



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 4 APRIL 2011
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

President: Alberto Laddomada.
All the Member States were present.

1. Bluetongue situation in the Member States.

Italy [presented](#) the vaccination campaign against bluetongue virus serotype 1 (BTV1) that was performed in the regions Piemonte and Liguria. In July 2010, Italy decided to perform preventive vaccination in response to virus circulation of this serotype in neighbouring areas of France. This campaign had not been notified to the Commission or the Member States. As of 24 March 2011, the regions Piemonte and Liguria are restricted zones for BTV1. Certain provinces of Piemonte were already restricted for BTV8.

Italy will soon apply for the status of "lower risk area" for serotype 1 in these regions.

Norway [presented](#) the outcomes of their monitoring programme with the intention to declare freedom from BTV-8 after two years of absence of virus circulation. The map and table of the bluetongue restricted zones on the SANCO website shall be updated accordingly as of 5 April 2011.

2. Exchange of views on the interpretation of PCR results in the context of bluetongue monitoring and surveillance programmes.

This point was included in the agenda on the request of certain Member States. However, there was no discussion on the issue.

France announced that the French agency AFFSA published a report on the monitoring programme of France.

3. Information from Romania on the progress of CSF control and the requirements for the approval of a Channeled System for pork meat production in Romania intended for placing on the EU market.

The Romanian representative made a comprehensive [presentation](#) on the classical swine fever (CSF) situation in Romania. The eradication programmes are in progress and the results are favourable. The last CSF outbreak was detected in pigs in 2007 whilst a case in wild boar was identified in 2009. Vaccination campaign in pigs ceased at the end of 2009 and since then no CSF case was detected.

Romania is listed in Part III of Annex to Commission Decision 2008/855/EC, all the country is under restriction for CSF. However, since 1 January 2010, fresh meat from other Member States may be processed in certain authorized meat processing plants into meat products and could then be placed on the market also in other Member States ("Lohn system"). Due to the favourable CSF situation and in order to facilitate the trade of Romanian pork meat and products, the representative of Romania presented a proposal for a "channelled system" for pork meat intended for the EU market. Only a small number of identified commercial pig farms that could guarantee a higher health status due to management and husbandry practices would be allowed to enter the "channelled system". Pigs and pigmeat from these farms would be processed in designated slaughterhouses and processing plants that could ensure adequate separation with pigs or pigmeat originating from farms operating outside the "channelled system".

The representatives of three Member States asked in which legislative framework the Romanian proposal could be placed. The Commission replied that it is in the process of exploring the possible options, but is confident that the solution may be found within Commission Decision 2008/855/EC.

3A. Update on the CSF epidemiological situation in the Slovak Republic and Hungary.

The Slovak representative made a [presentation](#) on the CSF situation in Slovakia. At present, part of the territory of Slovakia is listed in Part I of Annex to Commission Decision 2008/855/EC and it is under restriction for CSF. In October 2010, Slovakia requested the Commission to de-list the territories under restriction from Part I of Annex to Commission Decision 2008/855/EC and to be declared CSF free. In Slovakia the last CSF outbreak was reported in pigs in July 2008, while the last case in wild boar was detected in May 2008. The outcomes of the surveillance carried out in Slovakia were reported with favourable results, even though a small percentage of seropositive wild boar is still detected in the piglets age-group category. In order to better assess the CSF situation, the Commission requested Slovakia to also submit the surveillance results of the first months of 2011.

The Hungarian representative made a comprehensive [presentation](#) on the CSF situation and the actions undertaken to eradicate the disease in Hungary. Currently, part of the territory of Hungary is listed in Part I of Annex to Commission Decision 2008/855/EC and it is under restriction for CSF. In the last years CSF has never been detected in pigs while several cases were detected in wild boar, the last one in October 2009. Due to the favourable epidemiological situation, the Hungarian authorities requested the Commission to de-list two of the Counties, in which CSF has never been detected, from Part I of Annex to Commission Decision 2008/855/EC.

3B. Update from Bulgaria on the foot-and-mouth disease situation.

