Minutes of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 10-11 January 2002

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks and declaration of interest in relation to the current agenda

Chairman Prof.Pascal welcomed the participants of the Scientific Steering Committee. He apologised Profs. Bridges, White and Osterhaus for 11 January 2002. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Declarations of interest:

No declarations of interest were made for this specific meeting. Each SSC member was also invited to complete his/her written individual annual declaration of interest form and to provide it as soon as possible to the secretariat.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. It is attached as **Annex 2**.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 29-30 November 2001.

The minutes of the meeting of 29-30 November 2001 were adopted without changes.

4. Procedural matters:

- Prof;J.Bridges, chairperson of the Scientific Committee for Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment asked the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General to urgently proceed with the replacement the 2 members of SC-TEE who recently resigned.
- Mr. B.Carsin, Director of the Directorate for Scientific Opinions of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General, provided the participants with an update on the current state of affairs regarding the preparation of the establishment of the European Food Authority.

5. Multidisciplinary matters:

a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairpersons of the 8 Scientific Committees

- **Activities of the Scientific Committees.** The chairpersons reported on the work of their respective Scientific Committees, whilst emphasising on matters that are of a multidisciplinary nature and/or require co-ordination. Information on the activities of the various Scientific Committees is attached as Annex 3.
- The 8 members who are also chairpersons of one of the 8 sectorial scientific committees expressed their concern about the fact that, in spite of the imminent establishment of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), there was a strong tendency of an further increasing workload. Several Committees had now installed a regime of 2-day or even 3-day plenary sessions. The SSC considered that the Commission Services should be thoroughly aware of this development as it may complicate the smooth transition of the scientific current advisory system to the EFSA.

b. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods.

- C.Berlingieri (DG-SANCO) presented, on behalf of Prof.J.Bridges, chairman of the SSC's Task Force on *Harmonisation of risk assessment methods*, the state of the progress made by the Task Force and its working groups.
- The draft *Common format for opinions* was not yet discussed in detail. The chairman of the Task Force will update the draft in the light of the discussions held on 29-30 November and a final draft will be available for possible adoption at the meeting of 20-21 February 2002.

d. Emerging scientific issues

Prof.Osterhaus raised the question raised whether the SSC is involved in scientific advice related to bioterrorism. The Secretariat informed the SSC that so far no question had been received from Commission Services but that such would be done should the need arise.

e. Antimycotic resistance.

Prof.Jones informed the SSC that he accepted to become rapporteur of the risk evaluation related to antimycotic resistance, as introduced at the last meeting. A first working Group meeting is scheduled for 8 February 2002. It is expected that a draft opinion may be available for discussion by the SSC at its meeting of 4-5 April 2002.

f. New questions

No new questions (apart from the ones related to TSEs listed further on) had been submitted to the SSC since last meeting.

6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE

6.1. Report on the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 15 November 2001

The secretariat reported briefly on the meeting of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group of 13.12.01. All items addressed at that meeting are further reported on under point 6.2. hereafter.

6.2. Reports on specific issues:

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.

The SSC discussed the draft opinion prepared by the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group at its meeting of 13 December 2001. During the discussion, the results as on 21 December 2001 of the French study of the prevalence of PrPres in animals belonging to the same herd as the one in which a case of BSE had been diagnosed, were considered. (This information is attached as an annex to the Opinion of 3 January 2002 of the French Food Safety Agency on the French sanitary policy with respect to BSE.) The draft opinion was amended and the opinion in **Annex 4** was adopted.

b. TSE infectivity distribution in ruminant tissues: state of affairs and the safety of ruminant heads.

The updates of the draft reports requested by the SSC at its meeting of October 2001 had been finalised by the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group. These updates were discussed and the opinion in **Annex 5** was adopted.

c. Geographical BSE Risk:

The update of the methodology was discussed. The updated opinion in **Annex 6** was adopted.

d. The risk of dissemination of brain particles when applying certain stunning methods (updated opinion, for adoption).

