COMMISSION

OF THE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

_____

Directorate General for

Health and Consumer Protection

_____

SANCO/E.2

REPORT ON THE

TASK FORCE MEETING
OF THE
"SHEEP AND GOAT BRUCELLOSIS"
SUB-GROUP

IOANNINA, Greece

3-4 July 2002

REPORT OF THE

"SHEEP & GOATS BRUCELLOSIS" TASK FORCE SUBGROUP

MEETING HELD IN IOANNINA, GREECE, ON 03-04 JULY 2002

Participants: see Annex 1

Agenda: see Annex 2

Introduction

The meeting was held in Ioannina, one of the main cities of the Epirus Region, located in the Northwestern part of Greece close to the Albanian border.

The presentations and discussions were either in English or Greek and copies of the overheads translated in English were provided to the sub-group.

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the sheep and goats brucellosis national eradication programme and several examples of regional implementation. The second day included in the morning a visit to one sheep and goats transhumant flock grazing area and one free-grazing cattle herd. In the afternoon, a meeting was held with the Greek counterpart for clarification of matters and discussion of the Sheep and Goat Brucellosis programme and the list of recommendations. A small meeting of the subgroup for general discussion and work planning followed this.

DAY 1

I. THE NATIONAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN GREECE: MEASURES IN PLACE AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION – THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME IN THE MAINLAND AND THE ISLAND OF EVIA (A. MINAS)

The number of sheep and goats reared in Greece is 11,979,396 adult animals in 119,667 flocks. Greece has the largest goat population in the EU. Most animals are reared for milk production. More than 80% flocks and animals are located in the mainland where more than 60 % practise transhumance. 77% flocks have more than 20 animals, 34 % more than 100.

The National Control/Eradication Programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in Greece is based on mass vaccination of all susceptible animals in the mainland, the island of Evia and Peloponnisos. Vaccination coverage of 100% of the flocks is

foreseen in a time-span of five years (1999-2004), vaccinating 2 million animals per year. In the areas with low prevalence (i.e. all the islands except Evia) the test and slaughter policy is to be maintained. For more details on the programme see the report of the previous meeting of the Task force sub-group in Thessaloniki (09-11 October 2000). The organisation of veterinary services, laboratories at the national, regional and local level has been also well summarised in a recent FVO Mission Report *(DG (SANCO)/3352/2001 – MR final).* The number of human cases apparently decreased for the first time in 2001 (390 reported cases vs. 545 and 543 in 2000 and 1999 respectively). As the vaccination is concerned, the use of the conjunctival way is generalised and since 1997 80.000 flocks have been visited, 3,200,000 adult and 1,420,000 young animals have been vaccinated. Since not all eligible flocks and animals could be vaccinated due to the shortage of means, priority is given to animals in flocks due to go into transhumance, adult animals in infected flocks, flocks in areas where human cases are reported. The monitoring of the vaccination implementation is made through a random sampling of flocks and serotesting of a sample of vaccinated animals in each flock. In 2001-2002, 1,291 flocks and 35,399 animals were tested, 87.53% of which giving positive results.

A new database has been implemented in 2001 in order to monitor the situation more accurately. Data are collected every month in each prefecture (a standard data capture sheet has been established for this purpose) and the following information could be taken from the database:

- distribution of sheep and goats in the country
- distribution of vaccinated flocks and animals in an area
- vaccination coverage in a flock
- progress of vaccination campaign in an area

Data could be transferred to a geographic information system.

II. THE *B. MELITENSIS* CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN THE PREFECTURE OF IOANNINA (P. FOUFA *District Veterinary Service*)

This Northwestern Prefecture in the Greek mainland is a mountainous area with 56% of the surface used for grazing. It is scarcely populated (170.000 inhabitants and 70% live in the capital).

The District Veterinary Service (DVS) includes two veterinarians in the Animal Health Department, two in the Veterinary Logistic Department and two in the Consumer Health Department. The veterinary administration also includes 11 Field Veterinary Clinics (FVC) responsible for the implementation of the programme, with 12 veterinarians (8 of them are permanent staff and 4 are seasonal staff). In addition in the Prefecture there are around 30 private vets working mainly on pet clinics.

In Ioannina, there are 199 free grazing bovine herds (8,923 cattle), 243 dairy herds (4,478 cows) and 5,889 sheep and goat flocks with 407,606 animals. There are also 643 sheep and goat transhumant flocks and 74 bovine herds arrive from 9 different prefectures each spring for grazing.

