

Draft agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 10-11 January 2002

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
  2. Approval of the agenda
  3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 29-30 January 2001
  4. Procedural matters (if any)
  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 (for adoption).
    - c. Emerging scientific issues (reports);
    - d. New question (for attribution): safety of peptides from porcine intestinal mucosa.
  6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
    - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 13 December 2001
    - 6.2. Reports on specific multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE:
      - a. BSE eradication: update of the SSC opinion of September 2000 and equivalence of the UK and FRG culling approaches with EC Regulation N° 999/2001 (for opinion)
      - b. TSE infectivity distribution in ruminant tissues (Opinion, for adoption):
        - state of affairs
        - safety of ruminant heads
        - specified risk materials in small ruminants
      - c. Geographical BSE Risk: progress report.
      - d. Preliminary opinion on The risk of dissemination of brain particles when applying certain stunning methods (updated opinion, for adoption).
      - e. The safety of human blood and human-derived products (discussion of the draft report prepared by the SC-MPMD Working Group).
      - f. Rapid tests:2001 evaluation programme (for opinion)
      - g. Upcoming issues and new questions:
        - inventory of tests under research and/or under development (in vivo & post mortem)
- TSEs in small ruminants:
- h. Safe sourcing of small ruminant materials: flock certification, genotype, diagnostic TSE testing and breeding (for opinion)
  - i. Protocol to investigate the possible presence of BSE in sheep (progress report).
  - j. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk methodology to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep (progress report)
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:
    - Necrophagous birds as possible transmitters of EEB (scientific opinion from the Spanish Scientific Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies)