

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 15 & 16 June 2006  
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)  
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)  
(Section Animal Nutrition)**

President: Bernard Van Goethem and Alberto Laddomada  
Willem Penning for the Animal Nutrition section

All the Member States were present. Malta, partly absent, was represented by the United Kingdom. Cyprus represented Italy and Greece, partly absent at different times.

**1. Exchange of views of the Committee on the evolution of animal diseases in the Community including:**  
Swine vesicular disease (SVD) – Italy

The Italian delegation presented the evolution of the swine vesicular disease in 2006. So far 4 primary outbreaks were detected by means of the surveillance activities, in regions non qualified for SVD: 3 in Calabria and 1 in Campania. Two of these outbreaks were found in dealers' premises. Data were given on the SVD serological surveillance for the January-March 2006 period.

**2. Information from Germany on the Classical Swine Fever (CSF) situation**

The German delegation presented the CSF situation in North Rhine-Westphalia. No new outbreaks have been detected since 9 May 2006, the total of outbreaks thus remaining at 8. A summary was given on the additional measures taken by Germany. Figures have been provided on the movement of pigs, within and from a surveillance zone to a designated slaughterhouse, and on the required clinical and laboratory examinations according to Articles 2(3) and 3(a) of Decision 2006/346/EC. Data were provided also on testing of pigs in the event of culling, before pigs are subjected to antibiotic treatment and on holdings in surveillance zones. Clarification was provided on the establishment of sub-compartments according to the Decision.

**3. Distribution of the proceedings of an animal welfare scientific seminar held in Santiago, Chile in November 2004 in the context of the EC-Chile SPS Agreement (RH)**

The EC-Chile Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, which entered into force on 1 February 2003, was the first ever bilateral agreement between the EC and a third country to include animal welfare within its scope. In particular, it foresees various activities to improve exchange of information and expertise between the

EU and Chile on animal welfare issues, in order to build a common understanding on agreed animal welfare standards, on stunning and slaughtering of animals and on animal transport.

In this context, several scientific events were organised. The first one, a seminar, was held in Chile in November 2004. The Commission had the opportunity to present the activities carried out so far. The seminar referred, in particular, to the proceedings that have been distributed by the Commission. The future initiatives scheduled for 2006 were also introduced. The Member States welcomed these initiatives.

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/seminars/sem\\_1104.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/seminars/sem_1104.pdf)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animalwelfare/seminars/sem\\_1104\\_es.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animalwelfare/seminars/sem_1104_es.pdf)

**4. Information of the Committee on a Commission Decision amending Appendix B to Annex XII to the 2003 Act of Accession as regards certain establishments in the meat, fish and milk sectors in Poland (MH)**

The Polish competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the fish, meat and milk sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have ceased their activities. This proposal intends to delete those establishments from the list of establishments in transition.

**5. Information on Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport: presentation on the details (LVW)**

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport will enter into force on January 2007. To help the Member States with certain aspects of the implementation, the Commission will give every month in the SCFCAH a short presentation on the main provisions of the Regulations that will affect animal transport in Europe. The presentations will be published on the website of DG SANCO for further reference. After each presentation a debate with Member States experts is foreseen in order to collect information on the main initiatives taken in order to ensure proper implementation of the Regulation in the MS. If necessary, the Commission will organise a specific meeting with the MS experts competent for animal transport to discuss the technical issues. The initiative was broadly welcomed by all Member States.

**6. Information to Germany on the payments to be made in the framework of their 2001, 2002 and 2003 rabies eradication programmes (AW)**

The Commission provided the above mentioned information. Germany declared not having received the official notification. The Commission is expecting Germany's position on the figures proposed. This point was thus withdrawn.

**7. Information on the avian influenza situation in EU and in third countries, and exchange of views with the Member States on the document on avian influenza distributed by the UK at the CVO meeting of 9 June 2006**

### Denmark

The Danish delegation presented an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in a backyard holding which was confirmed by PCR (polymerase chain reaction). Out of 102 birds (ducks, geese, hens, guinea fowl, peacock), 47 died. The remaining 55 birds were killed.