The programme includes mass vaccination and young animals vaccination in previously vaccinated flocks.

In terms of manpower, it is estimated that a team with one vet and one assistant can carry out vaccination in two flocks per working day as an average.

Referred to the implementation of the programme, the FVC have vaccinated 4,599 flocks from 1999 up to June 2002, averaging 1000 flocks per year in the period 1999-2001 and 1,200 flocks in the five months of 2002. The target of vaccination of all flocks by the end of 2004 is considered feasible by the DVS. However, some doubts remain in respect of the implementation of vaccination of young animals in the previously vaccinated flocks.

619 free grazing bovine herds have been vaccinated with Rev.1 in 2000-2001 and some complains from the farmers related with animal management were reported. In other prefectures the bovine vaccination with Rev.1 was reported as successful in terms of a dramatic decrease of abortions reported.

The priorities for vaccination are:

1st. infected flocks

2nd. areas with human cases

3rd. completion of vaccination in areas where vaccination has been started

4th. expand of vaccination in new areas

The monitoring of the programme was carried out by the DVS in 468 flocks in the last four years and only 24 flocks have presented a percentage of sero-conversion below 75%. Some questions on the efficacy of this monitoring programme were raised but the responsible of the DVS of Ioannina considers it as necessary procedure.

The serological survey of males with slaughtering of positive reactors has been performed in only 925 flocks since 2000. The percentage of positive males was 3.6% and the percentage of flocks with positive reactors was 6.6%.

The problems for the implementation of the programme referred by the DVS are:

- Shortage of veterinarians and assistants
- Lack of vehicles
- Too many activities
- Geography of the area and climatic conditions
- Limited time for vaccination
- Lack of infrastructure and administration problems
- Age of veterinarians.

III. THE *B. MELITENSIS* CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN THE PREFECTURE OF THESPROTIA (A. PAPADOUDIS *District Veterinary Service*)

Thesprotia, the most Northwestern Prefecture in the Greek mainland is a semi-mountainous area. The DVS includes one veterinarian in each of the departments (Animal health, Veterinary Logistic and Consumer Health) and there are also four permanent FVC and two seasonal FVC responsible for the implementation of the programme.

The ruminant population in this prefecture includes 3,243 small ruminant flocks (276,819 sheep and goats), 294 free grazing bovine herds (18,657 cattle) and 713 cows in 28 dairy herds.

The eradication programme includes mass vaccination and young animals vaccination in previously vaccinated flocks. About the implementation of the programme, the FVC have vaccinated 928 flocks (138,124 animals vaccinated) from 1999 up to June 2002.

In addition, 3,513 free grazing bovine cattle have been vaccinated with Rev.1 in 2000-2002 with successful results reducing the number of abortions.

The main problems for the implementation of the programme referred by the DVS are:

- Shortage of veterinarians and assistant staff
- Many activities to be carried out
- Geography of the region.

IV. THE NATIONAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN GREECE: MEASURES IN PLACE AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION – THE TEST-AND-SLAUGHTER PROGRAMME IN THE ISLANDS (A. MINAS)

IV.1 MEASURES IN PLACE

The eradication programme, based on a test-and-slaughter strategy, was presented. It is implemented in islands (except Evia). The serological control is done yearly in all animals aged 6 months or more. Blood samples are tested by RBT and, if more than 5% are positive, all the sera of the suspected flock are also tested by CFT.

Flocks are classified as follows regarding the brucellosis status:

M1	Flock with unknown status
M2	Flock tested once with negative results
M3	Free flock
M4	Officially free flock
M+	Infected flock
M3 suspended	Free flock suspended
M4 suspended	Officially free flock suspended

Flocks are considered as infected in the following cases:

- One or more animals of the flock show clinical symptoms of brucellosis with positive results to serological tests,
- *Brucella* has been isolated from animals or infected material of the flock.

M4 flocks are suspended if animals show positive results to serological tests. In this case, positive animals are slaughtered and all the remaining animals are tested twice at interval of 3 months after slaughtering of the suspected animal to recover its officially free status. If the serological tests of M4 flocks are not done in the delay, the officially free status is also suspended.

Regarding the movements of animals, introduction of animals originating from mainland is forbidden in the islands and the flocks of the islands are not allowed to move for transhumance to the mainland.

IV.2 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

In the islands, there are nearly 22,000 flocks of sheep and goats with more than 2,200,000 animals. However, each year, less than 25% of flocks and less than 15% of animals are investigated. The positive flocks prevalence in investigated flocks ranges between 0.98% (1997) and 3.25% (1998) and reached 3.08% in 2001.

