



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 1 & 2 MARCH 2011
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

President: Alberto Laddomada.

26 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent but represented.

1. Bluetongue situation in the Member States.

The Austrian representative [presented](#) the results of their bluetongue monitoring programme in place since autumn 2008. As of 3 March 2011, the restriction zone for BTV-8 shall be lifted and Austria regains the free status for bluetongue disease.

The British representative distributed a [presentation](#) on the bluetongue surveillance in Great Britain.

2. Update from Bulgaria on the foot-and-mouth disease situation.

The Bulgarian representative made a [presentation](#) on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in the region of Burgas and the progress made in post-outbreak surveillance. For more than 30 days no new cases of FMD were detected in wildlife or in livestock. Surveillance has been carried out, including sampling for laboratory testing, in the protection and surveillance zones around the 3 confirmed outbreaks and in settlements outside those zones in the region of Burgas. All tests for the detection of antibodies to the FMD virus were carried out in the Bulgarian laboratory with negative results.

3. Information from Sweden on the Newcastle disease situation in poultry.

The **Swedish** delegate gave a [presentation](#) on two outbreaks in laying hen holdings caused by the pigeon variant of Paramyxovirus 1. The first outbreak occurred on 3 February on the island of Gotland and the second on 13 February in Enköping, North-West of Stockholm.

Both affected flocks showed only a drop in egg production. Epidemiological links between the two holdings could not be revealed. Wild infected pigeons are the most likely source of infection. Killing of all poultry present on the holdings, zoning,

cleaning and disinfection as well as further surveillance in poultry holdings in the established protection and surveillance zones has been carried out.

4. Information on surveillance for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds. (Doc. SANCO/7039/2011)

The Commission representative explained that this document is very similar to the one distributed for the same purpose, namely to facilitate the online submission of the surveillance results for avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds. It includes: 1) a timetable of actions to be completed by the Member States, the Commission and EU reference laboratory for avian influenza, 2) an aide-mémoire to assist in resolving the most frequently encountered problems, and 3) a list of contacts in Member States dealing with the submissions. One Member State commented that the time frame for the submission of the 4th quarter of the year with 31/01/20XX is too short as most birds are sampled during the Christmas period and there is not enough time to test, generate and submit the data. One Member State asked to postpone the comment period on the final draft report from 1 August to 15 August, due to lack of staff during the holiday period.

4A. Information from Italy on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.

The **Italian** representative gave a [presentation](#) updating on the situation for low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). On 7 January LPAI of H7 subtype was confirmed in a rural poultry and bird dealer holding in Carpenedolo, Brescia province, Lombardy region. On 14 February sero-positivity to H5 avian influenza virus was detected in a mixed poultry holding in Bovolone, Verona province, Veneto region. Both holdings are located in a densely populated poultry area and are involved in trading birds. All birds present on the affected holdings were culled, the restricted zones with related movement restrictions were established and further surveillance carried out. So far no further virus spread has been detected.

5. Information and exchange of views on a working document on animal health conditions for birds participating in EU bird exhibitions. (Doc. SANCO/7126/2010- Rev.2)

The Commission representative presented Rev. 2 of the document following the evaluation of comments received from Member States, as well as EEA countries. The Commission maintains its view that gathering of birds originating from several Member States under the harmonised conditions of Directive 92/65/EC provide sufficient guarantees to assemble birds at exhibitions; however, birds participating from the hosting Member State should fulfil equal health conditions. In addition, some additional biosecurity measures and provisions for the exhibition itself such as veterinary supervision and cleansing and disinfection should be applied. Several Member States expressed concerns in particular with the administrative burden for registration of holdings and animal health checks on these holdings. While some Member States welcome the guidance document, a few have expressed that they do not see the need for such a document or that the legal certainty is not given. Several Member States announced that they would send further comments in writing.

6. **Applications and declarations from Member States to achieve a health status with regard to the diseases listed in Directive 2006/88/EC.**
 - **Declarations from Portugal of nine VHS and IHN free compartments and from Denmark of four VHS free compartments in accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC**

In accordance with Article 10 of Decision 2009/177/EC the information can be found in the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

The Commission informed about declarations from Portugal of 9 compartments free of VHS and IHN and a declaration from Denmark of 4 compartments free of VHS.