The Bulgarian representative made a [presentation](#) updating the Committee on the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Bulgaria.

3C. Information from the Commission and exchange of views on the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Botswana and on import of beef.

The Commission's representative informed that on 8 March 2011 Botswana (BW) has notified to the OIE an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that occurred in BW zone 2d (Ngamiland). This area is not allowed for export of fresh meat to the EU and therefore, there is no need to adopt restrictive measures.

Member States were informed that an inspection mission carried out in Botswana by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) between 25 and 28 January 2011, in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat and meat products for export to the EU, as well as the certification procedures. The outcome of this mission has highlighted a number of shortcomings especially as regards hygiene conditions in the establishments approved for export to the EU and as regards identification, movement controls and traceability of cattle and meat intended for export to the EU.

The Botswana competent authority (BW CA) has suspended certification of fresh meat intended for export to the EU. Following bi-lateral discussions about the shortcomings, the BW CA has asked the Commission to de-list their approved establishments from the list of the approved establishments for export to the EU.

The Commission services have requested BW to resume exports to the EU only when all relevant shortcomings have been properly addressed. The BW CA is aware of the situation and has agreed to work on the issues raised by the Commission.

The Committee will be informed about any further development.

3D. Information from the Netherlands on an outbreak of avian influenza.

The Dutch representative gave a [presentation](#) on the outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N1 confirmed on 25 March 2011 in a large free range layer holding located in Schore, Zeeland. Clinical signs were only detected in the hens kept in one shed out of six. The poultry has been culled on the same day and a restricted zone was established at a 1-km radius around the farm, which is located in an area with a low density of poultry holdings.

3E. Applications and declarations from Member States to achieve a health status with regard to the diseases listed in Directive 2006/88/EC.

- **Declaration from Finland of a VHS free compartment 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 a declaration from Finland of one compartment free of VHS.

3F. Application from the United Kingdom for an approval of a surveillance programme on Ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ var) for Guernsey. (SANCO/7073/2011)

The Commission presented the application from the United Kingdom for an approval of a surveillance programme on Ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ var) for Guernsey.

4. 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.3)

The Commission representative presented Rev. 3 of the guidance document abandoning the recommendation to register bird holdings with the competent authority of the Member State of origin. The organiser should keep an exhaustive record of participants, bird numbers and identification of birds as well as the details of new owners, if birds are sold, for tracing of movements in case notifiable disease occurs at or after the exhibition.

5. Presentation from EFSA (Panel on Animal Health and Welfare) on the potential implications for animal health of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza and on monitoring for the emergence of possible new pandemic strains of influenza in animals.

The EFSA representative [presented](#) the two opinions issued on the subject. EFSA concluded that the impact of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus for the overall health of the EU pig population is minimal and that the present epidemiological situation does not justify disease control measures or vaccination to encounter virus spread. However, monitoring of circulating influenza viruses in swine and poultry populations should be instigated to establish baseline data from which evolution of that virus including changes in virulence can be assessed. No single genetic marker or genetic constellation can be reliably associated with increased pathogenicity or transmissibility of influenza virus strains in mammals and can therefore not be used to identify an emerging problem.

The two EFSA scientific opinions can be found under the following links:

Animal Health impact: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1770.htm>

Emerging strains: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2109.htm>

6. Presentation by the FVO of the general report of findings from missions 2008-2010 on enforcement of animal welfare standards for laying hens kept in unenriched cages. (Doc. SANCO/8814/2010)

The report SANCO/8814/2010 concludes that although the quality of inspections have significantly improved, actions by the majority of competent authorities have not been sufficient to date to achieve acceptable levels of compliance with the requirements of the Directive in relation to unenriched cages. Several competent authorities are reviewing their systems for imposing penalties and all competent authorities were asked to similarly review their sanctioning procedures, in particular where these measures may be relied on to ensure compliance with the ban on such cages after 1.1.2012.

7. Regulation (EC) No 1523/2007 banning the placing on the market and the import to, or export from, the Community of cat and dog fur, and products containing such fur: questionnaire to Member States on the state of play of the implementation.

