



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 11 AND 12 APRIL 2007
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

President: Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present, Hungary absent but represented by Slovenia.

1. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.

To ensure the correct implementation of the pre-export certification system set up in the memorandum of 2 September 2004 concerning veterinary certification of EU exports to Russia, the Commission provided the Member States with the latest information as regards the Russian import requirements.

2. Information from Bulgaria and Romania on the classical swine fever situation.

The **Bulgarian** representative [informed](#) about the CSF outbreaks in 2007. The current CSF epidemiological situation in Bulgaria is favourable and there are no signals for high morbidity and mortality of pigs on the territory of the country.

From the 10 km surveillance zone around the last outbreak in the village Zlatar 680 serological samples were tested with negative result for CSF. There are 130 positive samples for presence of antibodies from East-Balkan pigs taken in the 10 km zone in district Smyadovo. All 130 samples were investigated with PCR with negative results.

The **Romanian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. The situation in Romania seems to be improved. Comparing with the same period of the year 2006 the total number of outbreaks has been reduced almost at a half and the number of affected counties has decreased.

The introduction of the emergency vaccination showed good results. Outbreaks appeared so far only in backyard premises – no professional holdings have been affected up to now. There are 147 outbreaks declared from the beginning of the year mainly in the South and in the East part of the country.

2A. Request by Romania for a temporary derogation on the eradication and emergency vaccination plans as regards the movement of pigs for slaughter originating from small holdings and the further use of meat of those pigs.

One of the measures of the emergency vaccination plan for pigs in smaller holdings lays down that the movement of domestic pigs from non-professional holdings and of pigmeat, pig products and by-products from those pigs is forbidden except for family consumption in the holding of origin.

Romania submitted to the Commission a request for a temporary derogation on the above measure because of the unforeseen excess of pigs from small holdings that exceed the capacity of consumption in the holdings of origin. (See point 19).

3. Information from Slovenia on the protection measures related to the outbreaks of classical swine fever in Croatia.

The **Slovenian** representative [informed](#) on the measures taken following the new outbreak of CSF that has been confirmed on 28 March 2007 in the village Cerje of Croatia. Despite the fact that Slovenia is a CSF free country, measures in accordance with Directive 2001/89/EC were implemented including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones. Other actions taken included enhanced border controls, enhanced surveillance of pig holdings along the border with Croatia, public awareness and enhanced passive and active surveillance in wild boar population.

The surveillance zone established on 8 March 2007 due to the outbreak in Vučilčevo in Croatia was lifted on 30 March 2007.

4. Information by the Commission on the classical swine fever situation in the EU.

Document SANCO/10257/2003-Rev.7 has been distributed: *"Information on the Classical Swine Fever situation and eradication in the European Union from 1996 until 31 December 2006"*. This document provides an overview of the CSF cases and outbreaks in the EU from 1996 until 2006 with the main emphasis on the occurrence of CSF in feral pigs.

4A. Report of TAIEX Mission to Croatia from 2 to 5 April 2007 regarding classical swine fever.

A [presentation](#) was made by Mr. Jan Smak on the mission in Croatia concerning classical swine fever. The main objectives of the mission were the assessment of the epidemiology of CSF outbreaks, analysis of epidemiological data and identification of the weak spots.

A total of 66 primary and secondary outbreaks since January 2007 until 4 April has been confirmed but not in the areas previously affected by classical swine fever. From 11 January and until 23 February the outbreaks were found in the most eastern counties but after that it was spread all over the country. The main source of the spread of the disease between clusters might be the illegal transport of pigs (transport in the incubation period) and within clusters the direct and indirect contacts.

The Croatian authorities face difficulties concerning the structure of pig farming, the low level of disease awareness, illegal placing on the market of the pigs and pig products, etc. The organisation of measures for the control of the disease followed EU and OIE requirements.

The mission was considered as satisfactory and all requested information was given to the experts in good cooperation.

5. Information from Italy on the Swine Vesicular Disease situation.

The **Italian** representative made a [presentation](#) and updated the committee on the situation for the year 2007. There were a total of 41 outbreaks in Lombardia and Campania. More than 13.000 pigs have been slaughtered.

Measures were established according to Council Directive 92/119/EEC. The SVD free status for the region of Lazio was suspended.

Further investigations are carried out to determine the origin of the infection and further connections. At the present, the outbreaks detected in the central and southern regions are not linked to the ones occurred in the northern part of Italy.

6. Information from Italy on the African swine fever situation.

The **Italian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. A total of 6 outbreaks were confirmed during the year 2007 until now in Sardinia.

