thus, the amount exceeding the EUR 40 per test paid by Belgium for the BSE tests between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2004 is not compatible with the rules. After 1 July 2004, the cost of the BSE tests was below EUR 40, which makes the aid compatible.
**Veterinary medicines regulatory review 2012: “one-one-one is a win-win-win for all”**

Source: IFAH. Date published: June 16 2011

IFAH-Europe, the federation representing the European animal health industry, organised on 16 June 2011 in Brussels, the first public “big debate” for all parties involved about the future legislation governing the authorisation of veterinary medicinal products which is expected in 2012. All agreed that a simplification of the legislation is needed and had a lively exchange about the consequences this review will have for the future of animal health in Europe. Opening the conference, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli explained that the review that is currently taking place is an opportunity for the European Commission to apply its “better regulation” principles: “The ongoing review of the veterinary medicinal products legislation exemplifies our SMART Regulation programme. We hope to finally achieve a single EU market for veterinary medicines and to simplify the marketing authorisation procedures. We see strong possibilities to make a good contribution to the reduction of the administrative burden for national competent authorities, veterinarians and manufacturers – in other words a win-win-win situation.” The conference press release can be found [here](#) and the presentations gave by the speakers can be found [here](#).

**EU law: Commission acts to ensure that European legislation is fully and properly implemented**

Source: European Commission RAPID. Date published: June 16 2011

**Commission urges Spain to modify legislation on approving associations that register horses**

The Commission urges Spain to modify its legislation on the approval of associations that maintain stud-books for registered horses. Satisfactory results in animal production depend to a large extent on the use of domestic animals of high genetic quality. TheEU's zoo technical legislation promotes free trade of breeding animals and their genetic material and considers the sustainability of breeding programs and the preservation of genetic resources. For horses, the basic aim of free trade is reached through harmonised recognition of stud-books. In accordance with EU law, associations establishing or maintaining stud-books for horse breeds have to be approved by the competent authorities of the Member State where they are established.

**Commission urges Germany to transpose provisions of Animal Feed Directive**

The Commission asked Germany on 16 June 2011, to notify the remaining national implementing measures of the Animal Feed Directive which sets maximum levels for undesirable substances in animal feed. "Undesirable substances" are substances or products in animal feed such as mercury, free gossypol and nitrates that could endanger human and animal health or have adverse effects on the environment. Human health and the environment are major policy concerns for the European Commission. To ensure consumers' confidence in the safety and quality of food and feed, undesirable substances in animal nutrition are prohibited or limited at certain levels. Healthy and high-quality livestock in all Member states depends, to a large
extent, on the use of appropriate good quality feed. Rules on safe animal feed contribute to a more competitive EU producer and a citizen that is able to consume safe and good-quality products.

**2011 work program on training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the framework of the 'Better training for safer food' program**

Source: Official Journal. Date published: May 24 2011

On 24 May 2011, the Commission published the *Commission Implementing Decision 2011/C 153/08* of 23 May 2011 on financing the 2011 work programme on training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the framework of the ‘Better training for safer food’ program. The total amount of the financial contribution for the implementation of the work program is EUR 16 100 000.

**QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Excessive use of antibiotics and increased bacterial resistance**

Source: European parliament register. Date published: June 16 2011

By Marc Tarabella (S&D)

The British medical review ‘The Lancet’ has just published an alarm call raised by 13 professors of medicine which states that 25 000 people die each year because of bacterial resistance to antibiotics.

This situation grows more serious every year as a result of the overuse or inappropriate use of antibiotics in treating all kinds of human and animal illnesses.

However, the major pharmaceutical groups are investing less and less in research into new, more resistant antibiotics, because of the low profit margins associated with such products.

Will the Commission state whether it has undertaken studies and research in this area or, if not, whether it plans to launch or support new research programmes in order to prevent the most common antibiotics very quickly becoming completely ineffective?

Will the Commission also state whether it intends to undertake or support information campaigns aimed at doctors and patients in order to ensure better use of antibiotics?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission**

Through its Research Framework Programme, the Commission has allocated more than EUR 300 million to support projects related to research and innovation against antimicrobial resistance over the past ten years and EUR
53 million supporting notably the development of strategies for prudent use of currently available antibiotics and developing novel antimicrobial therapies.

In addition, the Council Recommendation on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in human medicine adopted in 2002 calls upon the Member States to develop and implement national strategies and actions promoting the appropriate use of antibiotics. The Commission published in 2010 a second report on the implementation of these recommendations by the Member States.

As part of the drive to increase awareness among the general public and improve education of healthcare professionals, the Commission contributes and supports the organisation of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day. Initiated in 2008, this annual event organised on 18 November is a European public health initiative coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control aiming at raising awareness about the risks associated with the inappropriate use of antibiotics and how to take antibiotics responsibly. In 2010, 36 countries all over Europe organised events and campaigns at national level as part of this European health initiative, and even the United States of America and Canada decided to align their respective awareness campaigns.

**QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Salmonella ban in Denmark**

Source: European parliament register

By Christel Schaldemose (S&D)

Denmark has had a ban on all types of salmonella in poultry meat since 2008. The Commission is now proposing a ban on the main salmonella bacteria. This ban does not, however, cover two of the types of salmonella banned in Denmark, even though these two types account for one-fifth of those detected when people have fallen ill after eating poultry. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that Danish consumers do not end up less protected than they are at present if/once the EU rules come into force?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission**

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria in foodstuffs[1] differentiates between "food safety criteria", defining the acceptability of a product or a batch of foodstuff applicable to products placed on the market, and process hygiene criteria indicating the acceptable functioning of the production process. The last ones are not applicable to products placed on the market but set an indicative contamination value above which corrective actions are required in order to maintain the hygiene of the process.

