Scientific and Technical Working Group

September 13th 2023 – Virtual meeting

COCERAL

Agenda

- Welcome and antitrust declaration, and approval of the agenda, and introduction of the new chair
- Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of the STWG of 5 June 2023 *(from 09.35 to 10.00)*
- Guest speaker: Katri Saari (Food Policy Advisor for CEEREAL/FRUCOM): Real time demonstration on how their online management tool for PPP residues works: (from 10.00 to 11.00)

Quick coffee break (10 minutes)

- Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed *(from 11.10 to 11.45)*
- Overview of priorities and needs from the Food and Feed Safety (FFS) Committee (Corrado Finardi) *(from 11.45 to 12.15)*
- A.O.B. *(from 12.15 to 12.30)*

Minutes of the last meeting of the STWG of 5 June 2023 – list of accomplished and pending actions

Action number	Action description	For Secretariat/for members	Timeframe (if applicable)	State of play	Deliverables
~~3-B and 3-C~~	The Secretariat to inform member when the two legal provisions on sampling and testing of mycotoxins and plant toxins will be published in the EU Official Journal	For Secretariat	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Regulatory update
4-A	COCERAL to discuss a risk management approach on the future Commission proposal for maximum levels on MOSH/MOAH.	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Risk management approach (proposal)
4-B	The Secretariat to draft next edition of the Mycotoxin management report, and submit it to review of members	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Report
4-C-1	The Secretariat to update the COCERAL (EU) contaminants tracker and publish it in the member area	For Secretariat	Q4 2023	Ongoing	Tracker
4-C-2	The Secretariat to check discrepancies in the Member State version of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915	For Secretariat	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Regulatory update
5-A-1	The Secretariat to update the COCERAL PPP/MRL tracker and publish it in the member area	For Secretariat	Q3 2023	Ongoing	Tracker
5-A-2	The Secretariat to invite FRUCOM/CEREEAL to join next STWG meeting in September to show their online PPP/MRL database	For Secretariat	August 2023	Accomplished	Update
6-A	The Secretariat to inform members of the updates from the Ad-Hoc COCERAL WG on the review of the GHP guide	For Secretariat	Q3 2023	Ongoing	Update
6-B	The Secretariat to inform members on any update from EFSA (and other relevant Food Safety Authorities) on emerging risks	For Secretariat	Q3 2023	Ongoing	Update
6-C	The Secretariat to inform members on any update on fumigation issues in the EU (and third countries)	For Secretariat	Q3 2023	Ongoing	Technical update

Minutes of the last meeting of the STWG of 5 June 2023 – list of accomplished and pending actions

Action number	Action description	For Secretariat/for members	Timeframe (if applicable)	State of play	Deliverables
	The Secretariat to inform members on any update on rodenticides	For Secretariat	Q3 2023 (and later)	Ongoing	Technical update
~~3-E~~	The Secretariat to update the COCERAL mycotoxins database	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Database
~~3-F~~	The Secretariat to create a COCERAL contaminant database	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Database
~~3-F~~	The Secretariat to check which laboratories could achieve the LOQs on PFAs suggested by the EC, and check how other stakeholders are dealing with PFAs monitoring	For Secretariat	Q3 2023	Ongoing	Technical update
~~5-A-1~~	Members to send regularly PPP occurrence data and the Secretariat to update the COCERAL PPP database	For Secretariat and members	Twice a year (beginning, and end, of each crop season)	Ongoing	Database
~~5-A-2~~	Members to share with the Secretariat the list of foreseen PPP residues, etc as per their MSs MANCPs	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Reports
~~6-C~~	The Secretariat to inform members about any updates coming from the WMF (9-11 October 2023)	For Secretariat	End October 2023	Ongoing	Technical/scientific update
	The Secretariat to investigate (with the support of members) on any relevant discussion on ergot alkaloid at Member State level	For Secretariat and members	Q3 2023 (or later)	Ongoing	Technical update

Guest speaker: Katri Saari (Food Policy Advisor for CEEREAL/FRUCOM): Real time demonstration on how their online management tool for PPP residues works:

Next edition of the Mycotoxins management survey and report (crop year 2022-2023)