Regarding the status at the end of the year, the number of M+ flocks increases regularly from 61 in 1997 to 142 in 2001, and M+ flocks are particularly located in Creta (71 flocks) and in Dodecanesian Islands (50). At the end of 2001, the number of M4 flocks was 6,482 (30%), including M4 suspended flocks.

V. THE *B. MELITENSIS* CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN THE PREFECTURE OF KERKIRA (CORFU) (S. SOTIRIOU)

The region, consisting of 6 islands, lies in Northwestern Greece and comprises an area of 63,895 km^2, divided into 13 municipalities and 3 villages. The sheep and goats population is of 14.316 animals, distributed among 321 flocks.

From the year 1998 to 2002, there has been a 194.5% increase in the number of existing flocks (from 109 to 321), while the number of sheep and goats has increased of 31.1% (from 10,920 to 14,316). This evolution is suspected by the Greek veterinary services to be linked with the premium system.. That drives the owners of large flocks to divide them among several owners.

The District Veterinary Service employs 3 veterinarians at the Animal Health Department, 3 veterinarians at the Consumer Health Department, and 2 veterinarians working in 3 Field Veterinary Clinics.

An eradication programme has been implemented in this region with testing and slaughter of infected animals and compensation. Vaccination and movements of live animals from mainland to Corfu are prohibited.

The percentage of controlled flocks has progressively increased from 1998 (24.7%) to 2000 (57.2%) with a decrease in 2001 (24.1%). The percentage of positive flocks on controlled ones has decreased from 7.5% (1998) to 1.5% (2001).

The percentage of controlled animals passed from 23.7% in 1998 to 21.9% in 1999, with a rise in 2000 (32.7%) and a new decrease in 2001 (26.7%). The same erratic trend was observed in the number of positive animals on controlled ones (0.19% in 1998, 0.08% in 1999, 0.74% in 2000 and a new decrease in 2001 (0.11%)).

The proportion of officially free classified herds has progressively increased from 1998 (51.4%) to 2000 (76.2%) with a decrease in 2001 (70.7%).

It has been reported that the problems encountered in testing animals are mainly due to personnel shortage and to the amount of activities assigned to Veterinary Services.

VI. THE *B. MELITENSIS* CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS IN THE PREFECTURE OF LEFKADA (P. LAVRANOS)

The island lies in the West of Greece and comprises an area of 354 km^2, divided into 6 municipalities and 2 villages. The total sheep and goats population is 15,423 animals, distributed among 353 flocks. In the last five years, there has been a decrease of 8.8% (from 384 to 353) in the number of existing flocks and the number of sheep and goats has also decreased of 16.9% (from 18,034 to 15,423).

The Local Veterinary Service has 3 veterinarians in permanent service and 1 Field Veterinary Clinic located in the main city.

Since March 1996, an eradication programme has been implemented in this region with test and slaughter of infected animals and compensation. Vaccination and movements of live animals from the mainland to the Lefkada region are prohibited. Before 1996, the control of brucellosis was based on vaccination of replacements with Rev.1 (till year 1991) and on a surveillance programme (from 1993 to March 1996) with blood sampling in all flocks (all males and 10% of females).

The percentage of controlled flocks increased from 7.6% in 1996 to 42.2% in 1997 with a decrease in 1998 and 1999 (14.8% and 4.1% respectively), and a new increase in 2000 and 2001 (26.0% and 26.5% respectively). The percentage of controlled flocks found infected decreased from 0.52% (1996) to 0.00%, with a rise in year 2000 and 2001 (2.92% and 2.21% respectively). The percentage of controlled animals increased from 1996 (16.3%) to 1997 (45.8%) with a decrease in 1998 and 1999 (9.3% and 2.4% respectively), an increase in 2000 and 2001 (31.8% and 30.0% respectively). The percentage of controlled animals found infected also decreased from 0.10% (year1996) to 0.00%, with a rise in year 1999 and 2000 (0.45% and 1.65% respectively).

During the 1996-2001 period no flock has been classified as officially free; in the year 2002, 11 flocks out of 353 have been classified as officially free (30/06/2002).

Regarding human cases of brucellosis, during the last 6 years only 2 cases have been reported; both cases involved farmers and occurred in the year 2000.

It was reported that the problems encountered during the implementation of the programme were mainly caused by the shortage of personnel, by the amount of activities assigned to Veterinary Services, by the problems with animal identification and by the not complete isolation of the island from the mainland.