The Commission has put forward a draft Regulation to amend the Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003[2] and 2073/2005 as regards a Salmonella food safety criterion for fresh poultry meat. The criterion would cover two Salmonella serotypes, S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium, responsible for the majority of human salmonellosis. Fresh poultry meat contaminated with these two serotypes of Salmonella would consequently not be allowed to be placed on the
market in the EU. This approach has been assessed to provide the best balance between reducing human salmonellosis from poultry meat and the economic consequences of the application of the criterion.

All serotypes of Salmonella are, however, currently included in the process hygiene criterion for poultry carcasses as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. The Commission has proposed to reduce the limits for this criterion so that a maximum of five instead of the current seven samples out of 50 samples would be allowed to be positive. Member States having low Salmonella prevalence, such as Denmark, may use lower limits for their domestic production. The process hygiene criterion has no implications in placing the products on the market, but puts pressure on the measures to reduce all salmonellas in the production chain therefore also having impact on the occurrence of Salmonella in final products.

Denmark may apply the food safety criterion, having implications for the placing on the market, for all Salmonella serotypes only for their domestic production. Denmark has to ensure that it does not apply on the free movement of poultry meat from other Member States to Denmark.


**FAO - Rinderpest eradicated - what next?**

Source: FAO. Date published: June 28 2011

Rinderpest is a highly contagious viral disease affecting several species of wild and domestic split-hoofed animals, notably cattle and buffalo. Many species, including sheep and goats, can show milder clinical signs of the disease when infected, but the mortality rate can reach up to 100 per cent in highly susceptible cattle or buffalo herds. Rinderpest has killed many millions of cattle, buffalo and other animals, and caused hunger and economic hardship, primarily in Africa, Asia and Europe. An outbreak of rinderpest in imported animals in Belgium in 1920 was the impetus for international cooperation in controlling animal diseases, and a key factor leading to the establishment of the OIE in 1924.

In the FAO Conference which was held in Rome 28 June 2011, a resolution declaring global freedom from rinderpest was adopted. The resolution also called on the world community to follow up by ensuring that samples of rinderpest viruses and vaccines be kept under safe laboratory conditions and that rigorous standards for disease surveillance and reporting be applied.

FAO's member countries officially recognized global freedom from the deadly cattle virus. The declaration is the final step in a decades-long global campaign implemented by FAO, in close coordination with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and other partners to eradicate rinderpest.
The announcement followed verification last month by the World Assembly of OIE that the disease was no longer circulating in its natural habitat. The last outbreak of rinderpest was registered in wild buffalo in Kenya in 2001, and the last vaccination took place in 2006. A collaborative effort.

**List of national laboratories authorised to handle live foot and mouth (FMD) disease virus**

Source: Official journal (L). Date published: June 28 2011


**EFSA news**

**EFSA sets up European task force to help investigate French *E.coli* outbreak**

Scientists from the European Food Safety Authority are setting up a task force to coordinate investigations to track down the source of any contaminated sprouted seeds in the European Union following an *E.coli* outbreak in the Bordeaux region of France which was preceded by a similar outbreak in Germany associated with sprouts. [Full story](#)

**Public consultation on the Guidance on risk assessment for animal welfare - Extended deadline: 1 July 2011 at 17.00**

**Deadline: 1 July 2011**

**Document** *(1.3 Mb)*

**Privacy statement** *(0.1 Mb)*

EFSA's Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) has launched an online public consultation on its draft Guidance on risk assessment for animal welfare. The consultation aims to gather the widest range of views to finalise the Guidance.

Comments must be exclusively submitted using the electronic template, and referring to the line and page numbers.

Please note that comments submitted by e-mail or by post cannot be taken into account. Similarly, a comment will not be considered if it:

- is submitted after the deadline set out in the call;
- is not related to the content of the document;
- contains complaints against institutions, personal accusations, offensive statements or material;
- is related to policy or risk management aspects, which is out of the scope of EFSA's activity.
EFSA will assess comments from all interested parties against the above criteria. After completion of the public consultation, the AHAW Panel and its working group will consider relevant comments. A technical report including the comments received on the public consultation will be published. Submit comments

Scientific Opinion on a summary of scientific studies undertaken by the UK Food Standards Agency to support a proposed production method for smoked “skin-on” sheep meat

Full article (0.3 Mb)

Abstract:
The scientific validity and relevance for safety assessment of a series of studies aimed at exploring the potential for the safe production of burnt fleece skin-on sheep carcasses are assessed. The main findings obtained by these studies are described, including their microbiological and chemical aspects. It is concluded that the hazard identification presented in the studies under assessment does not cover all potential biological and chemical hazards and information on their fate during the process. Limitations found in microbiological and chemical aspects of the studies as conducted are highlighted and discussed. It is pointed out that, as designed and conducted, the studies describe a hygienic production method for burnt fleece skin-on sheep carcasses based on gas flame singeing and provide a first step of information that is useful for further consideration of biological and chemical hazards and may serve as the basis for development of processes for safe production of skin-on sheep carcasses. The studies under assessment did not evaluate or verify the food safety of burnt fleece skin-on sheep carcasses under variable conditions in comparison to conventional skin-off carcasses. Overall, they are insufficient to support the conclusion that the burnt fleece skin-on sheep carcasses produced by the method described were suitable for human consumption or hygienically and microbiologically similar to conventionally produced skin-off carcasses. Similarly, the information supplied is insufficient to conclude that the process presented results in levels of harmful smoke-derived chemicals similar to those in other smoked foods which represent a low level of concern for human health.