The holding was not registered and was located in a higher risk zone. The owner had delayed notification of the presence of disease. However, he claimed that no trade or contact with other poultry holdings had taken place. Poultry was possibly infected by wild birds. Visits to all holdings in the surveillance and protection zones revealed no virus spread to other poultry holdings. Biosecurity measures were increased to prevent the spread of HPAI H5N1.

A case of LP H5N2 in a game bird holding was detected by the routine AI surveillance programme. Control measures were applied according to Directive 2005/94/EC and implemented on 2 June 2006.

### Germany

The German delegation presented an update of their AI situation in wild birds. Since 12 May 2006, no cases have been detected. Germany will provide a regular update of the developments.

### Hungary

The Hungarian delegation reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in a registered free range goose farm in Bács-Kiskun, the county with the largest population of poultry and where most of Hungary's wild bird cases have been detected. The mortality rate increased rapidly: from 46 deaths on 4 June to 636 deaths on 6 June. Measures of movement control, stamping out, registration, clinical inspection and screening were immediately implemented, as well as further preventive measures, in accordance with control Directive 2005/94/EC and Decision 2006/135/EC (areas A and B). By 14 June 2006, there were no new suspected outbreaks or contact holdings. Updated information, including a guide on derogations, is available on [www.fvm.hu](http://www.fvm.hu) and [www.oai.hu](http://www.oai.hu)

### Croatia

Croatia presented its current situation and surveillance measures for AI.

HPAI was confirmed and notified in wild birds – mute swans and black headed gulls – for the first time in the Republic of Croatia in October 2005. To date, tests to detect the presence of the AI H5N1 virus were positive for wild birds only. All samples from domestic poultry were negative. Measures for AI monitoring, control, prevention and eradication were stipulated in the Veterinary Act. They comply with provisions laid down in the EU legislation. Those measures were immediately implemented after detection of the first outbreak.

### Romania

At today's meeting, Romania declared that as of 8 June 2006 the epidemic situation has been stable. To date, 127 outbreaks have been confirmed in domestic poultry holdings located in 18 departments of Romania and in Bucarest. Sentinel birds have been placed on 120 sites. By the end of June, the number of depopulated holdings will amount to 118.

The Commission requested that Romania provides an update on a daily basis.

## UK

UK presented a draft document summarising the findings and epidemiological information on outbreaks in wild birds and poultry within the EU. The delegate pointed out that detection measures are successful but costly and asked how the policy should evolve as regards H5N1. Member States have acquired more experience about the disease, its evolution and transmission, on bird migration, etc. It is however still necessary to study in detail the outbreaks and their origin. UK suggests defining risk factors to guide the decision/policy making and focus on surveillance efforts.

The Member States thanked UK for the significant overview of the AI situation in the EU and welcomed UK's draft document as an excellent basis for a debate on a way forward. The Commission services summarised the debate that resulted from the presentation of the DEFRA document on AI prevention and control measures as follows:

*The SCFCAH has reviewed the HPAI H5N1 situation in Europe in the light of the draft document submitted by the UK.*

*The emergency measures adopted so far in the EU seem to have been by and large successful, as outbreaks of disease in domestic poultry have been in limited number and rapidly eradicated, even though a challenging spread of disease in wild birds has recently occurred in Europe, including 13 Member States. The decision making system in place in the EU has been able to efficiently coordinate Member States measures and to adapt them to the evolving situation.*

*While it is still very difficult to make any prediction on the evolution of the disease in Europe, and in particular in the EU, the importance of disease surveillance in both wild birds and domestic poultry for early detection and response has become increasingly evident.*

*A first assessment and consequent adaptation of the very wide set of emergency measures taken in the EU in the second half of 2005 and early 2006, including those on surveillance, has already been done.*