Following the publication on internet of the preliminary opinion in September 2001, a total of 6 comments and contributions have been sent in, several of them from industrial and professional associations. These have been discussed by the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group a first time at its meeting of 15 November 2001 and then, at the request of the SSC, on 13 December 2002. The resulting new update was discussed by the SSC and resulted in the adoption of the opinion in **Annex 7**.

e. The safety of human blood and human-derived products.

Prof.Loewer introduced the draft report prepared by the special working group composed of members of the SSC, the Scientific Committee for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices (SC-MPMD), the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group (that discussed and amended the draft at its meeting of 13 December 2001) and other experts. The SSC discussed draft in detail, more particularly with respect to:

- The presence of infectivity in blood. There is so far no evidence of the presence of vCJD infectivity in human blood, but this is possibly not only to be explained by absence as such of infectivity in human blood or the relative insensitivity of the methods used but also by the consideration that infectivity may only be temporarily present in the blood and was not present at the time the sample was taken. Indirect evidence from animal experiments (BSE in sheep; TSEs in various animal models; the single observation of BSE infectivity in cattle bone marrow) indicate indeed that a TSE agent, at a point in time during the incubation of the disease, is present in the peripheral circulation. It might thus not be excluded that infectivity in blood, whilst not being persistent, is transient and able to be transmitted (haematogenous spread) at that point of time.
- The possible preparation of a "geographical vCJD in humans risk map for the European Union". Various SSC members considered that such an exercise in practice would be likely to face a major problem of unavailable data and unclarified issues (e.g., the effect of human genotype and susceptibility and its geographical variations; consumption patters; the minimal infectious dose ; …)

The SSC also made proposals for further amendments and improvements. Prof.Loewer will inform the SC-MPMD about these comments at its January 2002 plenary meeting. The adoption by the SC-MPMD of a first part of the final opinion, covering the aspects directly related to the safety of human blood, is expected at that same meeting. The other aspects of the mandate, covering the safety of other human-derived products, will be addressed in a second report and opinion, expected to be adopted in mid-2002.

f. Rapid tests: 2001 evaluation programme.

Dr.H.Schimmel, representing the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) of the Joint Research Centre, introduced the report and meeting documents related "The evaluation of four rapid tests for the diagnosis of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy in bovines (2nd study)". This test evaluation had been designed and managed jointly by the Directorate General of the European Commission, Health and Consumer Protection in collaboration with an expert group and the

Directorate General Joint Research Centre, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) located at Geel, Belgium. All practical aspects of the sample preparation were carried out at IRMM.

Tests from five organisations were selected for participation in the evaluation exercise on the basis of the information submitted by them in response to the call for expression of interest. So far only data relating to the following four tests were available to be included in this preliminary report:

Test A ID Lelystad, The Netherlands

Test B PerkinElmer Life Sciences, United Kingdom

Test C Prionics A.G., Switzerland

Test D University of California in San Francisco, USA

The SSC complemented the rapporteur for the quality of the report which also provides an unique experience in the evaluation and validation of TSE tests for operational use, including with regard to sample preparation, storage, handling and treatment.

The SSC, however, considered that it was outside its remit to carry out a detailed and comprehensive peer-review of the report, the quality of each of the individual tests, their comparability/equivalency with the currently used validated tests and their future performances under operational conditions.

The SSC therefore strongly recommended that, for the future, a system should be developed that brings BSE (TSE) tests into a similar regulatory environment as other high risk diagnostic products.

The current evaluation was considered, for statistical reasons, to have been carried out on too small a number of positive samples especially in comparison with other diagostic tests which have a similar public health importance (e.g., HIV). Whilst recognising that the sample size was limited because of the scarcity of suitable positive test materials, the. SSC nevertheless recommended that the new tests be subject to further examination under field conditions on a larger number of samples including use of positive samples provided by national reference laboratories, to compare the results with tests already approved.

g. New questions:

The SSC secretariat informed the SSC of 6 new questions related to TSEs that recently had been prepared by Commission Services for submission to the SSC. They cover:

- an evaluation of the recent AFFSA opinions on specified risk material and culling for scrapie in small ruminant flocks;
- the bovine vertebral column as a specified risk material;
- the safety of peptides from porcine intestinal mucosa.

