



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SANCO D – D(2010) 7592

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 2 AND 3 DECEMBER 2008**

(Section Animal Health and Welfare)

(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

(Section Animal Nutrition)

President: Alberto Laddomada.

All Member States were present except Cyprus and Malta.

1. Update from the Member States on the bluetongue situation.

The [Belgian](#), [Czech](#), [Danish](#), [German](#), [Greek](#), [French](#), [Dutch](#), [Portuguese](#) and [British](#) representatives made a power point presentation providing information on the bluetongue (BT) situation in their countries. Representatives from Sweden, Hungary, Luxembourg, Italy and Spain gave information on their BT situation.

In Sweden, in 2008, bluetongue was detected in 28 herds in total and 68 animals were infected. Vaccination is ongoing in cattle, sheep and goats. The vector free period started on 15 November.

In Hungary no further positive cases were detected. Vector monitoring is ongoing.

In Luxembourg new cases of BTV8 were detected in three farms and 4 young animals (not vaccinated) were tested PCR positive (total 19 outbreaks). In 2008, in total, 21 animals were infected.

In Italy, vaccination is ongoing in Verona and Mantova and Piedmont however specific information is not available yet. The farms around the outbreak in Piedmont are tested and the results showed 43 positive cases. The Commission informed that Italy will be requested in a future meeting of this Committee to provide further information on the surveillance applied in that area.

In Spain, in 2008, there were 2020 outbreaks in the north (19 of BTV8), 8 BTV8 cases in Andalusia, 2 in Castilla-Leon and 9 cases in Extramadura in October-November. 17 young non-vaccinated animals died.

The Commission representative reminded that the emergency vaccination plans against bluetongue that are financed by the Community will be published on the Commission's website for transparency reasons. Member States agreed.

2. Information from Germany and France on the situation of classical swine fever in wild boar.

The German representative made a [presentation](#) on the situation in the regions of Eifel and Pfalz. The German authorities based on the improvement of the situation in the Eifel region, they plan reduction of the vaccination area and enlargement of the monitoring area for 2009/2010. The last case of classical swine fever in the Pfalz region was detected in November 2004. Based on the positive outcome of the monitoring results and the vaccination campaign started in 2003 in that region, the German authorities will lift vaccination in that area, bordering with France.

The French representative made a [presentation](#) on the disease situation in the area bordering with Germany. The French authorities have increased surveillance in 2008 in comparison with 2007 and have a good evaluation of the epidemiology of the area. The testing methods as well as the vaccination applied in that area, were adapted according its population which is growing. A new testing method is used which allows to distinguish the virus positive cases from the vaccine positive results. Although the situation is favourable, France will not reduce the vaccination area.

The Commission representative proposed that Germany and France meet together when the hunting season is over and additional data might be available, in order to harmonise their vaccination strategies for 2009.

Germany stuck to its position to remove vaccination in the Pfalz region.

3. Information from Italy on the West Nile fever situation.

The Italian representative made a [presentation](#) providing information on the West Nile fever outbreaks in the regions of Emilia Romagna, Veneto and Lombardy. Until 1 December 2008, 245 equidae were confirmed as positive cases in 121 holdings.

4. Information from Slovenia, Italy and France on the rabies situation.

The Italian representative informed that 5 foxes in total were found positive to rabies, near the border with Slovenia.

The Slovene representative made a [presentation](#) on the rabies eradication programme and the measures taken in relation to the outbreaks near the Croatian borders.

The Austrian representative informed that traces of the disease were found in an area bordering Slovenia. Vaccination against rabies has finished.

The Commission representative informed that a meeting took place in Slovenia with the participation of experts from Austria, Italy, Slovenia and the Commission. As a conclusion, an emergency vaccination in Austria, Italy and Slovenia was recommended.

Member States were also informed that there will be an increase of the Community's financial contribution for all the actions taken by Slovenia from 2009 onwards linked to the eradication of the disease. Slovenia has already confirmed extension of their eradication programme. If Italy wishes to submit a new eradication programme, this should be done before the end of April 2009. The Commission contacted the western Balkan countries and organised a task force meeting. As a result, the Commission will set up an eradication programme for all western Balkan countries which stated that they will participate in that programme.

The French representative made a [presentation](#) on the rabies situation and provided information on the positive case confirmed on a dog on 17 November.

The Spanish representative informed that investigations are also ongoing in Spain in relation to this positive case in France however it is not clarified whether the dog was transferred to France via Spain.

