



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SANCO G – D(2011) 716922

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 31 MAY 2011
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

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

1. Update on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N2 subtype in South Africa. (Doc. SANCO/7071/2011)

The Commission updated the Committee on a mission carried out by two members of the EU's Veterinary Emergency team to South Africa between the 18-21 May. The situation in the outbreak area is still evolving with further outbreaks confirmed. The experts recommended that during the epidemiological investigations not only movements of ostriches should be followed up, but also other means of virus spread should be considered and taken into account for restrictions of movements. With a view to a possible regionalisation it was further advised to re-design and enforce surveillance of ostrich farms inside and outside the infected area to ensure that future exports of ratite meat to the EU would be safe. The mission report was sent for review by the South African authorities and will be made available upon return. No document was distributed.

2. Update on the situation as regards Newcastle disease in Israel. (Doc. SANCO/7088/2011)

Updated information as of 29/05/2011 was provided on the endemic Newcastle disease situation in Israel. 79 outbreaks in different poultry categories have occurred since mid December 2010. The last outbreaks affected again commercial broilers and backyard flocks and in one case owls and kestrels in a wildlife hospital.

The Israeli authorities have informed how they ensure that exports from areas under restrictions do not take place. The concerned sector is informed by means of a table naming the locations and date of the outbreaks, the related villages under restrictions and the end of the restrictions.

3. Update on the situation as regards foot-and-mouth disease in Botswana.

According to the information received from the Botswana competent authorities, the situation seems to be under control. On 20 May 2011 an outbreak was notified in zone BW-7 which is not authorised to send meat to EU. After a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission in February, there is no immediate risk as Botswana doesn't export any fresh meat to Europe in reply to the findings. A draft Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, in order to close the territory of BW-1 zone for import of fresh meat from ungulates into the EU, based on animal health, will be presented at the next meeting of this Committee.

3A. State of play of the discussion with Russia on certifications for export.

Postponed.

3B. Exchange of views on the United States' request for export of live pigs to the EU, in particular as regard vesicular stomatitis testing.

The USA is not on the list of non-EU countries from which imports of live pigs are authorised.

The mission carried out by the Commission's inspection service (FVO) of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) in the USA from 30 September to 10 October 2008 in view of assessing the possibility for the USA to export live pigs, has concluded about the need to consider establishing a certification scheme taking account of the EU animal health requirements with regard to the regular occurrence of vesicular stomatitis (VS) in the USA.

Regionalisation of the USA with regard to VS is not considered by the US Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) as a solution for export to the EU. As an alternative to the 6-month VS freedom required in Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, USDA/APHIS is proposing the following guarantees on the basis of Article 8.15.6 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with VS):

- a. no clinical sign of VS observed during clinical inspections by the certifying official veterinarian in the herd on the day of shipment;
- b. pigs have been kept for the past days or since birth if less than 40 days of age, in APHIS approved pre-export facilities;
- c. pigs have been subjected to regular individual diagnostic test for VS with negative results. (Virus neutralisation test).

The Commission requested the technical opinion of EU Member States' experts about the US proposed guarantees and delivered additional background information about the US request. On the basis of the positive comments received, the Commission will now engage in further discussions with the US authorities and explore the possibilities to amend the "EU-US Veterinary Agreement".

4. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/821/EC as regards the lists of border inspection posts and veterinary units in Traces. (Legal base: Council Directives 90/425/EEC (Art. 20 (1) and (3)), 91/496/EEC (Art. 6 (4)) and 97/78/EC (Art. 6 (2)) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc.SANCO/10592/2011 – Rev.1)**

Commission Decision 2009/821/EC of 28 September 2009 drawing up a list of approved border inspection posts, laying down certain rules on the inspections carried out by Commission veterinary experts and laying down the veterinary units in TRACES lays down a list of border inspection posts approved in accordance with Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC and a list of central units, regional units and local units in the integrated computerised veterinary system (TRACES). Following communications from Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria and Portugal, the list of border inspection posts in Annex I to Decision 2009/821/EC was amended. Following communications from Germany, Ireland, France and Austria, the list of units in TRACES in Annex II to that Decision was amended.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

5. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Decision 2006/241/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to certain products of animal origin, excluding fishery products, originating in Madagascar. (Legal base: Council Directive 97/78/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7045/2011)**

This draft Implementing Decision was discussed during the meeting of this Committee of 2 May 2011 ([see item 6 of the agenda of that meeting](#)) and it was briefly discussed again during this meeting. The Commission informed that, according to current planning of the Food and Veterinary Office, an audit of the control systems in the fishery sector of Madagascar is foreseen in 2012.

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 – Rev.1)**

The proposal provides for the introduction in Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 of new Combined Nomenclature (CN) codes in order to include certain milk products covered by the import certificates of that Regulation. In addition, the wording of the

certificates needs to be adapted concerning the relevant declarations as regards residues. The draft will be presented for vote at the next meeting of this Committee.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Commission:

- Member States that have not yet reported on personal import statistics as foreseen in Regulation (EC) No.206/2009 (deadline for 2010 was 31 March 2011) were reminded to do so.