VII. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL VETERINARY LABORATORY IN IOANNINA (P. TSIMOGIANNI)

The Laboratory was established in 1961, and it is based in the city of Ioannina. Taken into account the premises and material and human resources invested in it, it is considered the second more important Laboratory in Greece. Nevertheless, resources in personnel are very limited, with a total staff of 11 persons: 3 veterinarians, 4 technicians and 4 auxiliary personnel.

The Laboratory is responsible for the performance of animal health laboratory diagnosis (Diagnosis Department) for the Prefectures of the Region of Epirus (namely Ioannina, Preveza, Arta, Thesprotia), as well as the island of Lefkada. The Laboratory is also responsible for the analysis regarding the food chain (microbiological examination of samples from slaughterhouses and National Programme of Food Residues) (Food Department). For the future, two more Departments are foreseen: the Special Pathology and the Epizootiology Departments.

Working procedures are according to EU norms or ISO methods. One of the main objectives of the Laboratory is to reach the certification.

Regarding Brucellosis diagnosis, the activities focus on serological procedures, namely modified Rose Bengal (mRBT, ie: 75 μl serum + 25 μl antigen) and Complement Fixation Tests (CFT). The standard operating procedures are proposed by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) of Larissa, that also supplies the standard antigen (commercial product) and positive serum. In the year 2001, a total of 8,717 serum samples of sheep and goats were analysed in the framework of the programme.

The Greek Laboratory Network is composed by 17 labs, harmonised and co-ordinated by the NRL of Larissa, which provides regular training of personnel and implements periodical proficiency ring trials. Not all labs comply with the expected results.

The financing of the laboratories is made through an annual budget, according with the plan presented by the laboratories, with the exception of some consumables that are distributed by the NRL of Larissa.

There is no direct coordination of the laboratories with the veterinary services. The laboratories receive and analyse all samples sent to them by the official services and issue the respective results.

VIII. ASSESSMENT OF NEW SEROLOGICAL TESTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF SHEEP ANDGOATS BRUCELLOSIS. FIRST RESULTS OF A LIMITED STUDY (A. MINAS)

Since only two methods are approved for the diagnosis of sheep and goats brucellosis (RBT and CFT), new and simpler methods, if reliable, could be approved and implemented in the EU eradication programs. In the NRL of Larissa an evaluation of new methods as cELISA and FPA has been attempted. A number of goat sera have been tested with several tests as RBT, mRBT, CFT, cElisa and FPA. A limited number of sera (264) considered as true negative have been used for assessing the specificity and a limited number of sera (132) positive to both mRBT and CFT have been used for assesing the relative sensitivity of the new tests. The results showed a relative sensitivity of 97 % and specificity of 99,2% for cELISA and 99,2 % and 95,8% respectively for FPA

DAY 2

VISIT TO SHEEP/GOATS FLOCKS, A CATTLE HERD AND A CHEESE FACTORY

Visit of one sheep transhumance flock near the city of Metsovo, in the Nomos of Ioannina. During summertime (May-October) 35 transhumance sheep and goat flocks are grazing in this area. Flocks come not only from the areas of Metsovo and Ioannina, but also from other Nomos in Greece (Larissa and Tricala). All flocks are vaccinated in the place of origin before departure.

All animals (approx. 400) of the transhumance flock were vaccinated. Animals were grazing in the area around the infrastructure and milked daily.

Then the group visited a bovine farm with approximately 150 bovines of the Limousine race.. All adult female animals were vaccinated with Rev.1 because in the area, contact with sheep and goats cannot be excluded.

In the territory of Metsovo there is only one field veterinarian. He is responsible for 318 sheep and goat flocks and in addition, during summertime for 90 transhumance flocks and for more than 40 bovine herds. In total 314 sheep and goat flocks are vaccinated (18.379 animals). This area of Greece has the highest vaccination coverage (90,34 % of sheep and goats, 98,62 % of the flocks, 90,62 % vaccinated animals in flocks where vaccination is carried out). Furthermore he is responsible for two slaughterhouses, for BSE testing and for meat and fish inspection.

A typical local cheese factory belonging to a foundation was visited. Three traditional local cheeses are produced, one of which is smoked. . Only pasteurised sheep and goat milk is used for the cheese production. Infrastructure and equipment of the factory was in very good condition and of a high sanitary level.

