



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 31 MAY 2011
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

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

1. Bluetongue situation in the Member States.

Postponed.

2. Information from Germany and France on the classical swine fever situation.

Postponed.

3. Information from the Netherlands on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.

The Netherlands gave a [presentation](#) updating on the outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of the H7N7 subtype that occurred on 12 May 2011 in a free range laying hen holding located in the village of Kootwijkerbroek, Gelderland. All poultry present in the holding were culled. Restrictions on movements were applied as a precaution in an area of 3km radius around the outbreak which was subsequently reduced to the 1km restricted zone upon confirmation that the virus in question was a low pathogenic virus.

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.5)

The Commission's representative presented Rev. 5 of the guidance document addressing last comments received from Member States. The concerned sector has received the latest version of the document for consultation of their members and will come back with final comments.

5. Information on vaccination of other captive birds kept in zoos and approved bodies, institutes or centres in the Member States against avian influenza according to Commission Decision 2007/598/EC. (Doc. SANCO/7070/2011- Rev.1)

The Commission presented an updated summary document on preventive vaccination against avian influenza of birds kept in premises as listed above carried out in Member States during 2010. Member States were requested by the Commission to provide outstanding reports and comments on the continuation of vaccination by 15 June 2011.

6. Information from Ireland, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom on the results of the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis co-financed eradication programmes 2010.

Due to time constraints, only the British and the Portuguese representatives made presentations. The results of the other Member States will be presented at the next meeting of this Committee.

The British representative presented the [results](#) of the first year of implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programme 2010. In general, the programme has been implemented as foreseen and the target on testing has been quite satisfactory. However, the Commission pointed out that still a lot of work has to be done to tackle the disease, the situation being still worrying especially in England.

The Portuguese representative presented the [results](#) of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programme 2010. In general, the programme has been implemented as foreseen and the target on testing, prevalence/incidence has been quite satisfactory.

7. Information from Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Portugal on the results of the implementation of the enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) co-financed eradication programmes 2010.

Postponed.

7A. Information from the Commission on the TRACES Steering Committee Meeting, 10 March 2011, Brussels. (Doc. SANCO/457927/2011)

The Commission's representative presented the TRACES Steering Committee conclusions of the above mentioned meeting. The Member States saw potential benefits in better communication and more transparency for TRACES developments and management, including the monitoring of yearly resources allocated for TRACES maintenance. The Commission noted a need of rotation of the Member States participating in TRACES Steering Committee meetings.

7B. Information from Member States on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and

90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae in relation to World Equestrian Federation (FEI) Passports and Recognition Cards issuance.

The Commission informed about the intentions of the World Equestrian Federation (FEI) to publish guidelines on the recognition of Passports for horses issued in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

The Commission urged Member States to ensure that passports comply with the model set up in Annex I to that Regulation.

The Commission requested Member States to verify that the hyperlinks connected to the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) website are operational and provide a user-friendly access to the list of passport issuing bodies approved in the respective Member State.

7C. Update on the situation as regards foot-and-mouth disease in Bulgaria.

The representative of Bulgaria provided an [update](#) on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in the south-east of Bulgaria and the progress made in surveillance on FMD in wildlife.

No additional outbreak of FMD was reported in Bulgaria following the last outbreak on 7 April 2011.

7D. Information from Belgium on the Aujeszky's disease situation.

Postponed.

8. 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.

9. Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 the semen collection and storage centres. (Legal base: Directive 88/407/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7013/2011-Rev. 2)

The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into revision 2 of the document in comparison to the previous version which was presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee of 2 May 2011 ([see item 9 of the agenda of that meeting](#)). Vote on this draft was postponed as more time is required to check if certain technical IT adaptation in TRACES (as requested by one Member State) could

be implemented. Member States were also requested to submit their further comments as soon as possible.

Vote: postponed.

10. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species into the Union. (Legal base: Directive 88/407/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7014/2011 – Rev. 2)

The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into revision 2 of the document in comparison to the previous version which was presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee of 2 May 2011 ([see item 10 of the agenda of that meeting](#)). Vote on this draft was postponed as for the sake of consistency it should be adopted together with the draft referred to under item 9 of the agenda. Member States were also requested to submit their further comments as soon as possible.

Vote: postponed.

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Part A of Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC as regards the list of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus. (Legal base: Directive 2003/85/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc.SANCO/7059/2011)

The competent authorities of Spain have officially requested the Commission to insert Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA) situated in Madrid, Spain, on the list of laboratories set out in Part A of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC as it meets the bio-security standards provided for in Article 65(d) of Directive 2003/85/EC.

