

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

66th Meeting of ACAF on 2 February 2015

Presentation Paper :
Presentation on EC proposal on Official Controls

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**Food
Standards
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EC proposals on official controls

February 2015 update

Objectives of new Regulation

- Comprehensive and consistent approach along the agri-food chain
- Increased efficiency by moving to risk based controls in all sectors
- Reduce administrative burden
- Improved cross-border co-operation
- Improved transparency
- Adequate and sustainable level of resources

Impact

- Whole agri-food chain covered
 - Food and feed
 - Animal health and welfare
 - Animal by-products
 - Residues and plant protection products
 - GMOs
 - Plant health and plant reproductive materials*
 - Organic and protected geographical status
- The proposal won't change the official controls that are currently delivered, but will change how Member States approach official control delivery

Specific impacts

- Maintenance of current rules for official controls
- Common set of rules applicable to all checks carried out at borders on food, feed, animals, products of animal origin, plants and other products
 - greater flexibility for low risk products
- The risk based approach to controls is maintained
 - Use of accreditation schemes, record of compliance and operator's own checks
- Violations of the rules perpetrated through fraudulent deceptive practices

Charging

- Introduction of mandatory charging and the requirement that Member States recover the full cost of official controls
 - Removal of the minimum charges for certain official controls such as meat, fishery products, dairy, imports and approval/registration of feed businesses
- Mandatory exemption for micro businesses, defined as those businesses that employ less than 10 people and with an annual turnover/balance sheet of less than €2m
 - Exemption wouldn't apply to additional official controls carried out following detection of non-compliance.

Where are we now? (UK)

- Summary report to the UK consultation published in April 2014.
 - Support for the preferred option to negotiate on areas where change is required and for the UK's position on charging
- EAC clearance to the UK's negotiating lines
- Scrutiny committees keeping the dossier under consideration and are being regularly updated
- Stakeholder updates via email and on the food.gov and rounds of update meetings with internal and external stakeholders including the devolved administrations

Where are we now? (Council)

- Significant progress in a number of areas of the dossier gaining broad support around the table
 - number of amendments tabled by the UK adopted into revisions
- No consensus on the topics of charging for official controls and the use of Official Veterinarians
 - Polarised views around the table
- Not close to an agreed position

Where are we now? (European Parliament)

- 1st reading position adopted in plenary during April 2014.
 - Adopted helpful amendments on charging but not on the use of official veterinarians
- The rapporteur for the proposal during the last Parliament was not returned and has been replaced by Karin Kadenbach MEP (AT, S&D)
- Will return to considering the dossier when Council are closer to a first position

Next steps

- Continuing negotiations in Council under the Latvian Presidency
 - Priority and focussing on compromise on key issues
- Likely start of trilogues with the European Parliament and the Commission from late spring onwards
- Final text not expected to be adopted until the start of 2016
 - Transition periods between 1 and 5 years
- Stakeholders kept updated on progress and notified of significant changes