Member States were informed that they will receive a questionnaire on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1523/2007 on the ban of cat and dog fur by the end of April 2011. The Commission will use the answers of Member States to the questionnaire to produce a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the ban on cat and dog fur. The Commission's representative made a presentation on the issue (covering items 7 and 8 of the agenda).

8. Council Directive 2007/43/EC laying down the minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production: data collection in slaughterhouses and annual report on inspections.

Member States were informed that the Commission will prepare a Decision in order to harmonise the data collection systems in slaughterhouses foreseen by Directive 2007/43/EC on the protection of chickens kept for meat production. The Commission's representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue (covering items 7 and 8 of the agenda).

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

No item raised.

10. Exchange of views and possible opinion 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. (Legal base: Council

**Directive 2000/75/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)
(Doc. SANCO/7005/2011 – Rev. 1)**

The Commission presented a revision of the draft Regulation, taking into account the changes made by the Commission's legal service, comments made during the previous meeting of this Committee of 1 and 2 March 2011 and written comments that were submitted after that meeting.

The document was not proposed for a vote. Several delegations made comments on the new draft but due to time constraints, there was no opportunity for further discussion. The Commission representative asked the Member States to send any further comments by email.

Vote: postponed.

- 11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of the Regions of Emilia Romagna and Valle d'Aosta in Italy as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) and amending the Annexes to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration that certain regions of Member States are officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic-bovine-leukosis as regards bovine herds. (Legal base: Directives 64/432/EEC and 91/68/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7016/2011)**

Due to the conclusion of the Commission Legal Service on the Committee procedure to be applied as regards the special status of the Isle of Man, the text of the draft Commission Implementing Decision [SANCO/7055/2011] under point 14 of the agenda was incorporated into the draft Commission Implementing Decision [SANCO/7016/2011] under point 11 and therefore the title has slightly changed to read as follows:

"Draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Commission Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of certain regions in Italy as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) and amending the Annexes to Commission Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration that certain regions of Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom are officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leukosis"

Consequently, point 14 is withdrawn from the agenda.

The purpose of this Implementing Decision is to amend Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC and the Annexes to Decision 2003/467/EC to take account of the officially free status for the diseases and the administrative regions notified to the Commission by Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

- 12. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex D to Council Directive 88/407/EEC as regards trade within the Union in semen of domestic animals of the bovine species dispatched**

from approved semen collection and storage centres. (Legal base: Directive 88/407/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7013/2010)

The purpose of this Implementing Decision is to amend Annex D to Directive 88/407/EEC to take account of amendments introduced by Directive 2008/73/EC and to adapt the model veterinary certificate for trade in semen collected in approved semen collection centres and dispatched from an approved semen storage centre.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision and requested Member States to submit their comments by 22 April 2011.

13. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species into the Union and repealing Decision 2004/639/EC. (Legal base: Directive 88/407/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7014/2010)

The purpose of this Implementing Decision is to:

- supplement the list of third countries from which Member States shall authorise imports of the semen by Chile, Iceland and Saint Pierre and Miquelon accordingly on the basis of the animal health status of those third countries;
- update import conditions for epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) in line with the requirements of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
- adapt the model veterinary certificate for trade in semen collected in approved semen collection centres and dispatched from an approved semen storage centre.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision and requested Member States to submit their comments by 22 April 2011.

14. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes II and III to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration that Isle of Man is officially brucellosis-free and enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free as regards bovine herds. (Legal base: Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7055/2011)

Withdrawn from the agenda (see explanations in point 11 of the agenda).

15. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2010/221/EU as regards the approval of national measures for preventing the introduction of ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var into Guernsey and withdrawal of the eradication programme for Bacterial kidney disease concerning Great Britain. (Legal base: Art. 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC)

(Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7009/2011)

The Commission's representative presented the draft Implementing Decision, the purpose of which is to remove Great Britain from the list of areas with approved eradication programmes as regards Bacterial kidney disease and to add Guernsey to the list of areas with approved surveillance programmes as regards ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var.