*However, criteria for prioritisation of resources should be further developed to ensure "better" surveillance, not just "more" surveillance. In more general terms, more knowledge is needed to make further progress in terms of proportionality, cost/benefit and long term sustainability of the measures adopted so far.*

*The very significant amount of epidemiological data gathered during the first half of 2006 should be further analysed at both Member States and EU level to better understand the risk factors that should guide in the refinement of biosecurity measures in the poultry sector, including keeping poultry separated from wild birds. The poultry sector itself should also contribute to this process by exchanging views both at national and EU level on the implementation of biosecurity measures.*

An internal meeting will be held on 29 June to discuss on how to proceed with the data provided by Member States and how to analyse it at Community level.

## Israel

The Commission distributed a document received from the Israeli authorities, summarising the outbreak of HPAI in Israel in 2006 (SANCO/10442/2006). Israel

has successfully eradicated avian influenza on its territory. The Commission therefore proposes not to prolong the current safeguard measures and Member States agree to this. The Decision is applicable until 31 July 2006.

#### Zimbabwe

The Commission informed the Committee on the situation in relation to AI caused by an H5N2 strain in Zimbabwe, document SANCO/10424/2006. The H5N2 infection is confined to only one ostrich farm: Dollar Bubi. Biosecurity measures have been increased on all registered farms. Zimbabwe has taken all necessary measures and the risk for the Community is negligible at the moment. Member States agreed to lift the export ban of ostrich meat to the EU, except for ostrich meat originating from Dollar Bubi.

#### **8. Exchange of views concerning the use of decoy birds (Decision 2005/734/EC) (Cf. SCFCAH 2 June 2006 summary report, point 5: presentation by the French Ministry of Environment)**

The French delegation stated that the implementation of Commission Decision 2005/734/EC turned out to be difficult. Therefore, the French authorities requested the possibility of national derogations from biosecurity rules for the ban on the use of decoy birds, especially during the hunting season, provided that the risk evaluation is favourable. France asked for a discussion and a decision project.

Certain Member States consider it as more appropriate to maintain the biosecurity measures, as few Member States have good knowledge about the practice of decoy birds.

The Commission distributed a paper from the French authorities *"Note à l'attention de la Commission – Objet: Décision de la Commission 2005/734/CE – interdiction d'utilisation des appellants pour la chasse aux oiseaux d'eau"* and expects comments from the Member States for the 4-5 July SCFCAH meeting. This paper contains a proposal to amend Decision 2005/734/EC by adding Article 2a on additional risk mitigating measures, thus covering the prohibition issue: *"The competent authority may also authorise the use of decoy birds based on the favourable outcome of a risk assessment and under the condition that appropriate biosecurity measures are put into place to avoid any possible spread of disease."*

#### **9. Information on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in Uruguay (SANCO/10402/2006) (HLB)**

The Commission distributed an information paper from Uruguay on the FMD situation, dated May 2006.

On the basis of the actions taken, including epidemiological surveillance carried out by the official and private sectors, the animal health situation of Uruguay is stable and transparent. It complies fully with all OIE requirements. Uruguay is a country free of FMD where vaccination is used. No clinical cases have been reported since August 2001. In sheep, no vaccination has been practised since 1988.

This paper provides information for other countries to assess and recognise Uruguay as a producer of quality sheep meat. Uruguay is also free from all OIE listed diseases.

**10. Information on the extension of the FMD free zone in Namibia (SANCO/10401/2006) (HLB)**

The Commission distributed an information paper from Namibia on the FMD situation, dated May 2006.

Northern Namibia (Red line zone) has for many years been closed to fresh meat exports to the EU and other markets due to the proximity of FMD infected zones or areas where free-roaming buffalo are present. Southern Namibia is FMD-free without vaccination. Namibia wishes to gradually open areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (Red line zone) by extending its non-vaccination zone. This document describes briefly an immediate and longer term strategy to achieve FMD freedom in northern Namibia.