- Scope of the next versions:
  - Explain (for a general audience) what mycotoxins are and what are the risks for human and animal health
  - Provide detailed info on the EU regulatory framework (and how decision to introduce new regulatory levels are taken)
  - Listing sampling and testing practices *(when, where, on what commodities/mycotoxins, and how)* pursued by grain collectors and international traders
  - Explain which prevention and mitigation measures are taken by COCERAL members

Action/s for the Secretariat:

- draft next report according to answers received and show how different mycotoxins occurrence evolved through the past, according to COCERAL data, with very graphically interesting charts
- Try publishing the new report by end 2023 *(or by first quarter 2024 the latest)*
- No answers received from members so far! Input was required by 30 August *(please refer to my email: COCERAL Mycotoxins Management Survey 2023 | Questionnaire to be returned filled in | STWG19/2023)*

Updated COCERAL Contaminants tracker

- Tool built according to current EU legal Framework for contaminants (including mycotoxins and inherent plant toxins, and heavy metals, and organic compounds etc.) so:
  - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006
  - Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed (version 28.11.2019)
  - and also taking into consideration the draft proposals from the Commission for new (future) Maximum level in food and guidance values (or maximum levels) in feed materials and compound feed, as well as (new feature) commission monitoring recommendations*
- It does not include PPPs and MRLs as there is another tracker for that purposes
- **Latest version (25 May 2023):**
  - **Changes done since previous version are now available in a PDF file**

- ***Any other suggestion/requirement?***

Action for the Secretariat: publish the tool in the website and make it available for all COCERAL members (and update it as much as needed)

Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed

- Other contaminants *(for information)*:
  - **DON (deoxynivalenol) in food:**
    - New regulation, setting reviewed maximum levels in certain foodstuffs, is expected to be submitted for SCoPAFF vote 22 September 2023, entry into force 1 July 2024. Products lawfully placed on the market before July 1, 2024 can be still sold/used.
  - **Sum of T-2 and HT-2 toxins in food:**
    - New regulation, setting new maximum levels in certain foodstuffs, is expected to be submitted for SCoPAFF vote 22 September 2023, entry into force 1 July 2024. Products lawfully placed on the market before July 1, 2024 can be still sold/used.
  - **Nickel in food**
    - There was a Commission targeted stakeholder consultation with deadline 07 April 2023 and COCERAL participated with a general answer (no data was submitted, as scarce and not representative)
  - **Ergot and ergot alkaloids in rye (food)**
    - Discussion regarding lowering the MLs for rye per 1 July 2024 and the feasibility. Intercereales has commented that the lower ML for rye will be a problem. Likewise, the European Flour Millers commented the same for bread-making wheat and rye, and that there is no correlation between sclerotia and alkaloids.
    - Stakeholder discussion in September 22 SCoPAFF – afterwards the discussion continues in CWG

Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed

- Other contaminants *(for information)*:
  - **Revision of annex of Directive 32/2002 (Feed)**
    - Review of MLs of ergot, nickel, THC, *Datura* in feed, Dioxins and dioxins like PCBs with legal draft to be finalized by December 2022, and to be discussed in Commission expert group animal nutrition in Q2 2023, and then a "have your say" consultation and publication in Q3 – 2023
  - **Mycotoxins in animal feed**
    - COCERAL participated to the Stakeholder consultation (04 March 2021), strongly opposing to the introduction of a new guidance level for Zearalenone in Sugar beet products and Oilseeds and derived products
    - Commission indeed wants to have new guidance values in feed material and Maximum Levels in compound feed (the discussion on this is still ongoing between the Commission and the Member States)
    - Possible development in 2 quarter 2023
  - **Inorganic Arsenic in animal feed**
    - EC Recommendation on monitoring the presence of inorganic arsenic in feed (2022/C 206/01 - May 2022).
    - EURL developed routine methods to analyse inorganic arsenic.
    - EFSA has no data to perform risk assessment of the substance.
    - MS to monitor the inorganic arsenic and submit data to EFSA by June 2023.
    - EFSA to do risk assessment and possible measures to follow by the EC.

Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed

- Other contaminants *(for information)*:
  - **Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCBs (Feed)**
    - EFSA 2018 Opinion: WHO 2005 Toxic Equivalency Factors (TEFs) to be re-evaluated.
    - WHO ad-hoc expert consultation (Lisbon, 17-21 October), Update of almost all WHO TEFs values when compared to the 2005; The outcome and details of the meeting will be published in a peer-reviewed paper in fall 2023
    - Discussion at EC level are expected after the publication
  - **Ergot alkaloids in animal feed**
    - Future recommendation for monitoring of 12 ergot alkaloids in at risk feed materials and information on processing factors
  - **Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in animal Feed**
    - Future recommendation for monitoring for alkaloids relevant for food + 6 more (in particular silage)
    - Method of analysis published, applicable for feed commodities, incl. compound feed
    - LOQ: 10 ppb
  - **Quinolizidine alkaloids in lupins (feed)**
    - Information required on factors influencing their presence in lupin
    - More data needed on occurrence + possible future Recommendation for monitoring
    - Setting of max limits for total quinolizidine alkaloids
  - **Nitrate/Nitrite in Animal Feed**
    - EFSA risk assessment on nitrate & nitrite in feed – November 2020.
    - EC requested updated information – January & April 2022*
    - EC to decide for potential follow-up actions - Possible developments in fall 2023

Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs):

- EC Recommendation 2022/1431 (august 2022) **for FOOD,** saying that
  - Member States, in collaboration with food business operators, perform during the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 monitoring on the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food (fruits, vegetables, starchy roots and tubers, cereals, oilseeds, nuts, food for infants and young children, food of animal origin, non-alcoholic drinks, wine and beer)*
  - Members States, which have the analytical capability to analyse PFAs in feed, should do also monitor PFAs in feed
- **but**
  - Recommendation for monitoring PFAs in feed will be published in 1 or 2 years
  - No LOQ for testing PFAs in feed have been communicated by the JRC yet, and there are a lot of analytical issues in feed
  - LOQ (for food) as mentioned in the recommendation** are target LOQs, so it is indeed not surprising that certain laboratories cannot yet achieve these LOQs. Member States may also submit results, which were obtained with methods with higher limits of quantification. Important is that the LOQ is sufficiently low and as close as possible to the target LOQ

- **Can COCERAL have a common interest to monitor this presence (food and feed) via a collective approach? EUROMALT and COPA-COGECA are interested!**

Contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed

- Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs):

Contaminant	Parameters	Eurofins GfA Lab Service GmbH Neuländer Kamp 1a - 21079 Hamburg - Germany	SGS Germany GmbH Heidenkampsweg 99 - D - 20097 Hamburg - Germany	Primoris lab Technologiepark 90, zone A6b - 9052 Zwijnaarde, Belgium
PFAS (EU4) monitoring LOQ	Compounds tested (and relative LOQ)	1. Perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS) (0.00200 µg/kg) 2. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (0.00100 µg/kg) 3. Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (0.00100 µg/kg) 4. Perfluorhexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (0.00400 µg/kg)	They don't offer this service	They cannot offer this service
	Technique	LC-MS/MS		
	Method	Internal method (GLS OC 400:2019-01-18)		
	Accredited method	Yes DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 Dakks D-PL-14629-01-00		
	Sample size needed	200 grams		
	Price per sample (in euro)	600 (net)		
PFAS (EU4) low LOQ	Compounds tested (and relative LOQ)	1. Perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS) (0.0100 µg/kg) 2. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (0.0100 µg/kg) 3. Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (0.00500 µg/kg) 4. Perfluorhexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (0.0100 µg/kg)	1. Perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS) (0.05 µg/kg) 2. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (0.05 µg/kg) 3. Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (0.05 µg/kg) 4. Perfluorhexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (0.05 µg/kg)	1. Perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS) (0.001 mg/kg) 2. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (0.001 mg/kg) 3. Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (0.001 mg/kg) 4. Perfluorhexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (0.001 mg/kg)
	Technique	LC-MS/MS	LC-MS/MS	LC-MS/MS
	Method	Internal method (GLS OC 400:2019-01-18)	Internal method (SOP M 1227)	Internal method
	Accredited method	Yes DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 Dakks D-PL-14629-01-00	Yes	Yes
	Minimum sample size needed	15 grams	15 grams	50 grams
	Price per sample (in euro)	326 (net)	181 (net)	233.88 (excl. VAT)