Call for proposals - CFP/EFSA/AHAW/2011/01: Development of a risk assessment methodological framework for potentially pandemic influenza strains

Source: EFSA. Date published: June 29 2011

In November 2009, the Commission requested scientific opinions from EFSA’s Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) panel on the animal health implications of the pandemic H1N1 virus and the possibility of future monitoring for emergence of influenza viruses with a pandemic potential from the animal reservoir, respectively.

Considering that the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus contains gene segments from pig, bird and human influenza viruses, the AHAW panel pointed out that, a better scientific understanding is required of influenza viruses to protect public and animal health. The latest scientific data on biological properties of the virus, transmissibility, host susceptibility and epidemiology has identified factors that could be monitored in animals and that would suggest a risk of emergence of a new pandemic influenza strains.

The EFSA opinion on monitoring for the emergence of possible new pandemic strains of influenza in animals concluded that current monitoring of the influenza gene pool in humans
has been useful as an alert for the emergence of new human influenza strains of public health significance. Interpretation of the origins and the pandemic potential of influenza viruses do require knowledge of the influenza gene pools in pigs and birds, as well as other animal species. Currently, there is an incomplete view of the influenza virus strains circulating among pigs and birds in the EU, as well as at the global level.

Thus, the AHAW panel recommended that there should be long term support in the EU and globally for a passive monitoring network in pigs and birds in order to promote greater understanding of the evolution of influenza viruses at the global level. Maximum benefit can only be obtained by applying an integrated approach involving the medical and veterinary networks, including development of harmonised tools and approaches, exchange of virus strains and of sequence data and enhancing the coordination and dissemination of the findings from the human, swine and avian networks.

The idea of a risk assessment framework has been further discussed with OFFLU (the OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza) as well as with other scientific organisations competent in this field.

The EFSA grant project should bring together subject matter experts and risk assessors from both public and veterinary health with multidisciplinary and complementary backgrounds in virus characterization/genetics, epidemiology, clinical knowledge, risk monitoring and risk management.

Furthermore, EFSA will establish a group of experts to provide scientific steering for the grant project. The task of the group is to assure a close integration of the risk assessment framework with other approaches and tools being used and developed in human and animal health. The group should also provide information on approaches and tools used for monitoring influenza viruses and facilitate access to data collected on influenza viruses.

More details can be found in the Call for proposals and guide for applicants and here.

FVO reports

Spain 2011-8940 Controls on feed legislation Feb 2011 Report details

Switzerland 2011-8907 The monitoring of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on veterinary medicinal products Jan 2011 Report details

Bulgaria 2010-8404 Animal health - rabies eradication programme Nov 2010 Report details

Sweden 2010-8391 Animal welfare - on farms and during transport Oct 2010 Report details

Russian Federation 2010-8488 Public Health - Game Meat Nov-Dec 2010 Report details

Poland 2010-8497 Public Health - Beef traceability Oct 2010 Report details

Namibia 2011- Public Health - Meat Export Jan-Feb Report details
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**Codex Alimentarius news**

**Forthcoming meetings**

- **Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**
  - 65 Session

- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**
  - 34 Session

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**Geneva (Switzerland)**

From: 28/06/2011

To: 01/07/2011

[Link to Agenda](#)

[Link to Arabic Agenda](#)

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From: 04/07/2011

[Geneva (Switzerland)](#)
Animal welfare

**Dutch Parliament outlawed ritual slaughter of animals**

Source: AGI and JTA. Date: 28 June 2011

On Tuesday, 28 June 2011, the lower house of the Dutch parliament gave a first approval to a bill banning slaughter without stunning of animals, as used by Muslim and orthodox Jew minorities in the country (Some 40,000 Jews and 1 million Muslim live in the NL). The bill, presented by the small Party for Animal Rights, decrees that animals must be stunned before being slaughtered, while with the 'halal' or 'kosher' methods, used by Muslims and Jews respectively, the animal is conscious at the moment of the slaughter. The upper house still must approve the measure. The Jewish and Muslim communities have a year to prove otherwise or the law goes into effect. The European Union requires animals to be stunned before slaughter, but provide the faculty for the MS to derogate for religiously mandated ritual slaughter. Already, ritual slaughter without stunning is banned in Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

**QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Monitoring of infringements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport**

Source: European parliament register. Date published: June 2 2011

By Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE), Satu Hassi (Verts/ALE) and Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE)

In a question tabled last autumn (E-9622/2010) we asked whether the Commission was aware of any cases in which official veterinarians or police officers in Member States were not empowered to impose penalties on the spot for infringements relating to the transport of animals. The Commission stated in answer to our question that it did not know what proportion of fines for such infringements go unpaid because the authorities responsible for determining punishment do not have the right to enforce a fine. It added that Member States do not at present have to provide it with information on those points. If the authorities’ right to inflict punishment does not extend to all the Member States, the aim of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, namely to protect animals during transport, might not be achieved where there is no credible penalty for non-compliance. Given that it is called upon to supervise the implementation of the regulation in the Member States, on which the penalty procedures for infringements have a significant bearing, does the Commission see any need to subject the Member States’ penal practices to more searching
E-003662/2011 Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport does not oblige Member States to provide precise information on how an infringement or offence is sanctioned. Article 25 only obliges Member States to notify rules pertaining to penalties laid down by Member States that are applicable for infringement of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. In consequence, the information provided is only descriptive in nature, usually referring to the national penal codes. Such information only becomes meaningful if linked to a precise infringement or offence and contrasted against the gravity of the infringement or offence. Thus whether a Member State’s penalty is effective, proportionate and dissuasive can only be evaluated on a case by case basis and in full knowledge of all material circumstances. The Commission is presently preparing a report on animal transport in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. The report is planned for adoption in September 2011. In the light of the report and the foreseen discussions and inputs from the European Parliament and the Council the Commission will consider which actions are appropriate to address any identified problems.

QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Implementation of Directive 2007/43 for the welfare of chickens kept for meat production

Source: European parliament register. Date published: June 21 2011

By Peter van Dalen (ECR)

In the Netherlands, the space under feeders for chickens kept for meat is deducted from the usable surface area at a fixed percentage of 1.7%. This is despite the fact that France and Belgium do not make any deduction at all for feeders, and England and Denmark do not unless the feeders stand on the ground.

Although Directive 2007/43 contains a clear definition of ‘usable area’, Member States evidently interpret it differently. As a result, the Directive is implemented in different ways, which has a significant impact on competition between keepers of chickens for meat in different Member States. This is despite the fact that the Directive explicitly states that rules are needed at Community level ‘in order to avoid distortions of competition’. I would therefore ask the Commission to clarify the interpretation of the relevant provisions.

1. Is the Commission aware that, in implementing Directive 2007/43, the definition of ‘usable area’ is applied in different ways in the Member States?

2. Does the Commission consider that these differences could cause competition problems, thus running counter to the purpose of the Directive? If not, why not?

3. Will the Commission state a view on the correct interpretation of the above definition of ‘usable area’? If not, why not?
4. Is the Commission aware of the interpretation of the term ‘usable area’ by the Dutch authorities? If so, what is its view of the Dutch interpretation of the definition?

5. Does the Commission consider that if feeders are placed in a raised position in the chicken-house, so that the chickens can pass under them, and the space under the feeders is covered with litter, this area should be counted as part of the ‘usable area’?

**E-004609/2011 Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission**

1. The Council Directive 2007/43/EC of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production defines "useable area" as a littered area accessible to the chickens at any time. The Commission is aware that several Member States interpret this definition slightly differently in relation to the space occupied by the feeders.

2. The Commission acknowledges that these differences of interpretation have consequences on the calculation of stocking densities. Nevertheless the Commission does not consider that these differences put in danger the objectives of the Directive. The main objectives of the Directive are to establish rules at Union level for the protection of broilers in order to avoid distortions of competition that may interfere with the smooth running of the common market organisation in that sector and also to ensure the rational development of the sector. The Directive lays down clear basic rules for limiting stocking densities while leaving some flexibility to the Member States. It should be noted that the Directive provides that Member States are responsible for granting the derogations to producers to increase stocking densities and shall remain free to take more stringent measures in the area covered by the Directive.

3. The definition of "useable area" is set out in Article 2 h) of the Directive. Member States are required to transpose the provisions of the Directive into national law and to ensure their correct application. While the minimum rules laid down by the Directive are binding as to the results to be achieved, the Directive leaves the choice of form and methods to achieve these results to the Member States.

4. The Netherlands transposed the Directive by an order where they apply a flat rate deduction of 1.7% representing the feeder pans to the internal area of the house to determine the useable area. The order also states that a different deduction may be applied if the owner or keeper can show that this is justified for their housing system. The Commission does not have any particular comments on this transposition.

5. This technical question needs to be assessed on an ad hoc basis with an overall knowledge of the system used to raise the chickens. Important elements such as the height where the feed pans are placed, their accessibility to the chickens and the potential space available under the food litter pans have to be considered.
QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Enforcement of Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing

Source: European parliament register. Date published: June 16 2011

By Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

With regard to enforcement of Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, is the Commission aware of video footage obtained in the UK by Animal Aid (http://www.animalaid.org.uk/h/n/CAMPAIGNS/slaughter/ALL/) and the further campaigning by this organisation that has resulted in all but one of the UK’s major super-market networks agreeing to CCTV cameras being installed in abattoirs used by their meat suppliers and the resulting film footage being made available to independent animal welfare monitors

In light of the distressing failure on the part of the abattoirs filmed to maintain expected and legally required standards of animal welfare, would the Commission agree that UK consumers are fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase meat supplied by abattoirs that have agreed to allow CCTV filming in order to ensure that welfare rules are applied?

Will the Commission inform the relevant Member State competent authorities about this development and confirm that Directive 93/119/EC does not preclude competent authorities requiring abattoirs to install CCTV cameras in order to verify that animal welfare requirements are consistently and rigorously enforced?

What action does the Commission intend to take to improve enforcement of Directive 93/119/EC throughout the EU, and in particular what action will be taken with regard to the infringements revealed by the above-mentioned film footage obtained by Animal Aid?

E-005026/2011 Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

The Commission was not aware of the video footage obtained in the United Kingdom by Animal Aid and the results of this campaign.

Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing does not require installing CCTV cameras in slaughterhouses. It is in the domain of the competent authorities of the Member States to take the necessary measures in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EU legislation.

The enforcement of EU rules on the protection of animals is primarily under the responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States. In addition, Commission experts from the Commission’s inspection service of the Health and Consumers Directorate General (DG SANCO) (Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), located in Grange - Ireland) perform regular visits in the Member States in order to ensure that the competent authorities properly verify the compliance of EU rules and take the necessary corrective actions in case of infringements.
In the case of the film footage by Animal Aid, that seems to have been taken two years ago, the Commission has received no complaint until now and there is no reason for the Commission to take action if the British authorities have already been active in solving the apparent problem.