Two regions have been selected for their manageability in size and disease status: Kunene North and Mangetti West. The following risk management strategy will be implemented to grant these regions a surveillance zone status. These steps are the beginning of a long process:

- FMD freedom
- Cordon sanitaire
- Identification
- Movement control
- Quarantaine

A similar process is envisaged for the Tsumkwe area. The western parts of the Kavango remain problematic at this time, and upgrading the animal health status here would depend on the progress with FMD controls in southern Angola.

**11. Information on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in Botswana (SANCO/10405/2006) (HLB)**

The Commission distributed an information paper from Botswana, dated 18 May 2006, that provides an update on the outbreak of FMD in Bobonong extension area (zone 7).

The FMD outbreak remains confined to zone 7. The primary vaccination of all cattle in zone 7 should end on 25 May 2006. Booster vaccinations will be given every 4 months. Cloven-hoofed animal products are not allowed outside but can enter this zone. A 2.4meter high fence will be erected around zone 7. Once this isolation measure is completed, hopefully by the end of the year, the OIE protocol will be followed to regain in due course the status of a FMD free zone without vaccination for zone 7. Meanwhile, the self-imposed export ban on cloven-hoofed animals and their products is hereby lifted from the remaining FMD free zones.

**12. Distribution of CD with Member State applications for VHS/IHN approval of fish farms and zones (YT)**

A reaction from the EU Member States is expected for 7 July 2006.

**13. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin (RH)**

On 31 May 2006, The Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance sent a letter to Dr Jaana Husu-Kallio, Deputy Director General of the EC SANCO Committee, thanking for the work carried out to fight the spread of bird flu. The Russian Supervising Authority in Agriculture considers it is now possible to permit imports of poultry products to Russia from Great Britain (except from Norfolk) and from Denmark (except from Funen) where bird flu morbid events of poultry caused by H5 and H7 serotypes were registered. This letter encloses a copy of the letters to Great Britain's and Denmark's Veterinary Services.

**14. Distribution for information :  
Final report of a mission carried out in Bulgaria from 30 January to 3 February 2006 in order to assess the level of preparedness of the Bulgarian authorities for a possible outbreak of avian influenza in poultry (SANCO/8306/2006 – MR Final)**

**15. 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, and in particular in relation to avian influenza**

The Commission presented the *draft Decision concerning certain protection measures related to highly pathogenic AI of subtype H5N1 in wild birds and repealing Decision 2006/115/EC (SANCO/10310/2006-Rev.8)*.

The Member States welcomed the Commission's effort to amend the Decision in the light of experience gained in Member States with the application of biosecurity and protection measures in relation to positive findings for HPAI H5N1 in wild birds. The Commission services proposed to adjust certain requirements, in particular those relating to the establishment of the restricted areas and the duration of the restrictive measures, whereas biosecurity measures, intensified surveillance and awareness should be maintained.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

**16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2005/759/EC and 2005/760/EC on the import of birds other than poultry and birds accompanying their owners (SANCO/10408/2006) (AB)**

The Commission presented the document which intends to prolong the safeguard Decisions for imports into the EU of captive and pet birds. Since the report of new AI cases in member countries of the OIE, movement and import restrictions should be continued. As imports of pet birds from Croatia to the EU constitute a minimal risk, the measures for birds accompanying their owners from Croatia should no longer apply.

**The vote was postponed.**

**17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2005/692/EC and 2006/7/EC as regards certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (SANCO/10389/2006) (AB)**

For Asia, where outbreaks of AI continue to occur, it is appropriate to prolong the application of the AI safeguard Decision 2005/692/EC until 31 December 2007, while Decisions 2005/733/EC and 2006/7/EC should continue to be applied for a shorter period of time until 31 December 2006.