COCERAL task force for MOAH/MOSH contamination in food (updates)

- The public consultation from EFSA regarding their draft scientific opinion on the update of the risk assessment of mineral oil hydrocarbons in food has been published and its deadline was 30 April.
- The COCERAL task force for MOAH/MOSH contamination in food agreed (during its last meeting on 21 April) that:
  - COCERAL should participate in this public consultation, but
  - COCERAL should send only general comments on this draft EFSA scientific opinion (COCERAL has sent its reply -see slides of STWG meeting of 5 June)
- EFSA published today (13 September) their FINAL scientific opinion on the update of the risk assessment of mineral oil hydrocarbons in food (see next slide).

COCERAL task force for MOAH/MOSH contamination in food (updates)

- MOSH (risk categorization)
  - Considering the existing uncertainties in the toxicological data set of MOSH, the CONTAM Panel concluded that MOEs ≥ 1,200 are sufficient to indicate that there is a low concern for human health risks related to the current dietary exposure to MOSH.
  - For the general population, the CONTAM Panel noted that MOEs for all age classes are at or above a value of 1,200.
  - Overall, the CONTAM Panel concluded that the current dietary exposure to MOSH for all age classes raises no concern for human health.
- MOAH (risk categorization)
  - In view of the possible presence of genotoxic and carcinogenic substances, MOEs ≥ 10,000 were considered of low concern for human health, in accordance with the Opinion of the EFSA Scientific Committee (EFSA, 2005).
  - Under the Scenario 1, MOEs were consistently lower than 10,000 for most of the consumption surveys for mean consumers and all high consumers.
  - Under the Scenario 2, MOEs were below 10,000 for UB estimates only, for most of the dietary surveys at the mean exposure and for all at P95 exposure. However, MOEs were higher than 10,000 for all the LB mean exposure levels and for most of the LB P95 exposure levels, with the exception of some surveys in the younger age groups showing P95 LB MOEs in the range 4,000–8,000.
  - The CONTAM Panel concluded that Scenario 1 would raise a health concern related to the presence of three or more ring MOAH in food for all the age groups. Scenario 2 would raise a health concern, in particular for the high consumers in the younger age groups.

COCERAL task force for MOAH/MOSH contamination in food (updates)

- MOSH (recommendations)
  - Improvement of analytical methodology for better characterisation of MOSH and consistency in reporting are needed. MOSH concentrations in food should be determined according to the JRC guidance document (Bratinova and Hoekstra, 2023).*
  - Better investigation of the sources of the hydrocarbons in food, which would enable better specification of the type of hydrocarbons present and their fate before ending in the food.
  - Contribution from environmental sources, compared to other sources, needs further investigation with regard to occurrence of MOSH and potential compositional modification and bioaccumulation.
  - The contribution from the environment needs further investigation. On the one hand, it is difficult to avoid this source of contamination. On the other hand, the risks may have been underestimated because of a much higher propensity of accumulation of the most persistent MOSH.
- MOAH (recommendations)
  - Sources of food contamination should be investigated when MOAH are detected. To this end, more selective and sensitive analytical method should be implemented.
  - Technical specifications of white mineral oils and waxes used as food additives and food packaging materials should be updated, with detailed information about the MOAH content and composition.
  - MOAH concentrations in food should be determined according to the JRC guidance document (Bratinova and Hoekstra, 2023).*

COCERAL task force for MOAH/MOSH contamination in food (updates)

