



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 4 APRIL 2011
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

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

1. State of play of the discussion with Russia on certifications for export.

Withdrawn from the agenda.

2. Information on highly pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N1 subtype in Israel. (Doc. SANCO/7042/2011)

Israel has confirmed on 8 March 2011 an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in a turkey holding keeping fattening and breeding turkeys located in Rosh Zurim in the district of Jehuda & Samaria. The culling of all poultry present on the holding was completed by 9 March and cleaning and disinfection was finalised by 15 March. Poultry holdings in the established restriction zones were visited and sampling was carried out. No link could be identified to the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 outbreak detected on 3 March in the Palestinian autonomous territories. The isolated virus strain is identical to the one isolated in Israel in 2010 and to at least one isolate from Egypt where the disease is endemic. Israel has proposed the limitation of trade restrictions for exports of poultry commodities from Israel to the Union of a defined area around the outbreak, while exports should be resumed from the disease free part of the country. The document also contained the results of ongoing avian influenza surveillance - as provided to the Commission on a half yearly basis. A draft proposal Doc. SANCO/7043/2011- Rev.1 for regionalisation of Israel was presented for a vote (see point 4 of the agenda).

2A. General Guidance for consignments of live animals and animal products from third countries in transit or transshipment. (Doc. SANCO/10844/2011)

The Commission's representative presented Rev. 10 of the Guidance document stating that it had been discussed and agreed at Working Group level by all Member States and that it would be beneficial to all if the document could be agreed upon and published in order to assist Member States in harmonising their approach to issues set out in the guidance document. The Commission also confirmed that it included guidance of the

issue of transshipment and the possibility to extend the minimum period, prior to veterinary checks taking place, from 7 to 14 days for postal consignments coming from and going to third countries without being introduced into the EU. The legal basis for this being Commission Decision 2011/215/EU. The Commission noted the points raised by two Member States and the position of Switzerland in relation to the Agreement between them and the EU on implementation of EU legislation. Member States approved the document unanimously. The Commission informed that the document will be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/guidelines_en.htm

3. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin- Fourth review. (Legal base: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, Article 63 (1)) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/2011/10584)

The Commission's representative presented the draft amendment to Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 following the fourth quarterly review of the list of imports of plant origin which are subject to coordinated reinforced checks and explained that the proposed changes concerned the deletion of two commodities from Turkey and the new listing of a commodity from Thailand. Pending the ongoing assessment carried out on groundnuts (mainly destined for bird feed) from India as to whether further (and if so what) measures are needed, the current control frequency (both for food and feed) is proposed to be maintained.

Changes are to take effect as of 1 July 2011 (with certain changes applying from the date of entry into force).

After the vote but still during the day of the meeting, the French authorities submitted the following statement to the Commission:

Original statement in French:

"Les autorités françaises soulignent l'importance de baser les contrôles sanitaires aux frontières de l'Union européenne sur une analyse de risque. Elles regrettent que les autorités turques ne fassent pas preuve de réciprocité en la matière s'agissant en particulier des conditions applicables aux importations de bovins vivants et de viande bovine européens en Turquie. Elles invitent la Commission à en tenir le plus grand compte lors de ses négociations avec les autorités turques".

Translation into English:

"The French authorities stressed the importance of basing health controls at the borders of the European Union on a risk analysis. They expressed their disappointment at the failure by the Turkish authorities to adopt a similar approach in this area, with particular regard to the conditions set for imports into Turkey of live cattle and bovine meat from Europe. They called on the Commission to take greater account of this when negotiating with the Turkish authorities."

Vote: unanimous in favour.

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for Israel in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments. (Legal base: Council Directives 2002/99/EC and 2009/158/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7043/2011 – Rev.1)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 lays down a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into the Union. Israel has notified to the Commission on 8 March 2011 an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of H5N1 subtype located in Rosh Zurim in the district of Jehuda & Samaria. Due to that outbreak, the territory of Israel can no longer be considered as free from highly pathogenic avian influenza and the veterinary authorities of Israel have suspended signing of veterinary certificates for consignments of certain poultry commodities destined for the Union. Israel has submitted information to the Commission about the detailed disease situation and the control measures taken. The information has been positively evaluated by the Commission and Member States in the frame of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. Therefore and due to the favourable epidemiological situation with no further outbreaks recorded during a period of more than 3 weeks following the confirmation of the outbreak, the Committee supported limiting the restrictions on imports into the Union for certain poultry commodities to the disease affected zone.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2004/211/EC as regards the entries for South Africa in the list of third countries and parts thereof from which the introduction into the European Union of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species are authorised. (Legal base: Article 12, Article 13(2), and the introductory phrase and points (a) and (b) of Article 19 of Council Directive 2009/156/EC and Article 17(3)(a) of Council Directive 92/65/EEC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7019/2011)

African horse sickness (AHS) is a vector-borne Orbivirus disease in equidae. It is endemic in parts of South Africa.

By adopting Decision 97/97/EC, codified by Decision 2008/698/EC, the EU regionalised South Africa for imports and temporary admission into the EU of registered horses from the AHS-free area of Metropolitan Cape-Town. These conditions are laid down in Decision 2004/211/EC.

On 3 March 2011, the competent authorities of South Africa informed the Commission on investigations into a possible outbreak of AHS at the boundaries between the AHS-free zone and the surrounding surveillance zone and reported the outbreak, which is caused by serotype 1, to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 9 March 2011.

Since the first confirmation, more cases have been reported and vaccination against AHS started in that part of the surveillance zone.

As the conditions for regionalisation are no longer fulfilled, it is the aim of the draft Decision to remove the entries for South Africa in the list of third countries in the Annex to Decision 2004/211/EC and thereby to suspend the introduction of registered horses and imports of semen, ova and embryos of the equine species from that country.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

6. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for the introduction into the European Union of raw milk and dairy products intended for human consumption. (Legal base: Article 8, the first subparagraph of point (1) and point (4) and Article 9(4) of Council Directive 2002/99/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7049/2011)

The Commission's representative presented for discussion the draft Implementing Regulation which lays down additional CN codes for ingredients of milk products because certain dairy products covered by Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 were not covered by codes in the certificate models. The purpose of the changes in Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 is to allow certification of such goods intended for import into the European Union.

Member States were requested to send any comments to the Commission by 8 April 2011.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Commission:

- The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (**APHIS**) of the United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) published an **interim rule on new import conditions for horses** from contagious equine metritis affected countries. This rule already entered into force on 25 March 2011.

In order to coordinate an EU reply to the USDA APHIS, comments on this US legislation should be provided to the Commission by 02 May 2011.

- **Update on the Newcastle disease situation in Israel (Doc. SANCO/7068/2011)**

The Commission distributed document SANCO/7068/2011 on the Newcastle disease situation in Israel (update to Doc. SANCO/7040/2011 presented at the meeting of this Committee of 01/03/2011). Outbreaks still occur predominantly in commercial broilers, but recently also in hobby birds. 51 outbreaks in total have been reported since 15/12/2011. The disease is now considered as being endemic. However, due to the recognised equivalency for the control of that disease, exports of poultry commodities may continue in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 798/2008, provided the

commodities do not originate from areas which have been placed under veterinary restrictions by the Israeli authorities.

- **Information on low pathogenic avian influenza in the United States of America**

The Commission distributed document SANCO/7069/2011 on information about an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N3 confirmed on 25 March 2011 in a commercial turkey holding located in Polk County, State of Missouri. The birds were sent for controlled slaughter. The document also contained the Emergency poultry disease management plan issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, detailing the control measures for low pathogenic avian influenza of the H5/H7 subtypes.