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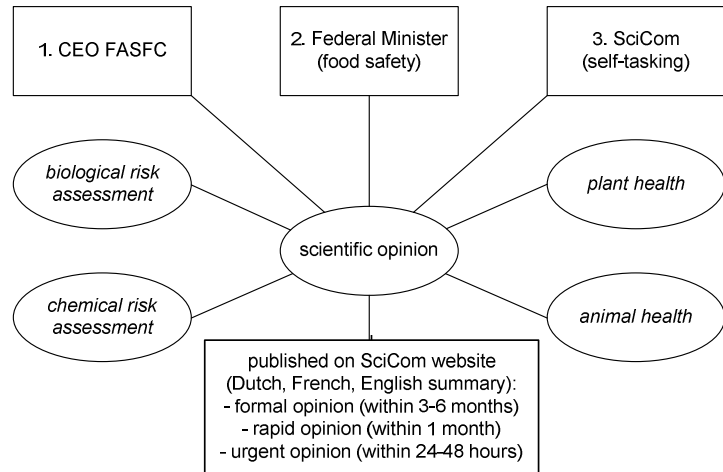
Introduction

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SciCom) = consultative body of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC)



- 22 members with complementary expertise and nominated by Royal decree for mandate of 4 years (2017-2021)
- Tasked with providing independent scientific opinions on matters related to competencies of FASFC

Requesting scientific opinions



Recent scientific opinions regarding microbiological food safety (2018 - 2019)

SciCom advice 01-2018: Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in indicator bacteria, pathogens and zoonotic bacteria

The current antimicrobial resistance monitoring in the food chain in Belgium was evaluated and was deemed of high quality providing very useful information. Nevertheless several recommendations were made to improve the monitoring and the communication thereof.

SciCom advice 15-2018: Evaluation of the FASFC analysis program regarding microbiological analyses in prepared products, fish products, vegetables, fruit, herbs, vegetable oil, fertilizers, beverages and water not intended for drinks

The Scientific Committee has evaluated part of the analysis program. No strongly pronounced biologically relevant trends are found in the results of the FASFC analysis program for the period 2012-2016. Several optimizations were proposed concerning the different parameter/matrix combinations as well as some special temporary actions. In additions some new target values were formulated for different types of water (e.g. tap water, water used during primary production, wash water, ice blocks and ice chips).



SciCom advice 23-2018: Estimation of the risk to the consumer of *Bacillus cereus* in food

In view of the current uncertainties the Scientific Committee proposes to use a pragmatic action limit for *B. cereus* (10⁵ CFU/g or ml) and to take measures based on this action limit. In addition, the Scientific Committee would like to draw attention to the fact that not only certain strains of *B. cereus sensu stricto*, but also strains of other species from the *B. cereus* group, such as *B. thuringiensis*, can potentially pose a risk to food safety.

SciCom advice 11-2019: Growth potential of *Listeria monocytogenes* in raw milk homestead butter

The Scientific Committee cannot make a general statement about the growth potential of *L. monocytogenes* in all raw milk homestead butter produced in Belgium. The risk of *L. monocytogenes* growth in raw milk homestead butter was assessed as low if the pH drops below 5,2 after the first 10 hours of the production process. Additionally several recommendations were made.

Conclusions

- ✓ The SciCom publishes each year 20 – 30 scientific opinions including opinions on microbial food safety.
- ✓ In the period 2018-2019 a relative low number of SciCom advices related to food microbiology were published (more advices on chemical risks and animal health)
- ✓ Divers subjects are covered including risk assessments, (emerging) microbial risks, risk products, the analysis program of the FASFC, legislation,...
- ✓ The advices are published on the SciCom website in Dutch, French and English (a summary)

For further information please visit: <http://www.favv-afsc.fgov.be/scientificcommittee/> > Opinions