For clarity and transparency, the provisions laid down in Decision 2005/692/EC, relating to imports from Asian countries of unprocessed feathers, birds other than poultry and birds accompanying their owners, as well as import of products held in cold storage for more than one year, should be deleted now that individual safeguard Decisions for these commodities have been adopted.

The title of Decision 2006/7/EC should be amended to reflect better its application to all third countries.

**The vote was postponed.**

**18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the fourth time Decision 2005/758/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to avian influenza in Croatia (SANCO/10390/2006) (AB)**

Croatia has notified the Commission that they are applying equivalent protection measures as those adopted in the Community against highly pathogenic AI in wild birds (see also point 7 of the agenda). Croatia shall immediately notify the Commission of any future changes to the animal health situation, and specifically any further outbreaks of AI in wild birds.

The Decision for Croatia allows imports to continue from those areas that have not been put under restriction by the competent authority of Croatia itself. The same approach has already been adopted for Switzerland. It is thus possible to keep the safeguard Decision in place without undue trade restrictions. Due to the remaining risk of possible avian influenza incursions in Croatia and border countries, the safeguard measures should be prolonged and applied until 31 December 2006.

**The vote was postponed.**

**19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/264/EC concerning protection measures in relation to Newcastle disease in Romania (SANCO/10409/2006) (AB)**

Decision 2006/264/EC suspends the import of live poultry, ratites, farmed and wild feathered game, hatching eggs, and all meat products from these species from certain counties in Romania. A list of these counties is laid down in the Annex to this Decision. Romania has notified an outbreak of Newcastle disease in Sălaj county, from where imports are still authorised. This county should be added to the list of counties in the Annex. Furthermore, the measures laid down in Decision 2006/264/EC should be prolonged until 31 December 2006.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down the animal health conditions and certification requirements for imports of fish for ornamental purpose, and amending Decision 2003/858/EC (SANCO/10381/2005-Rev.4) (YT)**

Commission Decision 2003/858/EC does not apply to tropical ornamental fish kept permanently in aquariums. The purpose of this Decision is to draw harmonised animal health conditions and certification requirements for imports of ornamental fish. Decision 2003/858/EC shall then only apply to fish introduced for further farming and restocking and to aquaculture fish imported for consumption. The necessary amendments will be presented in a separate Decision.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/300/EC as regards the areas excluded from the list of approved zones with regard to *Bonamia ostreae* and/or *Marteilia refringens* (SANCO/10407/2006) (YT)**

In May 2006, the UK informed the Commission that *Bonamia ostreae* had been detected in the river Cleddau in Wales. The UK established a control and a surveillance zone around the affected area that was previously considered free of the disease. The purpose of this Decision is to update Commission Decision 2002/300/EC accordingly.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Part B of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC with regard to vaccine manufacturers (SANCO/10398/2006) (AEF)**

The Commission shall, on notification by Member States, update the list of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) virus for vaccine production.

For security reasons, it is important to keep this list updated, to know where live FMD virus is handled as part of diagnostic tests or production of vaccines and relevant research.

Germany and the Netherlands have officially informed the Commission of changes regarding manufacturers of FMD vaccines. Part B of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC will be replaced accordingly.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 23. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 93/195/EEC on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the re-entry of registered horses**

**for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export (SANCO/10299/2006 – Rev.1) (AEF)**

Since the adoption of Decision 93/195/EEC, several amendments have extended the period of temporary export of registered horses in listed third countries from less than 30 days to 60 or 90 days for particular races and/or competitions where a high level of veterinary control is ensured.

In December 2006, Qatar will host the Asian games including the equestrian competitions with a period of temporary export extended to less than 60 days. The animal health conditions and veterinary certification laid down in Annex VII to the Decision should be extended to the equestrian competitions of the Asian games, conducted in accordance with the Rules of the International Federation of Equestrian Sports. The title of the annex will be adapted.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 24. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision temporarily recognising the systems for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, according to Article 4(2)(d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 (SANCO/10309/2006) (KUS)**

UK's competent authority had committed itself to ensure, through measures, to comply with Regulation (EC) No 21/2004. In cooperation with UK's authorities, the Commission carried out on-the-spot inspections to verify the implementation of UK's actions concerning the identification and registration systems. The final report and an acceptable action plan from the UK are available and were discussed in the framework of the SCFCAH.

