

Draft agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 6-7 September 2001

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 28-29 June 2001
4. Procedural matters (if any)
  - a. Planning of activities and priorities: dates of meetings for 2002
5. Multidisciplinary matters:
  - a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees;
  - b. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods:
    - Progress report on Task Force activities;
    - Common format for opinions and Glossary of terms.
  - c. Emerging scientific issues (progress reports);
6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
  - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 26 July 2001
  - 6.2. Reports on specific issues:
6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
  - a. The risk of dissemination of brain particles into the blood and carcass when applying certain slaughter methods (for adoption of a preliminary opinion).
  - b. Discussion on Shaked *et al* (2001), A Protease Resistant PrP Isoform Is Present In Urine of Animals and Humans Affected with Prion Diseases.
  - c. Comments on the Tallow opinion adopted on 28-29 June 2001 (for opinion).
  - d. Comments on the Gelatine opinion adopted on 28-29 June 2001 (for opinion).
  - e. sourcing from GBR I countries of source material for medical devices and medicinal products (for opinion).
  - f. Progress report on pending questions:
    - Non-human primate models for human TSEs (progress report and possible opinion)
    - Geographical BSE Risk.
    - BSE epidemiology.
    - Origin of BSE, 3<sup>rd</sup> route of transmission and various hypotheses; including the auto-immune hypothesis and the hypothesis in relation to the links between manganese and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies .
    - ruminant SRMs and tissue infectivity titres, including the safety of ruminant head.
    - The safety of human blood and human-derived products.
    - The recent new BARB cases in the UK?
    - BSE eradication: update of the SSC opinion of September 2000;
    - BSE eradication: equivalence of the UK culling approach with EU legislation.
  - h. upcoming issues and new questions:
    - Pending reports on ways of disposals.
    - Safety of catgut;
7. Info on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at the previous SSC meetings.
8. Information by the Commission services on other matters related to consumer health.
9. Any other business.