



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SANCO – D1 - D(07)410331

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 JANUARY 2007
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

President: Willem DAELMAN

SECTION A Information and/or discussion

1. Information from Cyprus on the implementation of a survey on TSE resistant PrP genes in goats in 2006 (JOV)

[Cyprus presented the results of the pilot project for the investigation of the PrP gene in goats funded by the Commission in 2006.](#)

1a. Illegal import of honey from Brazil (CL)

The Commission has informed that some Member States are illegally importing honey from Brazil. Imports of honey from Brazil are not authorized since March 2006 when the Commission Decision 2006/208/EC amending Decision 2004/432/EC withdrew the approval of the Brazilian residues monitoring plan for honey. Therefore, imports of honey from Brazil are a serious breach of EC legislation. Commission informed that concerned Member States will be individually informed and will be requested to immediately stop these imports.

Some Member States asked the commission to inform which Member States were illegally importing and requested that urgent actions be undertaken. Commission insisted that concerned Member States will be individually informed and immediate actions will be undertaken.

1b. Details of the Community financial support and work programmes for 2007 of the Community Reference Laboratories for feed and food (SANCO/2007/95) (document associated to item 3 of the agenda) (AMBR)

The Commission presented the document which has been changed according to the Legal Service remarks. The Commission explained that the work programmes are discussed and agreed with the CRLs in advance. Annex I includes explanation on criteria for eligibility and selection of CRLs, on procedures for granting financial assistance and the list of all CRLs in the area of feed and food. In annex II are presented the workprogrammes of all CRL in this area for 2007. Annex II will be published in the SANCO website.

The Commission reminded that for the efficient functioning of the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL)-National Reference Laboratory (NRL) network in the EU it is necessary that each CRL has a contact point in each Member State. In cases where a Member State has designated more than one NRL for a particular CRL it is the responsibility of the MS to ensure coordination between the NRLs and ensuring a proper cooperation and coordination with the corresponding CRL by establishing the proper contact points.

In order to consolidate the existing list of NRLs the Commission announced that the MS were going to be contacted by e mail and requested to complete a table including name and contact points of the NRLs for all food and feed sectors. This was following a document provided by Belgium which was proved to be very useful.

SECTION B Draft presented for an opinion

- 2. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the survey on TSE resistant PrP genes in goats presented by Cyprus for the year 2007 (Legal Basis: Council Decision 90/424/EC) (JOV)**

The draft proposal is intended to cover the Second Year of study undertaken by Cyprus (see point 1). Following a request from Cyprus, the text was amended in order to clarify an specific mention to analytical methods. No further comments from the Member States.

Vote: in favour by unanimity

- 3. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision as regards a Community financial contribution for the year 2007, to certain Community reference laboratories in the feed and food control area (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/4010/2006) (AMBR)**

Vote: in favour by Unanimity

- 4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a survey for chronic wasting disease in cervids (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/960/2006 Rev. 10) (MP)**

Following the EFSA recommendation, the Commission has drafted the above-mentioned Decision which has been modified according to the comments of the Legal Service. Objectives of the project are described in the articles. The 4 annexes focus on the technical aspects. Member States have to present an annual report of the results of surveys. The main remarks of the Member States focused on the definition of the hunting season (FR & SE). The 2007 report shall include the results of the 2007 hunting season, even when some samples have been taken in 2008.

Vote: in favour by Unanimity

- 5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a Draft Commission Decision on emergency measures applying to fishery products imported from Guinea and intended for human consumption. (Doc. SANCO/10829/2006) (JN)**

The Commission has informed that an inspection visit carried out to Guinea to verify the sanitary conditions of the production of fish has revealed very serious deficiencies, including endemic structural problems like a severe shortage of electric power and the water potability, having a definitive effect in the sanitary quality of the products. The cold chain cannot be maintained and the supply of non-contaminated water (in both vessels and establishments) cannot be assured. These structural deficiencies affecting all the country are in addition to the

very bad sanitary conditions of the establishments and vessels and to the deficient capacity of the authorities.

In view of these deficiencies, it is proposed to suspend with immediate effect the import of fishery products from Guinea. This suspension shall also include the floating consignments.

According to ES the date of application should be stated in the Decision. UK would like the legislation to foresee when the FVO will go back for a follow-up mission. Concerning the document itself DK noted a mistake in the numbering of the Articles. The Commission informed that this Decision will come into effect the day after notification to the Permanent Representation of the Member States and, as regards the follow-up inspection, the recital number 4 indicates that the Decision will be reviewed on the basis of the information provided by the authorities and of the favourable outcome of an on-the-spot inspection.

Vote: in favour by Unanimity

SECTION C Draft presented for discussion

6. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I, III, VII and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards specific definitions, eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in ovine and caprine animals and sampling and laboratory analysis methods and repealing Commission Decision 2003/100/EC (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/3622/2006) (JOV)

The draft proposal is intended to review the TSE eradication measures in small ruminants. The Commission presented the main aspects of the proposal and asked the position of Member States. Some Member States expressed their concerns on certain measures included in the proposal. The document will be discussed in further working group meetings. The Commission informed Member States that an assessment from EFSA has been requested. The Commission intends to submit it for an opinion of the Committee at the meeting of February 2007.

7. Miscellaneous /Divers

- **TRACES system**

Some Member States complained that TRACES was not operational. The Commission services are aware of the situation and presented 2 main problems. Last Friday they encountered some technical problems and they have been trying to define the cause. Moreover a new version of TRACES (version 2.6) had just been installed, which has considerably reduced the efficiency of the system.

Eric Poudelet
Head of Unit acting for the Director

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.