The systems for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals in UK should be approved until 30 June 2007. UK shall also ensure annual on-the-spot inspections.

**The vote was postponed.**

- 25. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the purchase by the Community of marker vaccine against classical swine fever (CSF) to increase the Community stocks of those vaccines (SANCO/10297/2006 – Rev.1) (JPV)**

The CSF virus is endemic in certain acceding States and will increase significantly the threat of spread after accession to the EU, thus impairing internal and international trade and movement of pigs and pig products.

Current provisions of CSF control (cf. Council Directive 2001/89/EEC) are aimed at disease eradication from the Community. However, vaccination may be used in emergencies if there is a risk of further serious disease outbreaks.

The Commission has in stock 1.000.000 doses of live attenuated vaccine, rapidly available, and is in the process of purchasing 1.550.000 doses of "marker" vaccine. The latter induces an immune response that can be distinguished from

the response caused by the CSF virus. The risk resulting from the acceding States situation could necessitate the use of marker vaccine in more substantial quantities. The Commission shall therefore purchase additionally and as soon as possible 7.000.000 doses.

The issue of authorised diagnostic kits, and whether the Commission shall also purchase corresponding diagnostic tests, was raised. The Commission replied that diagnostic tests at present are not part of the EU vaccine bank.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 26. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision establishing the Community's financial contribution to the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat bluetongue disease in Italy in 2001-2002 (SANCO/679/2006-Rev.1) (TC)**

The total Community financial contribution towards the expenditure for the eradication of the bluetongue disease in Italy in 2001 and 2002, pursuant to Decision 2003/677/EC, is fixed at EUR 7.358.839. Since a first instalment of EUR 4.000.000 has already been paid, the balance and final contribution of EUR 3.358.839 shall be paid to Italy.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 27. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the expenditure incurred towards the emergency measures taken to combat Newcastle disease in Denmark in 2005 (SANCO/1807/2006) (TC)**

Denmark may obtain a financial contribution from the Community towards the costs incurred in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2005. The grant is allocated under the conditions, laid down in Regulation (EC) No 349/2005, that the authorities provide, within set deadlines, the necessary information on the implementation of the planned activities. The Danish authorities have fully complied with their technical and administrative obligations. The financial contribution shall amount to 50% of the expenditure eligible for Community funding.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 28. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the expenditure incurred towards the emergency measures taken to combat Newcastle disease in France in 2005 (SANCO/1808/2006) (TC)**

France may obtain a financial contribution from the Community towards the costs incurred in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2005. The grant is allocated under the conditions, laid down in Regulation (EC) No 349/2005, that the authorities provide, within set deadlines, the necessary

information on the implementation of the planned activities. The French authorities have fully complied with their technical and administrative obligations. The financial contribution shall amount to 50% of the expenditure eligible for Community funding.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

**29. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the expenditure incurred towards the emergency measures taken to combat Newcastle disease in the United Kingdom in 2005 (SANCO/1809/2006) (TC)**

UK may obtain a financial contribution from the Community towards the costs incurred in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2005. The grant is allocated under the conditions, laid down in Regulation (EC) No 349/2005, that the authorities provide, within set deadlines, the necessary information on the implementation of the planned activities. The British authorities have fully complied with their technical and administrative obligations. The financial contribution shall amount to 50% of the expenditure eligible for Community funding.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

**30. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the expenditure incurred towards the emergency measures taken to combat classical swine fever in the Slovak Republic in 2005 (SANCO/1810/2006) (TC)**