The main reason for disease spread is illegal movement of animals from the risk areas.

7. Additional information on the health measures laid down for the trade of bee colonies.

The **Commission** informed the Member States about the draft model safeguard measure for the trade of bee colonies which is in preparation and will be introduced to the Committee in near future.

8. Exchange of views on the avian influenza situation.

The **Commission** presented an overview of the international avian influenza (AI) situation. There are few countries that have recently reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 for the first time: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In Turkey the authorities were able to bring the disease under control. No further outbreaks were reported from Russia. Indonesia is still having outbreaks. Thailand and Myanmar reported new cases. Outbreaks re-occurred in Vietnam. The situation in Egypt and Nigeria has not improved and continues to be of concern. At the end of June the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organises a meeting in Rome to discuss the worldwide AI situation and to see in which way further spread of the disease may be prevented.

The preparation of the follow-up conference of Bamako, Mali to be held in December in New Delhi is ongoing.

The **Commission** also presented an overview of the avian influenza situation in Europe. Preliminary information on wild bird surveillance carried out in Member States during January-March 2007 was provided and the following statement has been made:

Statement of the SCOFCAH of 12 April 2007:

The SCOFCAH has during the winter and spring period of 2007 evaluated the avian influenza H5N1 situation in the EU as well as in neighbouring countries on a regular basis.

The three outbreaks of disease which occurred in poultry farms in Hungary and in the UK in late January-early February 2007 have been swiftly eradicated. The origin of the HPAI H5N1 virus has not been identified, however, investigations have not demonstrated its presence in wild bird populations in the vicinity of those outbreaks and there is no clear evidence supporting the hypothesis that the poultry outbreaks originated from wild birds.

The avian influenza surveillance programme in live and dead wild birds in the Member States has so far not revealed any presence of HPAI H5N1 in the investigated birds. In the first quarter of 2007 more than 20.000 wild birds have been tested and proven negative for HPAI H5N1. The spring bird migration has peaked without showing any suspicious mortality of wild birds.

Thanks to all the prevention, surveillance and control measures taken, the disease situation in the EU appears favourable and the current risk of HPAI H5N1 being present is considered very low or even negligible.

However, the SCOFCAH continues to follow the avian influenza situation closely and recommends the Member States to keep in place the surveillance and early detection measures in both wild birds and poultry. In case of findings of HPAI H5N1, the SCOFCAH will immediately re-evaluate the disease situation within the EU.

All Member States supported the statement.

9. Information from the Commission on a draft Commission Decision amending Appendix B to Annex XII to the 2003 Act of Accession as regards certain establishments in the meat sector in Poland. (Doc.SANCO/10093/2007)

The **Commission** representative explained that in Poland certain establishments in the meat sector benefiting from a transitional period have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Furthermore certain establishments have ceased their activities for which they have obtained a transitional period. Those establishments in the meat sector should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.

The purpose of the proposed decision is to delete these establishments from the list of establishments in transition.

10. Exchange of views on the functioning of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

The Commission presented the document "*Functioning of the Standing Committee on the Food and Animal Health*" for discussion and possible review. This discussion paper was the result of an informal meeting of several Member States' delegations and the Commission services.

The main topic was the idea to arrange for combined meetings of the SCFCAH for the Animal Health and Welfare, Controls and Import Conditions and Biological Safety of the Food Chain sections, considering that the points of these three sections are frequently mixed. The proposal is to have 3-day meetings at the beginning of the month and to invite two experts from the Member States to cover issues of the three sections. The Committee meeting of the Biological Safety section which is usually scheduled during the 3rd week of the month could then be reserved for urgent issues (i.e. in case of animal disease outbreaks or other urgent matters). The main constraint though is the availability of the meeting rooms and interpretation.

Another idea was that under the certain circumstances (crisis situations), instead of having plenary Committee meetings, informal meetings with the most concerned Member States could be organised and then have recourse to the written procedure (Art. 9 of the Standard Rules of procedure).

Other issues broached were a web-based approach for the documentation and the development of reporting standards for the Member States.

In subsequent discussion the Member States discussed each point of the document. The Commission asked the Member States to send their comments.

10A. Exchange of views on the bluetongue situation in the EU.

The **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)** representative made a [presentation](#) on "*EFSA Epidemiology Working Group (WG) for Bluetongue (BT) Virus Serotype 8 Epidemic - Conclusions from work conducted until 31 January 2007*".