7. **Guidance document on the establishment of surveillance programmes as regards ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ var). (Doc. SANCO/7004/2011 – Rev. 4)**

The Commission presented the document and highlighted that the diagnostic procedures referred to in the document will be posted on the web page of the European Union Reference Laboratory for mollusc diseases shortly. There were no comments from the Member States on the document. The Commission stated that the document shortly will be posted on the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers' (DG SANCO) web page.

8. **Technical specifications for the format for the lists of approved or registered establishments, plants or operators handling animal by-products inside the European Union and in third countries. (Doc. SANCO/7177/2010 – Rev.1)**

The Commission presented the modifications introduced into the document following the debate that took place during the training for third countries and the consultation with Member States' experts in the Animal by-products working group.

During this Committee meeting, taking into account the suggestion of a Member State, the document was further amended for clarity reasons.

The final version of the document is available on DG SANCO's webpage at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/docs/technical_specifications_d7177%202010_rev1_01%203%202011.pdf

9. **Presentation of the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Opinion concerning the welfare of animals during transport. (Doc. EFSA Journal 2011; 9(1):1996)**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the [Scientific Opinion concerning the Welfare of Animals during Transport](#) (EFSA Journal 2011; 9(1):1966). The background of the opinion and the methodology was explained and the main

outcomes as regards the recommendations were highlighted. The Commission informed the Member States that it is preparing a factual report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1.) and that the report is planned for adoption in September 2011. The EFSA opinion will be considered in the finalization of the report, as well as other sources of information, including a report from an external contractor which will be finalized by the end of March 2011.

9A. Information from the Commission on the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS): State of Play.

The Commission representative provided information on the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS). This future system of the European Commission is being developed to improve the collection, processing and use of information on animal health. ADIS shall provide for a one entry platform for Member States to submit their data on animal health and will facilitate the EU Member States to fulfil their obligations toward the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as regards notifications of their disease situation.

On 15 February 2011, the first meeting of the ADIS User Group took place in Brussels. This group provides for technical support and advice on the project and consists of experts from 5 Member States, representatives from the European Commission and representatives of the OIE. The next User Group meeting shall take place on 9 and 10 March 2011.

10. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union and in third countries.

The Commission presented document **SANCO/7017/2011**, with title: **Draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2011/44/EU concerning certain protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Bulgaria.**

Commission Decision 2011/44/EU concerning certain protection measures against FMD in Bulgaria is applicable until 31 March 2011. It lists in Annex I, considered the high risk area, the entire region of Burgas and in Annex II, considered the low risk area, the regions of Kardjali, Haskovo, Yambol, Sliven, Shumen and Varna.

The purpose of document SANCO/7017/2011 is to prolong the measures and reduce the restricted areas to parts of the region of Burgas, in the light of the evolution of the epidemiological situation.

The areas listed in Annex I to Commission Decision 2011/44/EU are reduced to the municipalities of Malko Tarnovo and Tsarevo directly affected by FMD, and the areas in Annex II thereto are reduced to the three surrounding municipalities Sredets, Sozopol and Primorsko.

As surveillance in wild boar has not been concluded, the measures are prolonged until 30 April 2011.

Vote: unanimous in favour, Cyprus represented by Greece.

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in Spain in 2009. (Doc. SANCO/13211/2010 (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure))

Council Decision 2009/470/EC on expenditure in the veterinary field provides in Article 6(2) for the possibility of granting a Union financial contribution for the eradication of Newcastle disease.

The purpose of this Decision is to grant a financial contribution from the Union to Spain towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2009.

Vote: unanimous in favour, Cyprus represented by Greece.

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Denmark and the Netherlands in 2010. (Doc. SANCO/12752/2010) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

Council Decision 2009/470/EC on expenditure in the veterinary field provides in Article 4(2) for the possibility of granting a Union financial contribution for the eradication of avian influenza.