Regarding the evaluation of the AFSSA opinions, the SSC suggested to include it in the forthcoming opinion on safe sourcing of small ruminant materials (see item 6.2.h hereafter).

In the margin of the discussions on porcine intestinal mucosa, the SSC recommended that an opinion be prepared on the safety, with regard to TSE risks, of ruminant rennet.

As usual, these questions were referred to the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group, that was invited to address them as soon as possible and to prepare scientific reports.

The secretariat finally informed the SSC that the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group is preparing an inventory of the *in vivo & post mortem* tests that are currently under research and/or development.

h. Safe sourcing of small ruminant materials should BSE in small ruminants become probable: genotype, breeding, rapid TSE testing, flock certification and Specified Risk Materials.

The TSE/BSE ad hoc Group is currently preparing a detailed report on this subject, which may be ready for submission to the SSC at its meeting of 20-21 February 2002. The Commission's recent questions related to 4 recent AFSSA[1] opinions on BSE in small ruminants, will be addressed in the context of this report.

i. Protocol to investigate the possible presence of BSE in sheep.

The Secretariat informed the SSC that the draft report that had been prepared, is still being circulated amongst a large number of scientists. A working group meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2002. The adoption of an opinion may be possible on 20-21 February 2002.

j. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk methodology to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep.

No further progress on this issue was reported on.

7. Organisational matters:

No organisational matters were discussed.

8. Info on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at the previous SSC meeting.

The follow-up given by Commission Services to the SSC opinion on anti-microbial resistance (May 1999), the export of DBES meat from the United Kingdom (October 1999) and statistical surveys (November 2001), was reported on.

9. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health

No information was provided by Commission Services.

10. Any other business.

a. Necrophagous birds as possible transmitters of EEB (scientific opinion from the Spanish Scientific Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalophaties)

Prof.Puigdomenech briefly introduced the recent scientific opinion (9 October 2001) on Necrophagous birds as possible transmitters of ESB prepared by the Spanish Scientific Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalophaties. This opinion is being translated into English. Commission Services are currently considering whether the SSC should be consulted on the issue of necrophagous birds (e.g., vultures) being possible transmitters of ESB.

b. Non-human primate research facilities in Europe.

Prof.Osterhaus informed the SSC of an exchange of correspondence he had with scientists of the Department of Virology of the Institut Pasteur in Paris (France) and of

[1] AFSSA: Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments

the Department of Virology of the Biomedical Primate Research Centre at Rijswijk (The Netherlands) on non-human primate research facilities in Europe. Their concern is the decreasing availability of appropriate non-human primate research facilities in Europe and the risk that they may gradually disappear completely.

During the discussion that followed, SSC members recognised that in recent years the investments done in non-human primate research facilities in Europe has been decreasing basically because of the increasing ethical objections against the use of non-human primates for research.

The SSC considered it necessary to raise the awareness of the Commission Services on the implications that would result from a complete disappearance of non-human primate research facilities. It suggested that, in addition to the Commission possibly gaining ethical advice on the issue and to the forthcoming SC-AHAW opinion on animal welfare aspects (see further), a list be prepared of the research areas where well maintained non-human primate research facilities are needed. Ideally such list should be framed within the overall context of the need for animal experiments in general. Several members of the SSC expressed their preparedness to become involved should the SSC be requested to prepare such a list.

The SSC members recognised that unnecessary and double or redundant research using non-human primates should be avoided at any price (and for example by a EU-wide co-ordination between research laboratories), that the housing and welfare conditions of the animals should be optimal, that for each research proposal it should be verified that no alternative is available and that it is ethically justified. They however considered that for certain experiments there exist no alternatives for the use of non-human primates, for example because they cannot be done on other animal species nor on humans for ethical reasons. Such experiments may be needed in the frame of, for example, the development of drugs and vaccines for disease prevention and cure (e.g., HIV, TSE, malaria, influenza, …). The case of TSEs has recently been addressed in the SSC opinion of 6-7 September 2001 on *The use of Non-human primate models for human TSEs*.

