

Draft agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 29-30 November 2001

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 18-19 October 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 and Glossary of terms.
 - c. Emerging scientific issues (progress reports);
 - d. Agricultural uses of azole fungicides and resistance build-up in human pathogenic fungi (for attribution).
6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
 - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 4 October 2001
 - 6.2. Reports on specific multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE:
 - a. The origin of BSE and routes of transmission (Report, for adoption)
 - b. The six BARB cases in the UK (for opinion).
 - c. 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 (Opinion, for adoption).
 - d. Sourcing from GBR I countries: Safety of catgut (Updated opinion, for adoption).
 - e. TSE epidemiology (survey methods) (Opinion, for adoption)
 - f. TSE infectivity distribution in ruminant tissues (Opinion, for adoption):
 - state of affairs
 - safety of ruminant heads
 - specified risk materials in small ruminants
 - g. Geographical BSE Risk: progress report and possible opinions.
 - h. Preliminary opinion on The risk of dissemination of brain particles when applying certain stunning methods (updated opinion, for adoption).
 - i. The safety of human blood and human-derived products: progress report and update of the mandate (progress report).

TSEs in small ruminants:

- j. Final report of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group on the safety of small ruminant products should BSE in small ruminants become probable / confirmed (Report, for discussion and possible adoption)
- k. Genotyping as one of the possible tools in the context of routine slaughter to ensure that meat is safe for the consumer (progress report).
- l. Definition of a TSE-free sheep flock/goat herd and criteria to be used to establish such a group (progress report)
- m. Criteria which to be used in a widespread genotyping and breeding programme for resistance to TSEs in small ruminants (progress report).
- n. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk Analysis to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep (progress report)
- o. Protocol to investigate the possible presence of BSE in sheep (progress report).

Upcoming issues and new questions:

- p. Pending reports on ways of disposals.
- 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.