

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2008/0108(CNS)

17.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets as regards the marketing standards for poultrymeat
(COM(2008)0336 – C6-0247/2008 – 2008/0108(CNS))

Rapporteur: Bogusław Sonik

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The objectives of the marketing standards for poultry meat are to safeguard the stability of the market prices in the sector, to facilitate the marketing of products and to ensure consumer safety and high food-quality standards. The marketing standards for poultry meat need to be reviewed in the light of technological developments and to include poultry meat preparations as consumer habits have changed since the 1990ies.

Under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, the Commission proposed the authorization of the use of certain substances to remove surface contamination from poultry carcasses. The current definition of poultry meat as provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 on the marketing standards for poultry meat is incompatible with the use of such substances. The proposed changes would thus have required a modification of Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007.

At the meeting of the Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, on 18-19.12.2008, the proposal for Council Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 allowing the use of antimicrobial substances to remove surface contamination from poultry carcasses was rejected. The Commission is therefore expected to withdraw the amendments concerning the definition of poultry meat.

The other proposed modifications to the Regulation on marketing standards for poultry meat are maintained and concern as mentioned, the extension of the scope to include poultry meat preparations and products, and poultry meat in brine, which have become more common in trade.

The principle that poultry meat sold "fresh" may not have been frozen beforehand is proposed to be reinforced to cover poultry meat preparations and products.

Your draftsman does not agree with this modification, as it is not in line with the definition of "fresh meat" in point 1.10 of Annex I of the Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendment in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation – amending act
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) The exclusive reference to cold treatment in the definition of ‘poultrymeat’ is too restrictive in view of technological developments. That definition should therefore be adapted.

deleted

Justification

In accordance with the European Parliament resolution on authorisation of chlorinated chicken of 16.06.2008 as well as the likewise decision of the Council, the permission of antimicrobial treatments for poultry carcasses is not considered useful.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation – amending act
Annex – part 2 – point 1
Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007
Annex XIV– Part B – Part II - point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. ‘poultrymeat’ means the edible parts of farmed birds falling within CN code 0105.

1. ‘poultrymeat’ means the edible parts of farmed birds falling within CN code 0105
suitable for human consumption, which have not undergone any treatment other than cold treatment.

Justification

In accordance with the European Parliament resolution on authorisation of chlorinated chicken of 16.06.2008 as well as the likewise decision of the Council, the permission of antimicrobial treatments for poultry carcasses is not considered useful. The amendment takes up the formulation of the current legislation.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation – amending act
Annex – part 3 a (new)
Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007
Annex XIV– Part B – Part III a (new)

3a. The following Part IIIa is added:

"IIIa. Compulsory information on the label

The name of the food in the labelling of any poultrymeat product shall include an indication of:

(a) any added ingredient of a different animal origin to the rest of the meat; and

(b) any added water making up more than 5 % of the weight of the product"

Justification

Concerning the marketing of meat of bovine animals aged 12 months or less, labelling provisions have already been added to Reg. 1234/2007(see Annex XIa- part IV). As for poultry, it is necessary to also include labelling provisions, as it is not unusual to add water or animal ingredients of a different species (such as hydrolysed beef or pork proteins) to meat, e.g. to chicken breast. In order not to mislead the consumers and in order to give them the possibility to avoid such products (e.g. on religious grounds), is essential that such practice is declared. This provision is already effective law in the UK and shall ensure that the name of the food reflects its true nature so that consumers are accurately informed and not misled e.g. 'chicken breast fillet' versus 'chicken breast fillet with added water'.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Annex – part 3 b (new)

Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

Annex XIV– Part B – Part III b (new)

3b. The following Part IIIb is added:

"IIIb. Indication of price

The price per kilogram of the food shall be based solely on the drained net weight."

Justification

As poultrymeat is often sold frozen, this provision has been added in order not to mislead the consumers with regard to the labelled price.

PROCEDURE

Title	Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets as regards the marketing standards for poultrymeat						
References	COM(2008)0336 – C6-0247/2008 – 2008/0108(CNS)						
Committee responsible	AGRI						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ENVI 8.7.2008						
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Bogusław Sonik 22.1.2009						
Discussed in committee	9.2.2009						
Date adopted	17.2.2009						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>43</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	43	–:	0	0:	0
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0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Liam Aylward, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Hiltrud Breyer, Magor Imre Csibi, Avril Doyle, Mojca Drčar Murko, Jill Evans, Anne Ferreira, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Elisabetta Gardini, Françoise Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi, Christa Kläß, Urszula Krupa, Marie-Noëlle Lienemann, Jules Maaten, Marios Matsakis, Linda McAvan, Péter Olajos, Miroslav Ouzký, Vittorio Prodi, Guido Sacconi, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Amalia Sartori, Carl Schlyter, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seeber, Bogusław Sonik, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Thomas Ulmer, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund, Anders Wijkman, Glenis Willmott						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Bairbre de Brún, Rebecca Harms, Johannes Lebech, Robert Sturdy						