**GMOs & Novel food**

**Low Level Presence (LLP) tolerance for EU imports of raw materials**

Source: European commission RAPID - Date published: June 24 2011. The European Commission adopted today a regulation that harmonises the implementation of the zero tolerance policy on non-authorised genetically modified (GM) material in feed. The regulation, which will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, addresses the current uncertainty EU operators face when placing on the market feed products imported from third countries. The regulation sets out a technical zero at the level of 0.1 %, which corresponds to the lowest level of GM material that is considered by the EU Reference Laboratory for the validation of quantitative methods. The regulation is limited to GM feed material for which an authorisation procedure is pending in the EU or for which an authorisation has expired. In addition, this material has to fulfil a set of criteria, which is also outlined in the regulation. The regulation ensures a harmonised approach to controls in all Member States. It also improves the legal certainty for importers of feed from third countries. Different maize products (four million tons imported in the 2008-09 season) and soybean products (33 million tons in soya meal equivalents in the 2008-09 season), imported mainly from Argentina, Brazil and the US, are an essential supplement for the EU's livestock sector. For more information please see: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/index_en.htm

Entry into force: The Regulation will take effect 20 days after the official publication.

**QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION:** The low level presence (LLP) of GMOs in feed imports

Source: EU – Date: 24 June 2011

What is this new GM Regulation about?

There are currently no harmonised rules for the control of imports of feed materials from third countries, which may contain traces of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) not covered by EU authorisations. Experience has shown that in the absence of such rules, the official laboratories and the competent authorities in the Member States apply different methods of sampling for the detection of such traces and for the interpretation of the results of the analytical tests. This may lead to different conclusions as regards the compliance of a product with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed1. As a result of the lack of harmonised rules, operators are faced with legal and economic uncertainty and there is a risk that the functioning of the internal market will be affected due to possible random checks within the EU.

The EU animal feed sector is highly dependent on agricultural commodities imports. Different soybean (33 million tons in soya meal equivalents in the 2008-09 season) and maize products
(four million tons imported in the 2008-09 season), coming mainly from Brazil, Argentina and the US, are an essential supplement for our livestock sector. The cultivation in third countries of GMOs for which the EU authorisation procedure is pending (so-called asynchronous authorisations) is associated to risks of traces or low level presence (LLP) of these GMOs in imported commodities. Exporters and importers face serious economic risks due to the lack of harmonized rules for controls, which could also lead to shortages in feed supply.

The harmonisation of rules for the controls of non-authorised GM feed is thus addressing the current uncertainty that EU operators face when placing feed on the market.

How will this Regulation bring legal certainty for operators? Why is a level of 0.1% defined as technical zero?²

The adoption at EU level of robust sampling and detection methods, and the introduction of harmonised rules for the interpretation of the results of the analysis, will ensure that the same results are obtained for the same products throughout the EU. Therefore, not only will feed operators be in a position to ensure that their products will be subject to the same harmonised rules, but they will also be able to carry out their own controls by using the same methods that are used for the official controls. Read more...

**QUESTION BY MEP TO EU COMMISSION: Sale of and trade in meat and other products from cloned animals**

Source: European parliament register

By Franz Obermayr (NI)

According to a Eurostat survey, 75% of Europeans are opposed to the cloning of animals for food production. In the next five years, meat from cloned animals will not be on sale in the EU. The import of such meat is also banned.

However, the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli, has proposed that there should be no ban on meat and milk from the descendants of cloned animals.

1. Does the Commission intend to permit the sale of meat from descendants of cloned animals?
2. Do any studies exist which prove that the consumption of meat from cloned animals has negative effects?
3. If not, why not?
4. Should it not first be scientifically proven that such consumption is harmless before the sale of meat or milk from descendants of cloned animals is allowed?
5. If the sale of meat from descendants of cloned animals is permitted, what market share will such meat represent?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission**

The Report takes into account all available scientific aspects on the matter, in particular the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion[2] and statements[3] clearly establishes that the food derived from clones and their offspring does not differ from conventional food as regards food safety. The Commission is not aware of any study proving that the consumption of meat from cloned animals has negative effects on health.

Animal welfare concerns linked to the use of the technique have been identified by EFSA in the case of clones. The above-mentioned Report therefore concludes that the Commission intends to propose legislation to temporarily suspend the use of the cloning technique in the EU for food production purposes and the marketing of food from clones and to establish traceability requirements on their reproductive materials. This would allow European farmers to have access to the appropriate information to avoid the use of reproductive material from cloned animals if they so wish. For the moment there are no statistics available on the market share that meat from descendants of cloned animals would have.

No agreement was reached in the Conciliation on the Revision of the Regulation on Novel Foods[4]. The proposed revision included, inter alia, a temporary ban of the cloning technique for food production and of the marketing food from clones. The Commission is now examining the next steps both with respect to the Novel Food Regulation and the follow up to the Commission's Report on cloning for food production.


Environment / Climate Action

Towards a global green economy and better governance – the Commission presents policy orientations for the Rio+20 Conference

Source: EU – Date: 20 June 2011- Today the European Commission adopted a Communication preparing the ground for the EU's position at the Rio+20 UN Sustainable Development Conference, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.

The Communication outlines objectives and specific actions on the two inter-linked themes of the Conference: enabling the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and ensuring better governance for sustainable development.
Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik and Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs presented the Communication jointly, marking an important link between environment and development.

Janez Potočnik said: "The sustainable management of resources and natural capital is essential, for countries in all stages of development. – and It can be particular opportunity for developing countries as resources and natural capital are fundamentally linked to the efforts to eradicate poverty. To make this happen at a global level we have to start putting in place the right market and regulatory conditions globally. Rio+20 can mark the start of a world-wide transition towards a global green economy."

Andris Piebalgs added "Developing countries are the first affected by climate change and degradation of the environment. Floods, drought, and earthquakes are the most visible effects. They put at risk the economic and social development we strive to trigger through our assistance. Rio+20 is the opportunity to secure political commitment to improve the well-being of millions of people. We need to shift towards a green economy that will help us achieve sustainable growth which benefit to all citizens."