On 22 September 2006, the European Commission (EC) Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) meeting asked EFSA to address BT Epidemiology together with the experts from Commission, Member States, the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratory. This group is chaired by Prof. D. Pfeiffer (Member of the EFSA AHAW Scientific Panel).

The main objectives were the regular epidemiological reports and global epidemiological analysis. 15 weekly bulletins were produced, the final one has been published on 5 February 2007.

The area of the first infection in Belgium has been identified about 5 km from Belgium, Netherlands and Germany borders.

In the majority of cases, only 1 or 2 animals showed the clinical signs in a cattle herd or sheep flock at the time of the clinical inspection. Clinical signs in infected cattle herds were expressed differently to those in sheep flocks. BTV-8 associated clinical signs were seen relatively more in sheep flocks than in cattle herds.

In summary, *Culicoides imicola* that is involved in BTV transmission in southern Europe was not found in central Europe. Significant numbers of *Culicoides* were found to enter the buildings to bite the animals indoors. *Culicoides* could transmit at least 60 different viruses. Daily variations in *Culicoides* numbers were strongly correlated with prevailing temperatures. Lower average temperatures in cooler, hilly areas may have slowed down the spread of the disease. The average BTV dispersal rate is about 2 km/day ~ 15 km / week. This is compatible with knowledge about the active *Culicoides* flight and spread observed in other contexts (Sardinia). The observed density of wind events in an east-west direction may partly explain the horizontal spread of the epidemic. The relatively low number of cross-channel wind density events, especially after the outbreaks had reached the Belgian coastal zone, may explain why BTV did not arrive in the UK. Terrain roughness may be an important factor preventing the spread of infected midges on the wind.

The **Belgian** representative made a [presentation](#). In 2007 there were no clinical cases. On the 2nd of April the 20km zone has been extended to the entire territory of Belgium. The number of *Culicoides* captured at the end of March raised and on the 30th of March the vector free period has finished. A cross sectional study is ongoing. A minimal number of 300 sentinel animals per province will be checked.

The **Dutch** representative made a [presentation](#). There are 478 infected holdings in the southern part of the Netherlands: 271 infected sheep holdings and 207 infected bovine holdings. The last clinical case appeared on 13 December 2006. A sentinel network of bovine animals will be set up all over the Netherlands to be able to differentiate newly infected animals from the

seropositive animals due to past exposure to the virus. A cross-sectional serological study is also ongoing.

The **German** representative orally informed the Member States. The situation in Germany is similar to the one in Belgium and Netherlands. More than 6.000 cattle farms, 58 sheep farms and 13 goat farms are involved in the cross-sectional study. The goat and sheep results were negative in general. The only positive results were from the selected cattle farms. The tests were also made in deer population. 1000 samples were taken and tested, but not a single positive result was found.

A special agreement has been established for the trade with France for the animals from the 20km zone. On the basis of the positive findings, the German representative informed the Commission on the extension of the restriction areas.

The **French** representative presented the results of the surveillance exercise carried out in winter 2006-2007. Tests were made in 16 departments in the northern part of France. The results show 7 isolated cases of seropositive animals in a period of inactivity of the vectors. The only explanation is that these animals might have come in contact with the virus in autumn. This confirms that the situation has been stabilised. From April the study in the sentinel animals should be extended in 27 departments. Internal and external traps have been set-up in the last week of March and the results of their examination will be soon available.

The **Luxembourg's** representative orally informed the Member States. The last positive case appeared on 16 of January 2007; the 3rd case this year. Since then, no more positive cases were found. Sentinel animals were tested and monthly tests are carrying out. No *Culicoides* has been trapped in January.

The **Danish** representative orally informed the Member States. The surveillance has been made within 4.000 km² and the animals were tested just before the vector period started with negative results.

The **Spanish** representative orally informed the Member States. No vectors have been trapped yet. The epidemiological situation is stable. No outbreak has been reported since 2005.

The **Italian** representative orally informed the Member States. There are four serotypes spread all over Italy. The last case was a serotype 1 in Sardinia. Over the last 60 days there have been zero conversions from BTV1 in Sardinia where the vaccination campaign was launched. The movement of animals outside the restricted zone has been banned. In the mainland there is a seroconversion in the Southern part of Italy in Calabria and also in Sicily. The vaccination continues in some areas against serotype 2, 4 and 9.

A protocol has been signed between five Member States (Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, France and the Netherlands) concerning the measures against Bluetongue following the end of the vector free period with regards to animal movements.