Contaminant	Parameters	Eurofins GfA Lab Service GmbH Neuländer Kamp 1a - 21079 Hamburg - Germany	SGS Germany GmbH Heidenkampsweg 99 - D - 20097 Hamburg - Germany	Primoris lab Technologiepark 90, zone A6b - 9052 Zwijnaarde, Belgium
MOSH and MOAH	Compounds tested (and relative LOQ)	MOSH/POSH (saturated, short chain) C10-16 (0.6 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH (saturated, medium ch.) C16-20 (0.6 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH (saturated, longer chain) C20-25 (0.60 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH (saturated, longer chain) C25-35 (0.60 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH (saturated, longer chain) C35-40 (0.60 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH (saturated, longer chain) C40-50 (0.60 mg/kg) MOSH/POSH C10-50 (0.60 mg/kg) MOAH (aromatic) C10-16 (0.15 mg/kg) MOAH (aromatic) C16-25 (0.15 mg/kg) MOAH (aromatic) C25-35 (0.15 mg/kg) MOAH (aromatic) C35-50 (0.15 mg/kg) MOAH C10-50 (0.15 mg/kg)	MOSH (</= C16) (0.5 mg/kg) MOSH (> C16 - </= C25) (0.5 mg/kg) MOSH (> C25 - </= C35) (0.5 mg/kg) MOAH (</= C25) (0.5 mg/kg) MOAH (> C25 - </= C35) (0.5 mg/kg)	MOAH ≤C16 (0,2 mg/kg) MOAH >C16 ≤C25 (0,2 mg/kg) MOAH >C25 ≤C35 (0,2 mg/kg) MOAH >C35 ≤C50 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH ≤C16 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH >C16 ≤C20 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH >C20 ≤C25 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH >C25 ≤C35 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH >C35 ≤C40 (0,2 mg/kg) MOSH >C40 ≤C50 (0,2 mg/kg)
	Technique	LC-GC-FID	LC-GC-FID	LC-GC-FID
	Method	Internal method	Internal method (SOP M 3018)	Internal method
	Accredited method	Yes DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 DAkkS D-PL-14602-01-00	Yes	Yes
	Sample size needed	200 grams	50 grams	80 grams
	Price per sample (in euro)	309 (net)	247 (net)	222 (VAT excluded)

Overview of priorities and needs from the Food and Feed Safety (FFS) Committee

MRLs tracker

- MRL risk-monitoring and substances at risk of cut-off tracker *(the updated tracker will be shown during the meeting, and discussed with members)*
- Last version (12 September 2023)
- Possibility (in the future) to include info on PPP and MRL, etc from GB

  - ***Any other suggestion/requirement?***

Action for members: **send any feedback/suggestions, especially regarding column BO (“*detected in*”), and any possible import tolerances, by end of October.**

PPP database

- *The latest update of the tool was on December 2022*
  - It now shows the category/type of uses and the distinction between PPP to be used at farm level and those ones to be at storage level
  - Update of MRLs
  - *Only few member sent fresh data over 2022 (not enough). Call for data to be launched soon!*

- *Other suggestion from members, still to be implemented in the database, are to:*
  - *add whether a specific PPP has its own crop specific MRLs in the specific exporting countries*

- *It is of vital importance for COCERAL to have this database ready and populated with fresh data* ***(and update it at least once per year).***

- *Any specific PPP/commodity to target? (i.e., Chlorpyrifos)*
- ***Any other suggestion/requirement for improvement?***

Any Other Business?

- Review/update of the COCERAL-UNISTOCK-COGECA GHP guidelines – *updates from the Ad-Hoc COCERAL (and UNISTOCK) Task Forces*
  - State of play
    - The review of Chapters I, II, III, IV, IV bis, V and section II (chapter 1 and 2) has been completed by the task forces, and all comments have been addressed
    - Chapter III still misses a general risk assessment that should be written from scratch, or adapted from one that you adopt within your companies
    - The COCERAL and UNISTOCK ad-hoc task force has to re-check comments by end June *(only 3 COCERAL members checked the comments so far)*
    - The chart in paragraph 2.1.1 has been changed
    - "Legal definitions" and "other definitions" have been merged in one part "Definition"
    - Appendix 1 has been deleted (merged with section II)
    - Appendix 2 has still to be prepared
    - Appendix 3 has been deleted, as agreed during our previous meetings
    - Appendix 4 has been reviewed, but it still has to be merged with Appendix 6
    - Appendix 5 has been reviewed/simplified (but should be re-checked)
    - Appendix 6 has been reviewed/simplified (but should be re-checked)
    - Appendix 7 has been finalized (but should be re-checked)
    - Appendix 8 to has been finalized by updating the legislative framework and deleting the Bibliography
    - Appendix 9 (IDTF guidance on the cleaning method) has still to be prepared, and the UNISTOCK task force could prepare it according to the GMP+ document, or similar.