The Communication maps out the "what, how and who" of a transition to a green economy, proposing specific actions that could be implemented at the international, national and regional levels. The key themes are:

1. Investing in key resources and natural capital ("what"): these are: water, renewable energy, marine resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture, forests, waste and recycling. These areas underpin millions of livelihoods and can help alleviate poverty. They could become areas for future economic growth and global markets.

2. Combining market and regulatory instruments ("how"): eco-taxes, removing environmentally harmful subsidies, mobilising public and private financial resources, investing in skills and green jobs. Indicators that reflect a wider sense of progress (both environmental and social), and that can work alongside GDP, need to be developed.

3. Improving governance and encouraging private sector involvement ("who"): reinforcing and streamlining the existing international governance structures (for example by upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). The much greater involvement and engagement of businesses and civil society is also essential.

Today's Communication lays the basis for further dialogue between the Commission, Council and Parliament, civil society, business, and countries in the lead up to Rio+20. A consolidated EU position needs to be submitted to the UN by 1st November 2011.

Next Steps

On the basis of this Communication, the Commission will work together with Council and Parliament to build a consistent EU position that will contribute to an ambitious Rio+20 outcome with concrete policies and actions for greening the economy.

Background

Two decades after the first 'Earth Summit' in 1992, although good progress has been made as regards poverty eradication and environmental degradation, considerable global challenges remain. Several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are severely off-track. Roughly 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty and one sixth of the world's population is undernourished. Natural resources are depleting while global greenhouse gas emissions
continue to rise. Against that backdrop world leaders will meet in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 for the fourth Earth Summit of this kind, to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Rio UN Conference on Environment and Development and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. Rio+20 will focus on two interlinked themes: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Environment: a huge majority of EU citizens care deeply about the environment

Source: EU – Date: 20 June 2011 – The latest survey by the European Commission shows that the environment is an important personal concern to more than 90% of respondents in every single Member State. A large majority of Europeans agree that using natural resources more efficiently and protecting the environment can boost economic growth in the EU. The report also contains a strong mandate for EU action: despite the economic crisis, almost 9 in 10 Europeans think EU funding should be allocated to support environmentally friendly activities. There is also massive support for legislation at the EU level: more than 8 in 10 Europeans agree that EU legislation is necessary to protect the environment in their country.

Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "Many of these trends show that Europeans are more strongly engaged with the environment than ever before. And these are actions, and not just good intentions: 2 in 3 Europeans say they have separated waste for recycling in the last month, over half are trying to cut their energy consumption, 4 in 10 are trying to use fewer disposable goods, and greater numbers of Europeans are choosing more environmentally friendly forms of transport. The findings are also an important vindication of the European project. They offer unambiguous support for environmental legislation at the EU level."

Natural resources a growing concern

The survey reveals a growing awareness of the pressures on natural resources. When asked about solutions, 8 in 10 want businesses to do more to use natural resources more efficiently, more than 7 in 10 want national governments to do more, and almost 7 in 10 think citizens themselves should do more.

When asked about their top five environmental concerns, more than 3 in 10 Europeans now think about the depletion of natural resources (33%, up from 26% in 2007), 41% think about water pollution, 33% think about the growth of waste (up from 24%), and 19% think about consumption (up from 11%). Concern for biodiversity loss, by contrast, remains low – only 22% think about the loss of species and habitats.

Mandates for action

Despite the economic crisis, 89% of Europeans think that more funding should be allocated to support protecting the environment.

81% support environmentally-focused legislation at the EU level as a necessary means of protecting the environment (- 1 point compared to 2007).

Almost 60% of Europeans think that environmentally friendly procurement procedures are the most effective way of tackling environmental problems, with less than 30% favouring solutions that are merely cost-effective.

Action and financial support beyond the EU borders also receives strong backing, with 79% believing that the EU should help to support non-EU countries to protect the environment.
More information, please...

While most Europeans feel reasonably well informed about the environment (60%, up from 55% in 2007), information deficits were identified in a number of areas. Some 50% of Europeans feel that current labelling systems do not allow them to identify environmentally friendly goods with confidence. Citizens would also like to be better informed about the impact of common chemicals on their health (40%), about the use of GMOs in farming (37%), agricultural pollution from pesticides and fertilisers, and about the depletion of natural resources (27%).

Background

This survey was carried out in the 27 Member States of the European Union between 13 April and 8 May 2011. Some 26,825 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed face-to-face in their mother tongue on behalf of DG Environment.

Research

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn sets out conclusions from consultation on the future of EU research and innovation funding

Source: EU – Date: 10 June 2011. Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn today presented to a major stakeholder conference in Brussels the results of the public consultation on the Commission's Green Paper on EU research and innovation funding post-2013 (IP/11/138 and Midday Express 09/06/2011). The Commission received over 2 000 responses. The Commissioner pointed to six main conclusions from the consultation. First, "a remarkable degree of consensus" supporting the Green Paper proposals for bringing the various strands of EU funding much closer together under a Common Strategic Framework. Second, that "we can achieve even better results if we go for radical simplification". Third, "strong calls to maintain continuity of the elements of the current programmes that are working most successfully - notably the European Research Council and Marie Curie fellowships - along with recurring messages on keeping collaborative research across borders as the core element of the future funding programme". Fourth, a call for the EU to be "less prescriptive and more open in our funding opportunities as this will give people more freedom to innovate." Fifth, "the EU should support all stages in the innovation chain..... from blue-sky research to the marketplace". And last but not least, "the Common Strategic Framework will need both curiosity-driven and policy-driven activities, working in tandem." Commissioners Olli Rehn, Michel Barnier and Janez Potočnik are also speakers at the conference. The Commission will bring forward before the end of 2011 a legislative proposal to implement the new funding framework. See SPEECH/11/429.