5. Information from Bulgaria on the Newcastle disease situation.

The Bulgarian representative made a [presentation](#) on a Newcastle disease outbreak in the village of Kazacy, Djebel municipality, Kardjaly district that was confirmed on 20 November 2008 in three backyard flocks, keeping 28 heads of poultry. A 3 km protection zone and a 10 km surveillance zone have been established. No commercial holdings are located in these zones. Clinical investigations of holdings in the 10 km radius around the outbreak have not revealed any further suspicion of the disease.

6. Guidance to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC regarding additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs related to Aujeszky's disease and criteria for listing a Member State or a region thereof as free from Aujeszky's disease or as having an approved disease control programme. (Doc. SANCO 3023/2008)

The purpose of this working document is to explain the principles of the additional guarantees as regards Aujeszky's disease and to provide guidelines on the procedures to list a Member State or a certain region thereof in Annex I or Annex II of Commission Decision 2008/185/EC. The guidelines are based on the requirements of Articles 9 and 10 of Directive 64/432/EC and the International Animal Health Code on Aujeszky's disease of the International Office of Epizootic Diseases (OIE).

This document was previously presented at this Committee and since then, several Member States have sent comments to the Commission. These were taken into account for the preparation of revision 4 which was distributed at the meeting. Member States were asked to send any additional comments to the Commission by January. The intention is to present an updated version of this document during the meeting of this Committee in February.

7. Information on Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.

Withdrawn from the agenda.

8. Summary of the measures taken to enforce the rules on personal imports of meat and dairy products in Member States in 2005, 2006 and 2007, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004.

Member States were asked to check whether the information communicated to the Commission, which is included in the report, is correct. A working group meeting will be held in the end of January to discuss the report. Should Member States wish to include any issues on the agenda of that meeting, they should inform the Commission well in advance.

9. Import of beef from Brazil – state of play.

The Commission distributed a map showing the areas of Brazil approved for deboned and matured beef exports to the EU. Until now 633 holdings were approved from which cattle are sourced for exports of beef meat to the EU. The next mission of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) will be held from 20 January until 2 February 2009. Following the results of the FVO mission, the Commission will act accordingly.

A Decision on imports of beef from Brazil was voted and already published however it contains two minor mistakes in relation to two areas. Therefore, the Commission informed the Member States of its intention to amend Decision 2009/151/EC on Botswana voted in November, to include those two new regions in order to correct these mistakes. For clarity reasons, that Decision was distributed at the meeting on 3 December (see miscellaneous).

10. Information and discussion on the FMD situation in Uruguay and a request for bone-in sheep meat exports to the EU. (Doc. SANCO/3766/2008)

Member States expressed their views on the issue. Mainly they were concerned about the possible import of meat from infected animals into the EU while vaccination against FMD is only carried out in bovines and the risk of circulating FMD virus in sheep which may only show inapparent signs. The Commission took note of all the comments made by the Member States.

10A. Information to the Member States on proposed reimbursements to be made in the framework of the 2007 eradication and surveillance programmes.

The document which includes the proposed amounts for the 2007 eradication programmes was distributed and presented by the Commission during the meeting.

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

No item raised.

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2008/655/EC as regards the approval of the emergency vaccination plans against bluetongue of certain Member States and fixing the level of the Community's financial contribution for 2007 and 2008. (Doc. SANCO/3969/2008 - Rev.1)

Commission Decision 2008/655/EC of 24 July 2008 approved the vaccination plans against bluetongue of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Portugal and established the maximum amount of the Community financial contribution.

In the second semester of 2008 outbreaks of bluetongue have occurred in several Member States. In particular bluetongue serotype 8 occurred for the first time in Austria and Sweden and new outbreaks of bluetongue serotype 8 were identified in Denmark and Spain. In addition, bluetongue serotype 1 further spread in France, Spain and Portugal. Therefore, these Member States have submitted new vaccination plans.

The Commission has assessed the new plans submitted by Austria and Sweden and the amended plans submitted by Denmark, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Portugal from both the veterinary and the financial point of view and the plans were found to comply with relevant Community veterinary legislation. The vaccination of animals against bluetongue in the Member States concerned should therefore be approved in accordance with Article 9(2) of Directive 2000/75/EC which lays down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue.

The eligibility of expenditure is currently restricted to costs paid in the period 1 November 2007 to 31 December 2008. However, the emergency vaccination plans run until the end of 2008. Therefore, the operative event of carrying out vaccination should determine the eligibility of expenditure. Measures with an operative event falling within the above mentioned period are eligible for co-financing.