Any Other Business?

- Updates from EFSA – *for information*
  - EFSA's Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risks. First meeting has been held in Parma (hybrid) on 7 and 8 June 2023
  - Gianluca Nurra attended representing COCERAL (as new member of the stakeholders group)
  - Meeting and presentations are available here https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/29th-meeting-efsa-stakeholder-discussion-group-emerging-risks-stadg-er#documents
  - Next meeting is planned (In brussels) tentatively from 8 to 10 November 2023: COCERAL (Gianluca Nurra) is invited to join and introduce COCERAL and its interest for emerging risks (and which of them might be relevant for traders in the future

    NOTE: An emerging risk is: "*a risk resulting from a newly identified hazard to which a significant exposure may occur, or from an unexpected new or increased significant exposure and/or susceptibility to a known hazard.*"

    Please see this YouTube video from EFSA, for more clarification

Any Other Business?

- Fumigation – *for information/discussion*
  - ADN* Safety Committee on fumigated cargo:

  The ADN Safety Committee, according to it's Rules of Procedure, is open to non governmental Organisations under the following rule:

  "Specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, may, in accordance with paragraphs 12[1] and 13[2] of the Terms of Reference of ECE, participate in a consultative capacity in the ADN Safety Committee in discussions that the ADN Safety Committee may hold on any matter of particular concern to those agencies or organizations."

  - COCERAL has been invited to join, and application has been sent to the ECE (ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE) Secretariat by August 2023*

Any Other Business?

- Fumigation – *for information/discussion*
  - ADN* Safety Committee on fumigated cargo:
  - Gafta have been representing the grain trade on the Correspondence Group in consultation with Coceral, Unistock and IMFO.
  - The latest report of the proposed change to the ADN rules has been submitted for the August meeting (21-25th) and circulated to the above organisations.
  - Findings of last meeting:
    - The Safety Committee welcomed the work progress made by the correspondence group on fumigated cargo.
    - It was agreed that responsibilities of the cargo fumigation still need to be clarified and good communication between the different stakeholders in the transport chain need to be ensured.
    - The Safety Committee agreed to resume discussion at its next session (January 2024) on the basis of an updated proposal. The representative of Austria offered to assist Germany in the drafting of a new document for consideration at a further session.
    - The main issues still to be resolved are:
      - who is responsible for the gas readings,
      - how those readings are to be taken,
      - what action is required as a result of the readings.

      GAFTA made the point that the person made responsible may not be the person actually taking the readings i.e. you can make the owner of the goods responsible for employing a suitable expert to take the readings. This is not clear in the current draft. There is also confusion about MRLs vs Safe Working Limits and which number should be used. And no one has specified the method of taking the readings – in the hold above the goods, within the goods? There is likely a difference between the two.
    - A Joint GAFTA/COCERAL/UNISTOCK/IMFO position will have to be agreed and sent. The good news is that it was made clear by the German representative that this would not be finalised before the January 2024 meeting.
    - Presumably there will be a final proposal in August 2024. The new ADN regulation is due to be published in January 2025.

Any Other Business?

- Possible ban of use of anticoagulant (AVK) rodenticides for controlling indoor infestations of mice – *for information*
  - the EU Biocidal Products Committee (EU-BPC), concluded on its meeting on 23 November 2022, that mechanical traps are suitable alternatives to anti-coagulant (Anti Vitamin K, or AVK) rodenticides for indoor control of mice.
  - AVK Rodenticides are categorised as "Candidate for substitution" biocidal products, under the EU Biocidal Products Regulation.
  - AVK rodenticides have been identified as such but have been exempted from restriction under the EU-BPR because there are no viable alternatives so far. The current exemption runs until July 2024.
  - The establishment of a recognised alternative by the EU (i.e., mechanical traps) could lead the way to a quasi-automatic ban, meaning that, as of July 2024, pest managers in the whole EU area would be prevented from using AVK rodenticides for indoor mice control, even in the event of a complex infestation where traps would be neither effective and/or feasible in practice. This means that Pest Management Plans might become more costly and less effective (against mice), with possible direct consequences to public health and hygiene
  - A letter has been sent by AIBI, on behalf of all the signing 16 EU associations (including COCERAL, UNISTOCK and EUROMALT) (+ GAFTA), to Mr Klaus Berend (Acting Director - DG SANTE) and to the Member States delegations in the Standing Committee on Biocidal products (28 June).
  - CEPA already sent another separate letter to DG SANTE, explaining their specific concerns as manufacturers/managers.