Dr. P. Le Neindre, chairperson of the Scientific Committee for Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SC-AHAW) informed the SSC that this Committee was currently preparing an opinion on the optimal conditions of welfare and housing of non-human primates used for experiments.

c. Report of the GME gelatine process study workshop of 5.12.01.

Professor Osterhaus reported on the Workshop organised by GME (Gelatin Manufacturers of Europe) on the outcome of the research it funded on the TSE inactivation capacity of various gelatine manufacturing processes and –steps. The meeting report was made available to all participants. It was agreed that Prof.Osterhaus would ask GME to provide to all the members of the SSC and the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group a copy of the detailed scientific reports containing the material and methods and results of each of the various experiments. This would permit them to verify whether these reports contained any information and data that was different from the ones already taken into account in the updated opinion of 28-29 June 2001 (Editorial changes adopted on 6-7 September 2001) on *The safety with regard to TSE risks of gelatine derived from ruminant bones or hides from cattle, sheep or goats*.

d. Letter and attachments of 9 January 2002 from Mr. R.D.Murdock (InPro Biotechnology) on the EC Validations of rapid Tests for BSE Prions Conducted in 2001.

This letter, addressed to the Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Members of the SSC, arrived during the meeting and as made available to all participants. The Chairman will prepare a draft reply. The other SSC members and the Secretariat will be consulted.

The meeting ended on Friday 11 January 2002, at 15h00.

Annex 1: List of participants in the Scientific Steering Committee meeting on 10-11 January 2002.

List of presence

Members of the SSC:

- Ing. Georges Bories
- Prof. James Bridges (10 January only)
- Prof. Johanna Fink-Gremmels
- Prof. Anthony R. Hardy
- Dr Keith Jones
- Prof. Werner Klein
- Dr Ada Knaap (not present 11 January afternoon))
- Dr Ib Knudsen
- Dr Pierre Le Neindre
- Prof. Johannes Löwer
- Prof. Albert Osterhaus (10 January only)
- Prof. Gérard Pascal (Chairman)
- Prof. Pere Puigdomenech (not present morning of 10 January)
- Prof. Vittorio Silano
- Prof. Staffan Skerfving
- Dr Ian White (10 January only)

Participants from the Commission:

DG SANCO: B. Carsin, C. Berlingieri, P. Vossen, J. Kreysa, G. Morrison, D. Jacquemin, M. Walsh, A. Sanabria, M. Granero, A. Van Elst, T. Säteri, J-J. Rateau, A. Somogyi, A. Wilhelm, K.Talaber (stagiaire), F. Boder (stagiaire).

DG RTD:. A. Di Giulio

JRC: H. Schimmel, L. Bontoux

Annex 2: 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 November 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);
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.
   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. New questions:
      - evaluation of the recent AFFSA opinions on specified risk material and culling for scrapie in small ruminant flocks;
      - the bovine vertebral column as a specified risk material;
      - inventory of *in vivo & post mortem* tests under research and/or development.
      - safety of peptides from porcine intestinal mucosa.

   TSEs in small ruminants:
   h. Safe sourcing of small ruminant materials should BSE in small ruminants become probable: genotype, breeding, rapid TSE testing, flock certification and Specified Risk Materials. (Progress report)
   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 Encephalophaties)
   - Primate research facilities in Europe.
   - Report of the GME gelatine process study workshop.

Annex 3: Reports from the chairpersons of Scientific Committees on the major activities and milestones since the SSC meeting of 29-30 November 2001, as provided by the secretariats of these Committees.

(COMPLETE INFORMATION AT THE WEBPAGES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES AT THE ADDRESS HTTP://EUROPA.EU.INT/COMM/FOOD/FS/SC/SSC/INDEX_EN.HTML.)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON FOOD (SCF)

The SCF adopted at its last plenary session on 12/13 December ten opinions.