FINAL MEETING

The sub-group considered the meeting in Ioannina as fruitful with a very good and totally open participation of the Greek national regional and field vet services.. The group appreciated the hospitality of the Greek colleagues and the very good organisation of the meeting with special reference to A.Minas. B. Garin-Bastuji proceeded with the explanation of the following recommendations proposed by the sub-group:

1. From the sub-group last visit to Tessaloniki to the present, it is recognised that a great effort is being developed by the Greek Veterinary Services to better co-ordinate the programme, especially in relation to the development of a database for monitoring activities related with the programme. The vaccination coverage has also been improved in some areas.
2. General organisation of tasks and resources

   Insufficient amount of resources is given to the veterinary services to face all the tasks they have to accomplish. Certain tasks could be excluded from the veterinary services (for example the medical treatment of animals). It should be also addressed that private veterinarians could be involved in the implementation of the programme. The separation of tasks related to food hygiene from the tasks related to the sanitary programmes could help but this also means an increasing of staff. The mobility of veterinarians between prefectures to concentrate human resources where needed for the programme, is also an alternative.
3. Vaccination programme

   It is necessary to increase the speed and coverage of vaccination. The persistence of non-vaccinated flocks is a real threat to the success of the programme and constitutes a risk to human health. The vaccination of young replacements in vaccinated flocks should be guaranteed and more staff will be

needed for this task. The use of the new database can help to analyse data and improve the situation.

4. Test and slaughter programme

   The programme should be implemented in all flocks, in all islands, to guarantee that there is no re-infection of flocks in mid-term.The example of Lefkada is a good example to be followed. Suspended status should be considered in the database for a better understanding of the real situation.

   A specific comment about Creta: the increasing of the prevalence rate is very worry and a special programme should be considered for Creta, which could include vaccination.

The DISCUSSION following the presentation of the recommendations, had from the Greek veterinary services , the following comments:

- The lack of staff is a reality. Concerning the Island of Lefkada, if it would be possible to have one veterinarian and one assistant, fully dedicated to the campaign, it would be possible to achieve a good coverage of the Island. The first priority should be the possibility of the official vets not to be involved in the treatment of sick animals, in places where private vets are available.
- In Metsovo, there are no private vets to guarantee the clinical assistance to the farmers. It would be better if private vets with the supervision of the official vets could implement the programme. For private vets, it is easy to organise a team for fieldwork (employ and assistant).
- The implementation of databases should be extended to the test and slaughter programme in the islands.
- The identification of animals is one of the problems, due to frequent losses of eartags (10-40% according with the type of vegetation and the season of the application of the tags). “Alflex” tags are already used but care should be taken on the position of application of the tag. The ID of animals is already linked to the attribution of premia.
- A system of compensation for farmers maintaining a brucellosis free health status was suggested could be envisaged.
- Regarding the vaccination programme, it was recognised that it is imperative to increase coverage. A co-financed bonus for veterinarians reaching pre-defined targets could be implemented as have been done in the past for the sampling of

animals elsewhere. The payment per animal vaccinated or sampled is done in many countries.

- The prefecture of Ioannina discussed the problem and concluded that only contracting private veterinarians for a certain period (4-5 years) would it be possible to accomplish the brucellosis programme.
- The control of vaccination (by serology) is of major importance to control the work of the field vets. The impact of vaccination in the reduction of abortions is already visible.
- The treatment of sick animals with no charge is a social problem, because in some areas the farmers are poor and if the official veterinarians will be in the future released from the obligation of giving such service to farmers it has to be stated in the national law.
- In Greece there are no farmers cooperative movements.
- In Corfu there are going to be problems if the campaign will be privatised, because the existing vets (small animal's clinicians) are not interested in treating farm animals. The island is expensive in terms of standards of live and it is difficult to attract vets to settle there.
- Vets and assistants should be more focused in the brucellosis eradication campaign but they have many tasks to develop and, for example, at the moment, BSE was defined has the priority.
- The group of the Central Veterinary Office agreed with the recommendations because they reflect the reality. It was very positive the recognition that an effort has been made to improve the situation. The mobility of veterinarians from one prefecture to another can be suggested by the CV Office but is a responsibility of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. There should be an agreement between the prefectures.
- There was finally a question regarding the privatisation of the veterinary services in the other MS, specially regarding the implementation of the brucellosis eradication campaign. The subgroup members of each country answered the question and explained about the health defence groups and the contract of private enterprises/veterinarians.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BRUCELLOSIS SUBGROUP –

1. General organisation of tasks and resources

- The human resources of the vet services cannot face all tasks that are attributed to them. It is inevitable to increase the personnel working for the programme. Furthermore, some tasks could be assumed by private veterinarians (related to the programme and to the clinical work).
- The provision for a higher mobility of veterinarians between prefectures to concentrate human resources where needed for the programme, is also an alternative.