Any Other Business?

- Possible ban of use of anticoagulant (AVK) rodenticides for controlling indoor infestations of mice – *for information*
  - CEPA met the Commission which seemed indeed very uncomfortable with proceeding on the basis of one study and CEPA heard that had decided to present a "note for discussion" during the Standing Committee meeting (of June 2023) instead of a draft decision, as originally planned.
  - The actual meeting of the Standing Committee was last week. According to CEPA sources, discussions on AVK rodenticides took place late in the afternoon, when many Member States experts had already left. Nine of them were still present and only four expressed an opinion. Out of those four, one expressed support for a limitation of AVK rodenticides while the other three expressed serious concerns about the weak basis and potential consequences of this decision. CEPA does not know the identity of these Member States but are trying to figure it out.
  - No further decision will be taken by the Commission at this point, as they are now waiting for feedback from the Member States experts. Proper discussions on the issue are expected end of September.
  - While the support of CEPA (and our industry joint letter) is good news, it is a great concern that many countries (more than two third!) did not feel that this issue was important enough for them to stay at the meeting to address it. This shows that further work is needed with Member States to insist on the critical importance of this issue.

Any Other Business?

- BPA ban and impact on grain storage and transport – *for information/action*
  - CEPE (The European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Industry) that the European Commission is discussing to take a measure to ban bisphenols A (BPA), and related bisphenols, in all food contact applications. The Commission intends to take the measure 1Q 2024 with a phase out period of 18 months. This is a very short period when it comes to developing new technologies.
  - One of the applications of BPA is in internal coating/varnish of food storage tanks and transport vessels.
  - CEPE is interested to coordinate an advocacy action with interested stakeholders, and gather data and information to share with the Commission, and they would like to know how this possible ban might impact our sector, namely the proportion of storage units (silos, tanks etc) and transport devises -used to store and transport grains – which are coated with BPA.
  - The Commission plans to launch a 4 weeks public consultation this autumn, and stakeholders will be invited to express comments on the draft measure.

Of relevance for COCERAL?

Any Other Business?

- Salmonella – *for information/action*
  - Need to update the FEFAC-FEDIOL-COCERAL overview of national official control policies on Salmonella in feed materials and compound feed (last update November 2022):
    - Which countries have gone through changes since last year?
  - There are new Whole Genome Sequencing of bacterial food/feed isolates *(Wageningen Food Safety Research)* *

Application Method	Surveillance	Evolution studies	Source tracking	Source attribution
PFGE	-	-	+	-
MLST	+/-	+	-	+
MLVA	+	-	+/-	+
WGS	+	++	++	++

  - WGS contains all genetic information (Serotype, Molecular typing, Virulence, resistance profile, Highest resolution for sourcetracking, Applicable to all bacteria)
  - WGS provides info on what bacterium do we have at hand? Genus, species, sub-species, serogroup, sequence type, …
  - WGS provides info on what is this bacterium capable of? Resistence, virulence, enzyme production, antibiotics (secondary metabolites) production

Any Other Business?

- Upcoming events in 2023– *for information*
  - *Risque PFAS dans les aliments & eau potable : réglementation, recommandation et surveillance, solutions analytiques - WEBINAIRE GRATUIT - 5 October 2023 (11.00-11.30 CEST)**
  - *World Mycotoxin Forum – Antwerp 9-11 October 2024**
  - *EFSA Stakeholder (and emerging risk group) forum joint event – Bruxelles - 8, 9, 10 November 2023 (tentative timing)**
  - *One Health for all, all for one health – Bruxelles 13 November 2023**

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