Three opinions relating to the safety of the presence of β-asarone, hypericin (and extracts of *hypericum sp.*), and safrole in flavourings.

The Committee expressed an opinion about the acute risks posed by tin in canned foods.

The Committee released an additional statement on the use of resistant short chain carbohydrates (oligofructosyl-saccharose and oligogalactosyl-lactose) in infant formulae and in follow-on formulae. This is a follow up of its previous statement on the same subject of September 2001.

The SCF evaluated the safety in use of carbon monoxide as component of packaging gases in modified atmosphere packaging for fresh meat

It adopted also two additional lists of monomers and additives for food contact materials, the 15th and 16th lists. The Committee also updated its Guidelines for the presentation of an application for safety assessment of a substance to be used in food contact materials prior to its authorisation. This update incorporates now a section relating to biocides.

Finally, the Committee also adopted its evaluation regarding Salatrims for use as reduced calorie fats alternative, as novel food ingredients.

Due to the very heavy agenda a number of other items could not be finished and are already scheduled for next plenary taking part at the end of February 2002. This will be again therefore a heavily loaded meeting, as there will be also a number of other issues from the some 8 working groups meetings taking place up to this next SCF plenary.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL NUTRITON (SCAN)

The SCAN met in December. The plenary had a big agenda and adopted several documents. The work of the ad hoc groups continues.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR PLANTS (SCP)

The SCP met on December 20th. At that meeting the following opinions have been adopted:

- Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants on an additional question of the Commission on the evaluation of Diquat in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.
- Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants on specific questions from the Commission concerning the evaluation of Fosthiazate in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.
- Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants on specific questions from the Commission concerning the evaluation of Paraquat in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

– Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants on specific questions from the Commission concerning the evaluation of *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

In 2001, the SCP has adopted 23 opinions dealing with plant protection products and 4 dealing with biotechnology (respectively 20 and 6 in 2000)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE VETERINARY MEASURES RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

No plenary meeting took place since November 2001

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE (SC-AHAW)

A plenary meeting was held on the 12th and 13th of December.

An opinion on the Welfare of animals kept for fur production was discussed, and adopted after some amendments. An executive summary has been provided in order to summarise that long report (more than 200 pages).

The rapporteur of the working group on welfare of animals during transport presented the draft of the Opinion on that topic. The draft will be presented for approval at the next Animal Welfare sub-committee on 21 January 2002. Eventually an open discussion for possible adoption is expected on that report during the plenary on 5 February 2002.

A report on Chlamidiosis (psitaccosis) will be discussed during the next subcommittee of Animal Health on 23 January for possible approval.

Other working groups are engaged in drafting reports on topics such as Fish waste, rabies and welfare of non-human primates. A new question on the animal welfare effects of stunning methods has been accepted and a rapporteur has been engaged to organize the working group.

A first discussion for preparing an answer to the DG research on research priorities in the future in animal health and animal welfare areas took place.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR COSMETICS AND NON-FOOD PRODUCTS (SC-CNFP)

Since the last SSC plenary meeting of 29-30 November 2001, only 1 Working Party meeting of the Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and Non-Food Products has taken place.

Although no particular items of a multi-disciplinary nature have been discussed, the following issue is of great concern for the committee:

As reported earlier, in August 2001 the Commission launched an on-line consultation to prepare for revision of EU detergents legislation.

Provisions were proposed to consult the SCCNFP regarding the identification of preparations containing substances potentially irritant or sensitising for the consumer. Moreover, the SCCNFP was to advise on particular problem areas: preservatives/biocides, fragrances etc. Also, it was proposed that 'information' would be provided to the consumer in the way that the committee is familiar with (i.e., labelling).

The above has now been withdrawn.

The SCCNFP has been discussing detergents and similar products for some considerable time. Its goal has been to improve consumer safety and to identify those substances that the consumer may reasonably expect information regarding their presence.