3. Vaccination programme

- The vaccination should be speeded up urgently in order to allow the accomplishment of the objectives of the programme. Furthermore, the existence of non-vaccinated flocks poses real threats to human health. The new database will be very useful to analyse and improve the situation.
- The follow-up of mass vaccination with the continuous vaccination of young replacements requires a capacity of coverage of 100% of the population. The necessary human resources should be provided to the veterinary services.

4. Test and slaughter programme

- The programme in the islands should cover annually the totality of flocks. Necessary resources should be mobilised for the accomplishment of the programme.
- The suspended M4 status should be considered in the database for a better understanding of the real situation.
- The results obtained in Creta are of concern, threatening the health status of the island, and could justify a special programme (including vaccination) and a better control of the animal movement within the island.

PARTICIPANTS

OF THE "SHEEP & GOATS BRUCELLOSIS" TASK FORCE SUBGROUP 9TH MEETING

HELD IN IOANNINA, GREECE, ON 03-04 JULY 2002

- **Task Force Sub-Group**
  - **Dr. B. Garin-Bastuji (Chairman)**
    Dr. T. Badin de Montjoye (France)
    Dr. M. Durán Ferrer (Spain)
    Dr. A. Minas (Greece)
    Dr. A. Petrini (Italy)
    Dr. E. Stifter (Italy)
    Pr. Dr. Y. Vaz (Portugal)
    Dr. F. Reveriego Gordejo (Commission)

- **Greek Representatives (main list)**
  - **Dept of Zoonoses, Animal Health Directorate, Min. of Agriculture**
    - **Panteliadou A.** Head
    - **Vacalopoulos A.** Veterinary Officer
    - **Tzani Mirsini** Veterinary Officer
  - **Brucellosis Reference Laboratory of Larissa**
    - **Minas A.** Head
  - **District Veterinary Service of Ioannina**
    - **Bassios D.** Director
    - **Zoniou V.** Head of Animal Health Dept.
    - **Foufa P.** Veterinary officer
  - **District Veterinary Service of Thesprotia**
    - **Papadoudis A.** Veterinary officer
  - **District Veterinary Service of Corfu**
    - **Sotiriou S.** Director
    - **Kourkoulos T.** Veterinary officer
  - **District Veterinary Service of Lefkada**
    - **Lavranos P.** Director
    - **Lampris V.** Head of Animal Health Dept.
  - **Veterinary Laboratory of Ioannina**
    - **Tsimogianni P.** Director
    - **Apostolou I.** Veterinary officer.
    - **Nousias H.** Veterinary officer.
  - **Field Veterinary Clinic of Metsovo**
    - **Primikis Y.** Veterinary officer

ANNEX 2

AGENDA

OF THE "SHEEP & GOATS BRUCELLOSIS" TASK FORCE SUBGROUP 9TH MEETING

HELD IN IOANNINA, GREECE, ON 03-04 JULY 2002

DAY 1 - Wednesday 3 July

09:00-09:15	Welcome and introduction
09:15-10:15	The National control Programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in Greece: Measures in place and epidemiological situation – I - The Vaccination programme in the mainland and the island of Evia (Dr. A. Minas).
10:15-10:45	The *B. melitensis* control programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in the prefecture of Ioannina (Dr. P. Foufa)
10:45-11:15	The *B. melitensis* control programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in the prefecture of Thesprotia (Dr. A. Papadopoudis)
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:00	The National control Programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in Greece: Measures in place and epidemiological situation – II - The Test-and-Slaughter programme in the islands (Dr. A. Minas).
12:00-12:30	The *B. melitensis* control programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in the prefecture of Kerkira (Corfu) (Dr. S. Sotiriou)
12:30-13:00	The *B. melitensis* control programme for Sheep and Goats Brucellosis in the prefecture of Lefkada (Dr. P. Lavranos)
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:00	The activities of the local veterinary laboratory in Ioannina (Dr. P. Tsimoyianni)
15:00-15:30	Assessment of new serological tests for the diagnosis of sheep andgoats brucellosis. First results of a limited study (Dr. A. Minas)
15:30-17:30	Discussion

Day II - Thursday, 4 July

08:00 – 13:00	Visit to two sheep/goats flocks.
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 18:00	Discussions and recommendations General discussion of the group