It is the purpose of this draft Implementing Decision to adapt the list of laboratories authorised by Member States to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus for diagnosis purposes set out in Part A of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes II and III to Decision 2010/221/EU as regards the withdrawal of an eradication programme regarding bacterial kidney disease for Great Britain and the approval of a surveillance programme regarding ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var for Guernsey. (Legal base: Art. 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (SANCO/7009/2011 – Rev. 1)

The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into Revision 1 of the draft Implementing Decision in comparison to the previous version which was

presented during the meeting of this Committee of 4 April 2011 ([see item 15 of the agenda of that meeting](#)). There were no comments from the Member States.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the financial contribution by the Union for the implementation of emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Italy in 2009. (Legal base: Council Decision 2009/470/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/11034/2011)

The purpose of this draft Implementing Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Italy towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2009.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14. 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 Germany in November 2010. (Legal base: Council Decision 2009/470/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/10990/2011)

The purpose of this draft Implementing Decision is to grant a financial contribution from the Union to Germany towards the expenditure that will be incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in November 2010.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2011/44/EU concerning certain protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Bulgaria. (Legal base: Directives 89/662/EEC and 90/425/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7063/2011 - Rev.1)

The Commission's representative presented a draft Implementing Decision amending Decision 2011/44/EU in order to prolong the measures until 30 September 2011, while at the same time reducing the risk areas in which the measures apply in the light of the epidemiological situation.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14B. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the financing for the year 2011

of activities in the veterinary field related to the European Union's information policy, support of international organisations, disease notification and computerisation of veterinary procedures. (Legal base: Council Decision 2009/470/EC of 25 May 2009 on expenditure in the veterinary field, and in particular Articles 20, 23, 35(2), 36(2) and 41 thereof) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7212/2010 - Rev.2)

The Commission's representative presented the draft Implementing Decision and gave an explanation on the different points that are foreseen for financing in 2011 as laid down in its Annex. The purpose of this draft Decision is to set the essential elements of actions involving budgetary expenditure in the veterinary field in year 2011. These actions concern several areas of intervention to further improve policy measures, to meet its obligations in communication policy regarding animal health and welfare and to support TRACES and ADNS systems. It will be implemented through direct management (grants and procurements) as well as through joint management with international organisations.

Member States raised several questions that were answered by the Commission's representative.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14C. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as regards the period of application of the transitional measures concerning the conditions for exempting certain animals from the exit ban provided for in Council Directive 2000/75/EC. (Legal base: Council Directive 2000/75/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7101/2011 – Rev.1)

The period of application of the transitional measures provided for in Article 9(a)(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 elapses on 30 June 2011. It was foreseen that by that date, the amendment to the bluetongue Directive 2000/75/EC allowing for preventive vaccination against bluetongue outside restricted zones would have been adopted. The intention was to amend Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 in parallel with the Directive to align it with the new rules and also put in place new criteria focusing on vector protection, which would make the transitional measures redundant.

However, the procedure for the amendment of the Directive by the Council and the Parliament has been delayed. For this reason, the period of application of transitional measures of Article 9(a) needs to be prolonged one more time and for one year until 30 June 2012. It was stressed by the Commission representative that hopefully, the amendments to the Directive and the Regulation can be adopted well before this date which would mean the deletion of Article 9(a).

Revision 1 of document SANCO/7101/2011 was distributed, containing only minor editorial changes in the recitals.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14D. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising a laboratory in Japan to carry out serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines. (Legal base: Council Decision 2000/258) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7034/2011)

The purpose of this draft Decision is to add a new laboratory in Japan on the list of laboratories currently authorised to perform serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines in dogs, cats and ferrets.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

15. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving certain amended programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses for the year 2011 and amending Decision 2010/712/EU as regards the financial contribution from the Union to certain Member States for programmes approved by that Decision. (Legal base: Council Decision 2009/470/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/11236/2011)

The Commission's representative presented the draft Implementing Decision. Certain Member States have submitted requests for modification of their approved programmes for 2011 to adapt to epidemiological or other developments that took place after the submission and approval of the programmes. Spain submitted an amended programme for the monitoring and eradication of bluetongue.

Commission Decision 2010/712/EU enabled the financial support to the rabies eradication programmes of Lithuania and Slovakia for oral vaccination activities in bordering areas of their neighbouring third countries, included in those programmes with the objective to protect the Union territory from incursions of the disease by the infected wild animals moving across the borders.

Following the positive advances to their bilateral negotiations with their respective neighbouring third countries, Poland and Finland also included to their submitted modified rabies eradication programmes oral vaccination activities in certain adjacent areas of neighbouring third countries.

Member States were informed that this item will be presented for an opinion during the meeting of this Committee of 10 June 2011, section Toxicological Safety.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Member States:

- **Germany** gave a [presentation](#) on an **outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza** of the subtype H7N7 that was confirmed on 27 May 2011 in a broiler breeder holding with annexed hatchery located in the village of Rietberg, Kreis Gütersloh, North Rhine Westphalia. The poultry was killed. Movements of hatching eggs and day-old chicks from the infected holding are being followed-up and contact holdings have been

identified. A standstill zone was implemented covering parts of the Kreis Gütersloh and Paderborn.