The purpose of this Decision is to grant a financial contribution from the Union to Denmark and the Netherlands towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2010.

Vote: unanimous in favour, Cyprus represented by Greece.

13. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as regards the control, monitoring and surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue. (Doc.SANCO/7005/2011, SANCO/7027/2011) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

On 15 November 2010, the Commission submitted to the legislator a proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2000/75/EC as regards vaccination against bluetongue (COM(2010) 666) with the aim to allow vaccination against bluetongue using inactivated vaccines also outside areas subject to animal movement restrictions. As a consequence of this amendment, certain provisions of Regulation 1266/2007/EC need to be reviewed. The Commission took the opportunity to also introduce a number of other possible amendments to the Regulation that have been discussed in several technical working groups on bluetongue.

The following issues were discussed (with a reference to the Regulation): monitoring and surveillance (Article 4/ Annex I); dissemination of epidemiological information (Article 5); definition for vector proof establishment (article 2); deletion transitional measures (Article 9a); lower risk area/ creation of provisionally free area (Article 7a);

demonstrating absence of bluetongue virus circulation (Article 6.2 and 7a); rules on transit; treatment with insecticides/repellents (Article 9); exemption of exit ban for naturally immune animals (Annex III A, points 6 and 7) and provisions for pregnant animals; transplacental transmission.

One of the outcomes of the discussion was that the Commission should provide for more detailed requirements for the "vector proof establishment", including specifications for the building and more frequent official checks to verify the absence of vectors.

The Commission representative thanked the representatives of the Member States for their comments and asked them to send any further comments by email. A new version of the draft Implementing Regulation shall be prepared.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Member States:

- **The British** representative informed the Commission and the other Member States of a **detection of *Bonamia exitiosa* in a flat oyster** in Great Britain and the further investigations undergoing and restrictions adopted to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Issues raised by the Commission:

- The Commission informed Member States that on 25 February 2011 **the South African authorities notified** to the OIE **outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease**. In the absence of clinical signs, the outbreaks were confirmed on 11 February 2011 based on serology with positive results for structural proteins (LPBE - without indicating the serotype) and negative results for non-structural proteins.

The notification lists 12 dip-tanks in two neighbouring districts in the north-eastern part of the KwaZulu-Natal province. The districts in which the outbreaks have been detected are part of the territories of South Africa that are authorised for export into the EU of fresh de-boned and matured meat from ungulates.

Due to the risk of introduction of FMD through import into the Union of fresh meat from species susceptible to that disease and in the absence of guarantees allowing for regionalisation of the country, the authorisation of South Africa to export into the EU such fresh meat should be withdrawn.

A **draft Commission Implementing Regulation [document SANCO/7048/2011]** amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 in order to withdraw the authorisation for import of fresh meat from ungulates from South Africa produced after 11 February 2011 was distributed, presented and discussed.

All Member States agreed on the proposed measures, which will be presented for an opinion in the next meeting of this Committee, section Plant Protection Products – Legislation, to be held on 10 of March 2011.

The following documents were distributed by the Commission during the meeting:

1. a) Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (published in the Official Journal L55/13 on 28.2.2011),

b) Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on Article 5 (2) of this Regulation that requires the Commission to adopt a draft implementing act where the committee delivers a positive opinion (published in the Official Journal L55/19 on 28.2.2011 and is attached to Regulation (EU) No 182/2011).

The Commission's representative explained in detail the new regime of implementing acts with a particular emphasis to the examination procedure, which is to replace the old management and regulatory procedures as of the 1st of March 2011, date of entry into force of the new 'comitology' Regulation, *i.e.* Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. SANCO/7041/2011 on Commission draft comments on the USA interim Rule on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission representative explained the main changes that the USA want to make to their import rules for live poultry, birds and poultry products in relation to animal health requirements for avian influenza. The changes concern mainly the inclusion of requirements for all highly pathogenic avian influenza subtypes, not only subtype H5N1, the prohibition of transit through HPAI affected areas and changes to the listing of HPAI affected areas on the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) website. Member States were invited to provide comments until 16 March 2011 for a common position to be sent to APHIS and Sanitary and phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).