Commission report highlights Europe's innovation emergency and analyses Member States' progress

Source:EU – Date: 09 June 2011 - The EU’s innovation performance needs major improvements in many areas if the Europe 2020 strategy is to deliver smart sustainable growth, concludes the European Commission’s 2011 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report. Europe needs more and "smarter" investment in both public and private research and development – not only does this boost growth in the medium-term, it also has a counter-cyclical effect in times of crisis. More research cooperation within the EU and internationally is needed, along with better use of research results, including through a stronger intellectual property regime. Education systems
need to be adapted to business innovation needs. Innovative and fast-growing SME's need more encouragement. A concerted effort is necessary to build on Europe's promising record in innovation tackling global challenges such as climate change. The gender gap in science and research must be closed.

"This Report underlines that the road to the Innovation Union is long and challenging, with big obstacles along the way. But it confirms that the EU has agreed the right policies to get to the end of that road. Putting the Innovation Union into practice at European and national levels is an economic 'must', as important for sustainable growth as sorting out public finances," said European Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.

The Report analyses the strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems and provides solid facts on which to base national policy choices. It builds on the Innovation Union Scoreboard. It includes a factsheet detailing each country's research and innovation performance.

Key findings from the report

Europe needs to accelerate investment in research and innovation. The EU is slowly advancing towards its target of investing 3% of GDP in research and development (2.01% in 2009) but the gap with leading competitors is widening notably due to weaker business R&D investment. In 2008, 24% of the total world R&D expenditure was performed in the EU (29% in 1995). Relative to GDP, business invests twice as much in Japan or in South Korea as in Europe.

In times of economic crisis, accumulated investment in research and innovation has a countercyclical effect. Countries that have increased their investments in research and innovation have better prospects of getting out of crisis. Seventeen Member States were able to maintain or increase their R&D budgets in 2009 and sixteen in 2010.

Investments in innovation have to be "smarter". The most successful innovation performers have focused their investments in a smart specialisation strategy combining supply-side policies (such as public subsidies to higher education, business R&D, venture capital and scientific & technological infrastructures) and demand-side ones (such as public procurement of innovative products, performance-based standardisation and pro-competitive product market regulations).

The development of highly-skilled people needs to be matched with the needs of business. Only 46% of EU researchers work in the business sector (80% in the US). Member States should adapt their education systems to keep increasing numbers while ensuring a better match with business needs.

Integration and internationalisation of research increases returns on investments. Internationalisation and efficient production of scientific excellence are mutually reinforcing. Knowledge flows (i.e. of students, co-publications, co-patenting cooperation) inside Europe are a strong asset and will be further enhanced by the completion of the European Research Area. However, they are concentrated among a few Western European countries.

Weak framework conditions prevent knowledge being transformed into marketable products and services. Europe is losing ground in the exploitation of research results. The EU is the first producer of peer-reviewed scientific publications in the world (29% in 2009) but the rate of growth of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patent applications in Japan and South Korea is almost double that of the EU. Half of the Member States do not produce high-tech European Patent Office (EPO) patents at all. Further steps are needed to offer more cost-efficient
intellectual property protection and management. The EU patent currently being negotiated will be an important start.

Europe has strong potential in technological inventions tackling societal challenges. In 2007, the EU accounted for 40% of patents related to climate change technologies. This shows that targeted research and demonstration investment in key areas combined with measures to support market development can lead to new technologies and innovations. This is the spirit of the European Innovation Partnerships launched by the Innovation Union.

We need more innovative and fast-growing SMEs. The EU needs to catch up with the US in the research intensity of high-tech and medium high-tech industries. In other words, it needs structural change both within and between sectors. Some European countries such as Austria and Denmark have achieved a structural change to a more knowledge-intensive economy. Many of these countries have also recovered better from the economic crisis. Common features behind this success are innovative and fast-growing SMEs, benefitting from scientific excellence in public research and favourable framework conditions for bringing new knowledge to the market.

Background

Every two years, the Innovation Union Competitiveness Report – covering all 27 Member States and six Associated countries - will contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy by providing an in-depth statistical and economic analysis covering the main features of an efficient research and innovation system. This is the first edition under the Innovation Union initiative (IP/10/1288) and replaces the former Science, Technology and Competitiveness Report.

**Eurostat**

**EU27 Foreign Direct Investment - Strong decline in EU27 investment flows with the rest of the world in 2010**

Date: 27 June 2011. Following the economic crisis, EU27 FDI1 (foreign direct investment) in the rest of the world (outflows) declined significantly in 2010, falling by 62%, from 281 billion euro in 2009 to 107 bn in 2010, while FDI into the EU27 from the rest of the world (inflows) dropped by 75%, from 216 bn to 54 bn. This continues the trend of recent years, with EU27 outflows in 2010 standing at more than five times lower than in 2007, and inflows around eight times lower.

These figures2, published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, come from the first FDI results for 2010.

USA and Canada main investors in the EU27

The strong fall in EU27 investments in the rest of the world in 2010 is explained by the significant declines recorded with the Offshore financial centres4 (from 89 bn euro in 2009 to 21 bn in 2010), the USA (from 79 bn to 12 bn) and Switzerland (from 44 bn to disinvestment of 7 bn). [Read more...](#)

**Statistics on the food chain - From farm to fork**

Date: 22 June 2011. The food chain usually starts on the farm, within the agricultural sector, where some of the products are already processed. Most of the food consumed in the EU is
however processed within the manufacturing sector, before it is distributed through wholesalers and finally purchased by consumers in shops or restaurants.