The SCCNFP is concerned that consumer safety and health protection, and the provision of the necessary information required for those with specific contact allergies, is being compromised for ‘horizontal reasons’.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ON TOCITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)

A. At the 28th (07 December 2001) and 29th (09 January 2002) CSTEE plenary meetings, 13 opinions were adopted altogether on the following Risk Assessment Reports [Human health (HH) and/or the environment (Env)] produced under the so-called Existing Substances Regulation (793/93): **a)** ***Butadiene*** (Env); **b,c)** ***Cyclohexane*** (HH and Env); **d,e)** ***Dodmac*** (HH and Env); **f,g)** ***Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)*** (HH and Env); **h)** ***3,4-dichloroanyline*** (Env); **i)** ***N-Vinyl pyrrolidone*** (HH); **j)** ***Naphthalene*** (HH); **k)** ***Ethyl acetoacetate*** (HH); **l,m)** ***Trichloroethylene*** (HH and Env).

B. Regarding the revision of the ***Technical Guidance Document*** in support of, *e.g.* Regulation 793/93, which includes: **a)** ***Environmental exposure***; **b)** ***Marine risk assessment***; **c)** ***Environmental effects assessment***; **d)** ***Human Health exposure assessment***; **e)** ***Human Health effects assessment***, a joint WG meeting of the subgroups ***Environmental risk assessment*** (focusing on ***Marine environment***) and ***Exposure*** took place on 08 January 2002. The various drafts produced were discussed at the 9 January CSTEE plenary and an adoption by written procedure is foreseen for all sections by 25 January 2002. This will mean some 5 to 6 more opinions depending on how many it will be possible to adopt in this way.

C. The CSTEE is also pursuing its activities on the following opinion requests:

1. Evaluation of the following Regulation 793/93 Risk Assessment Reports:

Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment) on:

a) ***Tetrachloroethylene*** (Env); **b,c)** ***Bis(pentabromophenyl)ether*** (HH and Env);

d,e) ***Methyl acetate*** (HH and Env); **f)** ***3,4-dichloroanyline*** (HH); **g)** ***Naphthalene*** (Env); **h)** ***Ethyl acetoacetate*** (Env); **i)** ***Tetrachloroethylene*** (Env);

j,k) ***Bis(pentabromophenyl)ether*** (HH and Env).

2. ***Member States' assessments of the risk to health and the environment from cadmium in fertilisers.*** A WG meeting will take place on 23 January 2002.

3. Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the 'lead' committee: **a)** ***Endocrine disruption (Human health);*** a WG meeting took place on 8 January 2002. Consultants RPS BHK Consulting Engineers and WRc-NSF were present and presented the 2 studies as follow-ups to the BKH study on which the CSTEE expressed an opinion on 5 September 2000 and the EC Communication of 14 June 2001; **b)** ***Indoor climate;*** a new draft table of contents was submitted for discussion at the 9 January CSTEE plenary; a WG meeting will be scheduled soon.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ON MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICAL DEVICES (SC-MPMD)

No plenary meeting of the SCMPMD hold between 29.11.01 and today. Only the WG on the "Safety of the Human-Derived Products an Medical Devices with regard to TSE's" meet several time and produced a draft report on the subject that was presented for observations at the last Plenary Meeting of the SSC.

Annex 4

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

THE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD PROVIDED BY DIFFERENT CULLING SCHEMES UNDER THE CURRENT CONDITIONS IN THE UK AND DE.

ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING OF 10-11 JANUARY 2002

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 5

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

TSE INFECTIVITY DISTRIBUTION IN RUMINANT TISSUES (STATE OF KNOWLEDGE, DECEMBER 2001)

ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING OF 10-11 JANUARY 2002

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 6

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

UPDATE OF THE OPINION ON:

THE GEOGRAPHICAL RISK OF

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (GBR)

ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING OF 10-11 JANUARY 2002

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 7

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

STUNNING METHODS AND BSE RISKS

(THE RISK OF DISSEMINATION OF BRAIN PARTICLES INTO THE BLOOD AND CARCASS WHEN APPLYING CERTAIN STUNNING METHODS.)

ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING OF 10-11 JANUARY 2002

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)