Slovakia may obtain a financial contribution from the Community towards the costs incurred in taking emergency measures to combat classical swine fever in 2005. The grant is allocated under the conditions, laid down in Regulation (EC) No 349/2005, that the authorities provide, within set deadlines, the necessary information on the implementation of the planned activities. The Slovak authorities have fully complied with their technical and administrative obligations. The financial contribution shall be 50% of the expenditure eligible for Community funding.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

**31. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 94/360/EC and 2001/812/EC as regards veterinary checks on products from third countries (SANCO/10102/2006-Rev.2) (Legal basis Directive 97/78/EC) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (NGB)**

With the introduction of the TRACES system, official veterinarians and staff must no longer keep registers, records and entry documents on imports from third countries, thus avoiding duplication of effort.

Amendments should be made to Annex II of Decision 94/360/EC (list of third countries and frequencies of physical checks) in line with these issues:

- The EEA Joint Committee Decision No 69/1998 extends the provisions for border controls, in respect of certain fishery products, to Iceland and Norway which should therefore be deleted from Annex II;
- To facilitate trade, handling and inspection frequencies of certain animal products at border inspection posts, a reference to the provisions provided for in the corresponding Agreement should be mentioned.

Deep frozen semen and embryos, by- or blood- products of animal origin, destined for technical or pharmaceutical purposes, transported at ambient temperatures in sealed, temperature regulating containers, may from now on be inspected at border inspection posts with facilities to handle only packed products at ambient temperature.

There is a requirement for additional facilities at a border inspection post if the throughput of consignments rises above the figure of 500 per year, but this is not based upon risk. The figure of 500 should, from now on, only be indicative. The requirement of additional facilities will depend on a trade and risk assessment by the competent authority of the Member State concerned. The assessment must be notified to the Commission.

**Vote: Qualified majority: 263 votes in favour.**

- 32. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down implementing measures for the lists of plants to be drawn up by Member States in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption (SANCO/10099/2006) (Legal basis: Art. 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (KSV)**

In order to avoid any risk of dispersal of pathogens and/or residues, animal by-products are to be processed, stored and kept separate in an approved and supervised plant, designated by the Member State concerned, or to be disposed of in a suitable manner. Member States are to draw up lists of approved plants and make them available to the Commission and to other Member States. Accordingly, this Regulation lays down implementing rules concerning those lists, including the presentation of the information, on national websites available to the Commission and the public. The Regulation shall apply from 1 July 2007.

**Vote: Unanimously in favour.**

- 33. Technical specifications in relation to the master list of lists and the lists of approved plants handling animal by-products (SANCO/10149/2006) (KSV) (Cf. also point 31 above)**

The competent authority of each Member State must approve and keep updated its list of ABP plants. To improve the mandatory availability of these national lists to other Member States and the public, the Commission created a new web page with links to those lists. Technical specifications for the lists regarding

format (plant sections), categories of plants, listing layout, codes and legends for activities and product types were discussed and agreed by all Member States.

**Agreement: Unanimously in favour.**

- 34. Exchange of views and technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the placing on the market of certain animal by-products (SANCO/3890/2005-Rev.7) (Legal basis: Art. 28, 29(3), 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (KSV/TG/LK)**

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 lays down animal and public health requirements for the importation into and transit through the Community of certain animal by-products and their derivatives. This regulation provides for general hygiene requirements for the processing as well as for the placing on the market, including model health certificates for their importation into the Community.

The Commission presented, for technical agreement, the amendments to Annexes I, II, VII, VIII, X and XI of the regulation made to comply with necessary technical specifications and precisions.

**Technical agreement: Unanimously in favour.**

- 35. Exchange of views and technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional measures in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 for certain animal by-products classified as category 2 material and amending Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 (SANCO/10100/2006-Rev.5) (Legal basis: Art. 5(4), 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (KSV)**

The Report on animal by-products reflects the difficulties concerning the definition of certain material as Category 2 and envisages a number of amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.

Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 lays down transitional measures for certain Category 1 and 2 animal by-products intended for technical purposes. The proposed amendment extends the scope to certain Category 2 low risk material to be used for the manufacture of technical products and for certain feeding purposes.

**Technical agreement: Unanimously in favour.**

- 36. Possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the permanent authorisations of certain additives in feeding stuffs and an authorisation for ten years for a coccidiostat (SANCO/1570/2006) (MP)**

Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 lays down the transitional measures for applications for the authorisation of feed additives submitted in accordance

with Directive 70/524/EEC. After examination of the files submitted by Member States Rapporteurs according to Article 4 of Directive 70/524/EEC, three permanent authorisations and one authorisation for 10 years can be granted for the use of the following additives:

- An enzyme preparation of 3-phytase produced by *Hansenula polymorpha* (DSM 15087);
- An enzyme preparation containing endo-1,4-beta-xylanase produced by *Trichoderma longibrachiatum* (ATCC 2105);
- A coccidiostat based on seduramicin sodium;
- A vitamin based on 25-hydroxycholecalciferol.

**Vote: Qualified majority: 277 votes in favour.**

**37. Possible opinion on a Draft Commission Regulation concerning the authorisation of a feed additive belonging to the category of zootechnical additives (SANCO/496/2006) (MP)**

In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, an application was submitted for the authorisation of the preparation benzoic acid (VevoVital) as a feed additive for weaned piglets, classified in the “zootechnical additives”. The European Food Safety Authority concluded in its opinion of December 2005 that VevoVital does not have an adverse effect on animal or human health, or on the environment, and that its use improves the performance parameters such as weight or feed gain ratio in piglets. EFSA recommends appropriate measures for user safety. Accordingly, the use of that preparation should be authorised.

**The vote was postponed.**

**38. Discussion: WORKING DOCUMENT on the exemption from veterinary checks under Council Directive 97/78/EC for certain foodstuffs at a border inspection post (SANCO/10207/2005 – Rev.15) (Legal base: Directive 97/78/EC) (Co-decision – Right of scrutiny of the EP) (NGB)**

This Decision defines, for clarity and harmonisation, composite products and certain foodstuffs containing products of animal origin which are exempted from veterinary checks referred to in Directive 97/78/EC to be carried out upon importation. Some of these products considered of negligible risk to the Community animal health status are listed in the Annex.

**This point was postponed.**

**39. Discussion: WORKING DOCUMENT setting down the list of live animals and products by Combined Nomenclature to assist selection of consignments that must be submitted to veterinary checks at a border inspection post. (SANCO/10631/2005-Rev.5) (Legal base: Directive 97/78/EC and Directive 91/496/EC) (Co-decision – Right of scrutiny of the EP) (NGB)**

For reasons of clarity, the products of animal origin to be submitted to veterinary checks, and referred to in Article 2(2) (a) of Directive 97/78/EC, should be

enumerated in a single list in respect to the relevant combined Customs nomenclature, the CN code.

This document should help customs and other authorities to identify and select the consignments that require a veterinary check. A list of CN codes, tabulated in parallel with relevant references to veterinary legislation will allow faster (improvement of IT systems) and better coordination between customs and veterinary services.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **UK, British Virgin Islands: Movement of pets**

Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 lays down the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals and the check rules on such movements because of the potential rabies risk they present. A list of third countries, from which the movement of pet animals to the Community may be authorised, is set out in Part C of Annex II to the Regulation.

The Commission distributed the application document submitted by UK for inclusion of the British Virgin Islands to the list, since that territory has been free from rabies for more than 20 years.

This proposal shall be voted at the 4-5 July SCFCAH meeting.

### **Import of bees**

Germany raised the question regarding imports of swarms of bees from USA including Hawaii to the UK. The Commission said that only small consignments of queens and their attendants are allowed. Swarms of bees are not allowed. The Commission promised to investigate further with the information from TRACES.