An overview shows that there were just over 48 million people employed within the EU27’s food chain in 2008, equivalent to more than a fifth of total employment. The food chain was made-up of almost 17 million different holdings/enterprises and generated 750 billion euro of value added, equivalent to around 6% of the GDP of the EU27. Four fifths of the holdings/enterprises within the food chain were agricultural holdings. These holdings also generated the majority of employment (56%) within the food chain. However, value added was more evenly spread over the different actors in the food chain, with 26% each of total value added recorded in agriculture and food & beverage manufacturing, 20% in food & beverage retailing, 17% in food & beverage services and 11% in food & beverage wholesaling. This information is extracted from two publications issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Structure of the food chain in the EU27, 2008, in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure of the food chain in the EU27, 2008, in %</th>
<th>Number of holdings/enterprises</th>
<th>Number of persons employed</th>
<th>Value added at factor cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture*</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; beverage manufacturing**</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, beverage &amp; tobacco wholesaling</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, beverage &amp; tobacco retailing***</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; beverage services1</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total food chain</td>
<td>13.7 million</td>
<td>48.1 million</td>
<td>751 billion euro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Number of holdings and employment: 2007

** Value added estimated and excluding beverages for the number of enterprises

*** Value added and employment estimated

Highest number of food retailers in Spain and Italy Read more...

Population projections 2010-2060 - EU27 population is expected to peak by around 2040 - One person in eight aged 80 or more in 2060

Date: 8 June 2011. The EU27 population is projected to increase from 501 million on 1 January 2010 to 525 million in 2035, to peak at 526 million around 2040, and thereafter gradually decline to 517 million in 2060. The EU27 population is also projected to continue to grow older, with the share of the population aged 65 years and over rising from 17% in 2010 to 30% in 2060, and those aged 80 and over rising from 5% to 12% over the same period.

These population projections for the period 2010-2060 are issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Population projections are scenarios that aim to provide...
information about the possible future size and structure of the population, and should therefore be considered with caution.

Strongest population growth in Ireland, Luxembourg, Cyprus and the United Kingdom

There are projected to be considerable differences between the Member States. Between 2010 and 2060, the population is projected to rise in fourteen Member States and fall in thirteen. The strongest population growth is projected to be found in Ireland (+46%), Luxembourg (+45%), Cyprus (+41%), the United Kingdom (+27%), Belgium (+24%) and Sweden (+23%), and the sharpest declines in Bulgaria (-27%), Latvia (-26%), Lithuania (-20%), Romania and Germany (both -19%).

In 2060, the Member States with the largest populations would be the United Kingdom (79 million), France (74 mn), Germany (66 mn), Italy (65 mn) and Spain (52 mn).

International Trade

José Manuel Durão Barroso President of the European Commission Statement by President Barroso following the Russia-EU Summit Joint press conference with the Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev, and the European Council President Herman Van Rompuy Nizhny Novgorod, 10 June 2011

Thank you very much President Medvedev,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start with a word of gratitude for the warm welcome we have received in this historical and beautiful city of Nizhny Novgorod.

Alexander Pushkin, such a great famous Russian poet, whose life is closely associated to this city, said once: “Inspiration is needed in politics, just as much as in poetry.” And I think we got good inspiration from the very positive atmosphere of this Summit.

It was a substantive and successful Russia-EU Summit which was instrumental in bringing our strategic partnership forward.

Let me just highlight a few points:

First, our Partnership for Modernization is now delivering in practice. Our coordinators have reported on the progress made. Joint projects and activities are already underway and boost our modernization agenda, such as our European Union action supporting a Russia-wide judicial appeal system. The Partnership is thus making a major, mutually beneficial contribution, as do the 16 bilateral modernization partnerships which our Member States have concluded with Russia.

This is backed up by concrete European funding: The EBRD and the EIB. The EIB just today agreed Memoranda of Understanding with the VEB (the Russian Development Bank) to support Partnership for Modernization projects, for a total of almost € 2 billion.

Clearly, this modernization must be broad-based to be successful. Transformation is not just about technology. The creative forces of society as a whole must be engaged.
New EU Legislation

June 2011


Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 614/2011 of 23 June 2011 fixing the export refunds on beef and veal

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 615/2011 of 23 June 2011 fixing the export refunds on poultry meat


Corrigendum to the Note for guidance on minimising the risk of transmitting animal spongiform encephalopathy agents via human and veterinary medicinal products (EMA/410/01 rev. 3) (OJ C 73, 5.3.2011)


Commission Implementing Decision of 17 June 2011 amending Decision 2009/719/EC authorising certain Member States to revise their annual BSE monitoring programmes (notified under document C(2011) 4194) (1)

Commission Implementing Decision of 17 June 2011 establishing the financial contribution by the Union to the expenditure incurred in the context of the
emergency measures taken to **combat avian influenza in Germany** in 2007 (notified under document C(2011) 4161)


Commission Implementing Decision of 16 June 2011 establishing the **financial contribution** by the Union for the implementation of an **epidemiological survey and bluetongue surveillance** measures in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat this disease in the **Netherlands** in 2006 and 2007 (notified under document C(2011) 4146)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 567/2011 of 14 June 2011 entering a name in the register of **protected designations of origin** and protected geographical indications (**Porchetta di Ariccia** (PGI))

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 562/2011 of 10 June 2011 adopting the **plan allocating to the Member States resources** to be charged to the 2012 budget year for the supply of food from **intervention stocks for the benefit of the most deprived persons** in the European Union and derogating from certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 807/2010

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 533/2011 of 31 May 2011 entering a name in the register of **protected designations of origin** and protected geographical indications (**Chorizo de Cantimpalos** (PGI))