10B. Exchange of views on import conditions for fishery products and live bivalve molluscs from the United States of America, New Zealand, Canada and Greenland.

In order to avoid any confusion the Commission clarified some points concerning the new certificates to be accompanying the products imported from third countries which will apply from 1st of May 2007. There is a special situation for third countries where the public health certificates are already applied. It concerns fish products imported from USA and New

Zealand and live bivalve molluscs imported from New Zealand. As there are for some products also animal health requirements which are not covered by these certificates, there will be two certificates for these products: one for the public health part and one for the animal health part (the EU generic certificate).

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.

Document SANCO/10097/2007 has been distributed: a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2005/393/EC as regards restricted zones in relation to bluetongue.

Directive 2000/75/EC lays down control rules and measures to combat bluetongue in the Community, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones and a ban on animals leaving those zones. Commission Decision 2005/393/EC demarcates protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue in the Member States where bluetongue has occurred and where the eradication of the disease has not yet been achieved.

Following the notification of outbreaks of bluetongue in mid-August and early September 2006 by Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands, the Commission has amended several times Decision 2005/393/EC as regards the demarcation of the restricted zones concerned. Following a substantiated request submitted by Germany, the Commission proposed to amend the demarcation of the restricted zone in Germany.

Vote: in favour, Hungary represented by Slovenia.

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC and repealing Decisions 96/367/EC and 96/414/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10538/2006-Rev.4)

This point has been postponed to the next meeting of this Committee. However, the Commission asked the Member States to send their comments on the draft proposal.

Vote: postponed.

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on certain protection measures with regard to equidae coming from South Africa. (Doc.SANCO/10092/2007)

African horse sickness was not confirmed in South Africa. Therefore, no additional measures are needed.

Vote: postponed.

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II, V, VI, VIII and IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies as regards the determination of the BSE status and categorisation of countries, specified

risk materials and the importation into the Community of live animals and products of animal origin. (Doc.SANCO/3748/2006-Rev.7) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament)

Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 lays down rules for the determination of the BSE status of the Member States, of third countries and of their regions which result in the classification in three categories: negligible BSE risk, controlled BSE risk and undetermined BSE risk.

Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laying down the criteria for the determination of BSE status and the definition of categories should therefore be modified, in order to adjust to the new categorisation system.

Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 lays down the rules for the collection and disposal of specified risk materials and Annex IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 lays down the rules for the importation into the Community of live animals, embryos, ova and products of animal origin. These Annexes should as well be amended to take into account of the new categorisation system.

In the absence of a decision on the classification of countries in accordance with article 5 (2) or (4) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, the provisions in Article 9 and Annex VI did not apply. Taking into account that the new categorisation system will apply from 1 July 2007 and in order to align this Annex with the rules applicable under the transitional measures based on scientific evidence, Annex VI should be amended.

Annex VIII, Chapter C defines the list of products of animal origin and the requirements for the dispatch from a Member State with an undetermined risk or import from a third country with undetermined risk. These requirements should be amended to take into account of the new categorisation system.

In the absence of a decision on the classification of countries in accordance with article 5 (2) or (4) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, transitional measures for certain rules namely those concerning specified risk material, were foreseen by Article 22 and Annex XI, part A. According to Article 22 these transitional measures shall cease to apply with respect to each country or region immediately following the date of adoption of a decision on classification of that country or region in accordance with Article 5. Therefore Annex XI should be repealed.

Technical agreement: in favour, Hungary represented by Slovenia.

14A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific measures to be applied by Cyprus with regard to scrapie. (Doc. SANCO/1006/2007)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 836/2004 of 28 April 2004 laying down the transitional measures to be applied by Cyprus with regard to scrapie and was adopted in view of the exceptional high level of scrapie in the ovine and caprine populations in Cyprus. It lays down certain transitional measures, including a prohibition on the dispatch from Cyprus to other Member States and third countries of certain meat and meat products derived from ovine and caprine animals. That Regulation applies until 30 April 2007.

Due to the animal health situation in Cyprus in sheep and goat populations with regard to scrapie, taking control requirements into account and awaiting the conclusions of the discussion on a review of the current eradication measures, it is necessary to maintain certain protection measures as regards the intra-Community trade and trade with third countries with certain meat and meat products derived from ovine and caprine animals in order to prevent the risk of the disease. The dispatch of products derived from ovine and

caprine animals in Cyprus to other Member States and the export thereof to third countries should therefore continue to be prohibited. This Decision shall apply until 31 October 2007.

Vote: in favour, Hungary represented by Slovenia.

15. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision laying down model certificates for the intra-Community trade of poultry and hatching eggs and amending Annex IV to Council Directive 90/539/EEC. (SANCO/443/2007-Rev.5)

Directive 90/539/EEC lays down animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade and imports from third countries of poultry and hatching eggs, including the condition that poultry and hatching eggs during transportation to the place of destination are to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate which conforms with the appropriate model certificates in Annex IV to that Directive.

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne agents lays down provisions with regard to intra-Community trade of live poultry and hatching eggs. As from the dates of the start of the *Salmonella* control programmes in different poultry populations, flocks of origin shall be tested for *Salmonella* serotypes of public health significance, prior to any dispatching of the live animals or hatching eggs.

Taking account of the testing requirements for public health reasons pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, the animal health requirements of Directive 90/539/EEC, and the appropriateness to combine all certifications into a single model certificate, new model certificates for poultry and hatching eggs should be introduced in Community legislation and should replace the model certificates in Directive 90/539/EEC.

The main purpose of the current draft Decision is to amend the Model health certificates in Annex IV to the Directive taking into account the requirements in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. In addition, the certificates should be updated by:

- deleting Denmark from the list of countries with approved non vaccinating status for Newcastle disease;
- revising the wording of the animal health requirements for Newcastle disease;
- introducing traceability requirements in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 599/2004 of 30 March 2004 concerning the adoption of a harmonised model certificate and inspection report linked to intra-Community trade in animals and products of animal origin.

16. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2006/696/EC laying down a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, meat of poultry, ratites and game birds, eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs may be imported into and through the Community and the applicable veterinary certification conditions, and amending Decisions 93/342/EEC, 2000/585/EC and 2003/812/EC, as regards public health requirements. (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc.SANCO/582/2007-Rev.3)

Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne agents lays down conditions for third countries with regard to the control of *Salmonella*. Admission to or retention on the list of third countries from which Member States are authorised to import the relevant animals and hatching eggs, is subject to the submission and approval by the Commission of a

Salmonella control programme in the third country, equivalent to the control programme in the Member States. In addition, equivalent guarantees to Community provisions and testing for *Salmonella* in the flock of origin should be certified at import of live fowl (*Gallus gallus*) and their hatching eggs.

Commission Decision 2006/696/EC lays down health conditions and a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs may be imported into and transit through the Community, and provides the applicable veterinary certification conditions.

The purpose of the current draft Decision is to amend Decision 2006/696/EC taking into account the requirements in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

17. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 and Decision 2006/696/EC with regard to placing on the market of eggs from *Salmonella* infected flocks of laying hens. (Doc.SANCO/1188/2006-Rev.8)

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 lays down rules to ensure that proper and effective measures are taken to detect and control salmonella and other zoonotic agents in order to reduce their prevalence and the risk they pose to public health.

The model veterinary certificate for eggs in Commission Decision 2006/696/EC lays down a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs may be imported into and transit through the Community and the applicable veterinary certification conditions.

A high prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium was detected in flocks of laying hens in Member States during a baseline study carried out in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/665/EC.

In light of the outcome of the baseline study, the purpose of the current draft proposal is to:

- introduce trade restrictions immediately from flocks of layers incriminated of having caused a *Salmonella* outbreak in humans, and
- bring forward the date from which trade restrictions apply to eggs from all flocks with an unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or from flocks infected by *Salmonella* Enteritidis or *Salmonella* Typhimurium, to 1 January 2009.

Provisions on marking of eggs and the import certificate for eggs should also be amended to guarantee the correct implementation of the restriction and equivalent guarantees of third countries.

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 and Decision 2006/696/EC should be amended accordingly.

18. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain *Salmonella* serotypes in broilers. (Doc.SANCO/467/2007-Rev.2)

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 (the zoonoses control Regulation) requires the setting of Community targets for the reduction of salmonella at the level of primary production in certain species.

The aim of the proposed Regulation is to set a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in flocks of broilers based on the information obtained during a baseline study in accordance with Decision

2005/636/EC concerning a financial contribution by the Community towards a baseline study on the prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. in broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* to be carried out in the Member States. In addition, it lays down a testing scheme to verify the progress on the achievement of the target. The objective of the reduction of *Salmonella* in broilers is to reduce its exposure to humans by the consumption of poultry meat.

19. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision as regards a temporary derogation from Commission Decision 2006/802/EC for the movement of pigs for slaughter originating from small holdings in Romania and the further use of meat of those pigs. (Doc.SANCO/10098/2007)

Commission Decision 2006/802/EC approving the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs and of pigs in holdings against that disease in Romania was adopted as one of a number of measures to combat classical swine fever in that Member State. One of the measures of the emergency vaccination plan for pigs in smaller holdings lays down that the movement of domestic pigs from non-professional holdings and of pigmeat, pig products and by-products from those pigs is forbidden except for family consumption in the holding of origin.

Romania submitted to the Commission a request for a temporary derogation on above measure because of the unforeseen excess of pigs from small holdings that exceeds the capacity of consumption in the holdings of origin. An amendment of the plan for the emergency vaccination against classical swine fever of pigs in pig holdings with a live attenuated conventional vaccine was therefore submitted. That amended plan authorises, under certain conditions, the direct movement of pigs from smaller or non-professional holdings to a slaughterhouse located in the same or adjacent county. The Commission has examined the amended plan and found it to be compatible with the objective of eradicating classical swine fever in Romania.

Romania has also requested a temporary derogation to be able to market the pigmeat obtained from those pigs on a county level in view of the major difficulties that arose to find a sufficient local market in the municipality.

The purpose of this Decision is to approve amended emergency vaccination plan against classical swine fever and to lay down until 31 August 2007 conditions so that the pigmeat of vaccinated pigs from small non-professional holdings can be used on a county level rather than at municipality level. (See point 2A).

Miscellaneous / Divers

- The **German** representative informed the Committee that Germany concluded agreements with South Africa and Russia concerning export of processed animal proteins.
- The **German** representative informed the Committee about a possible problem with the application of Decision 2006/696 which is due to come into force on 26th of April 2007 concerning the import of poultry and poultry based products. The problem is regard to the date of application of transitional measures.

- The **German** representative informed the Committee about the problems which have third countries with the certification of fishery products laid down in Regulation 1664/2006/EC. There is a small mistake in the footnote. This certificate will be amended as part of the implementation of Council Directive 2006/88/EC and this mistake will be then corrected.
- The **Irish** representative raised question concerning the availability of the TRACES data warehouse. The Commission representative explained that data is currently accessible, not through TRACES but through another source. Information from 2005 and 2006 could be sent immediately if a Member State ask for it. Once the data warehouse is properly running, then access will be granted to the Member States to all the information from the start of their participation in the system (for Ireland since 2004).
- The **Commission** informed the Committee about the future World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) meetings:
 - 25 April, Aquaculture Commission Working Group
 - 26 April, Animal Health Part including BSE
 - 27 April, Animal Welfare
- Amendments to the list of fresh meat establishment of Argentina.

Draft Statement of the Commission and the Member States has been circulated during the meeting on 12/4/2007:

Amendments to the list of fresh meat establishment of Argentina

"An inspection mission carried out in Argentina from 17 to 30 March 2007, has revealed significant deficiencies in one establishment producing ovine and caprine fresh meat, in relation to maintenance of the buildings, stunning and skinning of lambs as well as potable water.

The Argentinean authorities have suspended the issuing of sanitary certificates from this establishment, but they have not asked for the deletion from the list of this establishment.

The Commission is in contact with the Argentinean authorities and informed them of the necessity to immediately delete the establishment from the list, before Friday 13th of April included. Argentinean authorities have been also informed that in case they don't ask for the deletion of the establishment before the given deadline, the Commission will act on its own initiative.

In case the Argentinean authorities do not initiate any action to delete the establishment from the list, following Art 12.4 (c) of Reg. 854/2004, the Commission and the Member States agree that a modification of the Argentina list of fresh meat establishments is necessary and that the Commission proceeds with the deletion of the establishment 3815 "C&L Farming" from the list of Argentinean establishments from which Member States can import fresh meat."

- **Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Thrace region in Turkey:** Document SANCO/10103/2007: *"Information received from Turkey regarding outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Thrace region"* has been distributed during the meeting. The foot-and-mouth disease outbreak was reported in Canakkale Province, Gelibolu District, Evrese Village, the neighbourhood of Cesme on 30.03.2007. The first

outbreak occurred on a dairy farm with 12 cattle. All animals at the farm have been slaughtered. The animals in this farm (except young animals) were vaccinated during the autumn vaccination campaign on 06.11.2006.

1.5 million of vaccine doses are being made available to vaccinate the whole area of Canakkale in order to protect the EU Member States bordering this area.

- The following document was distributed by the Commission during the meeting: "*A report on avian influenza and Newcastle disease situation in Turkey in 2007*", received from the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.