Decision 2008/655/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

12A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as regards conditions for movements within the same restriction zone and the conditions for exempting animals from the exit ban provided for in Council Directive 2000/75/EC. (Doc. SANCO/3647/2008 – Rev.2)

Revision 1 of this draft Regulation was presented and discussed at the previous meeting of this Committee held on 11 and 12 November (see item 22 of the agenda of that meeting). Then, Member States gave their consensus on the draft. Revision 2 was

prepared to reflect the comments of some Member States that serological monitoring of sentinel animals is not necessary.

Germany supported the proposal however asked the Commission to look into the possibility of adding into the document the use of the PCR test before animal movements into disease free zones.

The Commission made the following statement:

"The Commission services, taking into account that several Member States have asked for alternatives to the surveillance based on sentinels that is currently prescribed, are ready to launch a reflection on bluetongue surveillance and monitoring that would first address surveillance in lower risk areas, also in relation with trade. The Commission services will arrange for a meeting of the Task Force on Animal Disease Surveillance to address these issues and to explore possible alternatives to sentinel monitoring. This Task Force meeting will be convened in January 2009."

Vote: qualified majority by 293 votes in favour, 19 votes against, 26 votes abstained and 7 votes absent.

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community towards emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in Germany in 2008. (Doc. SANCO/3464/2008)

Council Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field provides in Article 3 for the possibility of granting a Community financial contribution for the eradication of certain diseases, including Newcastle disease.

The purpose of this Decision is to grant a financial contribution from the Community to Germany towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle Disease in Germany in 2008.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution by the Community towards controlling sheep and goat plague in Morocco. (Doc. SANCO/3014/2008 – Rev.1)

Council Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field provides for the possibility of the Community assisting a third country to control an animal disease, if the occurrence or the development of such a disease in the third country concerned may constitute a danger to the Community.

Morocco has detected sheep and goat plague, a contagious disease of small ruminants, on its territory. A vaccine is available that will protect against all serotypes and which gives a long lasting protection against the disease. The authorities in Morocco have

prepared a vaccination strategy and have sent it to the Commission asking for Community financial support.

If sheep and goat plague were to spread to the Community the direct and indirect consequences of the disease in the Member States will be huge. For this reason it is appropriate to support Morocco in its efforts to control sheep and goat plague and make vaccines available for the vaccination campaign against the disease. The maximum amount of that contribution is specified in this draft Decision.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/716/EC as regards certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/3549/2008)

In Bulgaria certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors benefiting from a transitional period have ceased their activities or have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.

The purpose of this draft is to delete these establishments from the list of establishments in transition. The Annex to Decision 2007/716/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft commission Decision amending the Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania as regards certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/3550/2008)

Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania lists milk establishments which comply with Community legislation and have been authorised to receive and process compliant and non-compliant raw milk.

According to an official declaration of the Bulgarian competent authorities four milk processing establishments have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Three of them are allowed to receive and process compliant and non-compliant raw milk without separation. Those establishments should therefore be included in the list of Chapter I of the Appendix to Annex VI. One milk processing establishment listed in Chapter I will process only compliant raw milk and will therefore be considered as an EU-approved milk processing establishment. That establishment should therefore be deleted from the list of Chapter I of the Appendix to Annex VI. One establishment is allowed to receive and process compliant and non compliant raw milk in two fully separated production lines. This establishment should be included in the list of Chapter II of the Appendix to Annex VI.

The Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

- 17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision implementing Council Directive 2008/73/EC as regards Internet-based information pages containing lists of establishments and laboratories approved by Member States in accordance with Community veterinary and zootechnical legislation. (Doc. SANCO/1178/2008 – Rev.2)**

Withdrawn from the agenda.

- 17A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 as regards the validity of the transitional measures relating to former foodstuffs. (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/3704/2008 – Rev.1)**

Commission Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 on transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the collection, transport, treatment, use and disposal of former foodstuffs sets out a number of transitional measures that are due to expire on 31 July 2009.

The purpose of this Draft Regulation is to prolong the transitional measures for the use and disposal of former foodstuffs under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

- 17B. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2008/798/EC. (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/4067/2008 – Rev.1)**

A previous version of this draft Decision has been presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee, section Animal Nutrition, held on 27-28 November 2008 (see item 12 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission representative presented the draft also to this Committee.

Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 provides for the possibility to adopt appropriate Community emergency measures for food and feed imported from a third country in order to protect human health, animal health or the environment, where the risk cannot be contained satisfactorily by means of measures taken by the Member States individually.

High levels of melamine were found in infant milk and other milk products in China. High levels of melamine in food can result in very severe health effects. To counter the risk for health that may result from exposure to the melamine content of feed and food products, Commission Decision 2008/798/EC provides for a prohibition to

import into the Community products containing milk or milk products, intended for the particular nutritional use of infants and young children, and requires Member States to perform systematic checks at import on other feed and food containing milk or milk products. That Decision also requires Member States to withdraw from the market any such product found to contain melamine in excess of 2.5 mg/kg product.

According to information made available by the Member States through the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food, very high level of melamine have been found recently in ammonium bicarbonate from China, used as raising agent in food industry and at several instances also in products containing soya or soya products imported from China. It is therefore appropriate to extend the measures laid down in Commission Decision 2008/798/EC also to those products.

Vote: qualified majority by 338 votes in favour, 7 votes absent.

18. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards measures for disinfestation in the case of air transport of animals, transit of animals through third countries and health certificates for transit of fresh meat. (Doc. SANCO/3794/2008)

The title of the draft Decision presented at the meeting has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:

Draft Commission Decision amending Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards measures for disinfestation in the case of air transport of animals, transit of animals through third countries and health certificates for meat from equidae and for transit of fresh meat.

Council Decision 79/542/EEC draws up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and lays down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat.

The transport by air of animals into the EU may constitute an animal health risk due to the possibility of the accidental presence of insect vectors of animal diseases. It is therefore appropriate to provide for disinfestation measures in order to avoid the introduction of potentially infected insect vectors with the imported animals.

That Decision also provided for the transit of animals intended for import into the EU through third countries that are allowed to export to the EU animals of the same species. However, animals are allowed to transit through certain third countries that are not allowed to export animals to the EU, but this transit is only permitted if the animals are intended for immediate slaughter once they have reached their final destination in the European Union. The procedure for listing these third countries has been established taking into account several factors.

Taking into account animal welfare and traceability aspects during transport of animals into the EU, and that long journeys may have a negative influence on animal welfare, it is opportune to extend the possibility for transit through third countries of bovine animals for fattening as already allowed for animals destined for immediate slaughter, provided that in addition to the usual transit controls, the competent veterinary authorities in the Member State of destination specifically designates

holdings for this kind of practice and ensure a control of the animals in the period from arrival in the holding to the slaughter.

Decision 79/542/EEC has been recently amended by Decision 2008/752/EC. During this amendment a reference to all the diseases listed in the Annex to Directive 90/426/EEC was made in the certificates for import of animals and fresh meat into the EC, which is too strict for the requirements for meat and needs to be replaced by specific references to African horse sickness and glanders.

Decision 79/542/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Member States were asked to send any comments to the Commission by email.

19. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Council Directive 82/894/EEC on the notification of animal diseases within the Community to include epizootic hemorrhagic disease of deer in the list of notifiable diseases. (Doc. SANCO/3489/2008)

The draft Decision was not communicated to the Member States or distributed during the meeting. It was however briefly explained by the Commission's representative, with the intention to present it for an opinion at the next meeting of this Committee. The purpose of this draft Decision is to bring Directive 82/894/EEC in line with Directive 92/119/EEC and to add epizootic hemorrhagic disease of deer to Annex I of Directive 82/894/EEC.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Member States:

- **The Norwegian** authorities informed the Commission that they have addressed the following to the European Free Trade Association Surveillance Authority (EFTA Surveillance Authority):
 - Declaration of compartments free of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA).
 - Application for disease-free status for white spot disease in accordance with Article 49 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

The declaration and application were distributed to the Member States by the Commission for information and consideration. Member States could send any comments to the Commission by email.

Issues raised by the Commission:

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

- **SANCO/10508/2004 – version 10** entitled: Veterinary Services contact points trade problems. Member States were asked to inform the Commission in case of any mistakes.

- **SANCO/3628/2008 Rev.3** for the reasons explained under point 9 entitled: Draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the entry for Botswana and Brazil in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat are authorised. Member States didn't oppose the review of this Decision.

- **The list with the names of the members of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team 2009.** Member States were asked to inform the Commission in case of any mistakes. The Commission intends to publish the list on DG SANCO's website.

- **The veterinary services in the European Union – Animal health:** a document which lists the emergency phone numbers of the Member States and the Commission. Member States were asked to inform the Commission in case of any mistakes.