1. **Exchange of views of the Committee on the evolution of animal diseases in the Community including:**

**Bluetongue**

**Italy**

The Italian delegation distributed and presented an update report on the bluetongue situation in Italy (position as at 5 April 2002).

Based on the epidemiological data provided, the Italian delegation requested the Commission to consider the possibility to delete the provinces of Napoli and of Bari from restricted areas in Italy in Annex I of Commission Decision 2001/783/EC.

**France**

The French delegation presented a summary of the outbreaks in 2001 and the results of the vaccination campaign at the beginning of 2001.

**Greece**

The Greek delegation presented a report confirming a very low prevalence of bluetongue in the affected regions. On the other hand, outbreaks appeared in areas where the so-called potent vector (C. Imicola) is not present.

**Spain**

The Spanish delegation presented a report on the bluetongue situation in Spain. No virus circulation has been detected since the outbreaks in Balearic Islands in 2000.

**Classical swine fever**

**Luxembourg**

The Luxembourg delegation informed about recent outbreaks of CSF in domestic pig holding located in an area where an eradication plan is in place due to CSF in the wild boar. Trading of live pigs to other Member States from the CSF free areas of Luxembourg which was interrupted after the outbreak will start again after 15 April 2002 provided that the epidemiological situation allows to do so.

**Germany**
The German delegation distributed and presented a report on the CSF situation. Germany reported an outbreak, confirmed on 5 April 2002 and which occurred in a small pig holding located outside the areas where eradication and emergency vaccination plans in relation to the disease in the wild boar are in place. Germany also provided information on vaccination of feral pigs. See also point 11.

Spain

The Spanish delegation distributed and presented a report on the CSF situation. In spite of all the restrictive measures in place since several months, outbreaks of CSF continue to be reported in the comarca of Osona, province of Barcelona. The twelfth outbreak of this year has now been confirmed.

Due to the further outbreaks which occurred, the Commission appealed to Spain, and to Germany, to remain vigilant and to take all possible measures to eradicate the disease. See also point 14.

Swine vesicular disease

Italy

The Italian delegation distributed and presented a report on the SVD situation in the south of Italy where several new outbreaks of the disease were identified in small backyard holdings which could be traced back to certain pig collection centres in Campania and Calabria. In relation to these outbreaks the Italian delegation made the following declaration:

"The restrictions to intra-Community trade in live pigs adopted by means of the Decreto Ministeriale of 15 March 2002, which include the ban to the dispatch of live pigs from the whole territory of the Regions Calabria, Campania and Sicilia, and from the whole territory of the Provinces of Potenza (Region Basilicata), Campobasso and Isernia (Region Molise), Frosinone and Latina (Region Lazio) and Pescara and Teramo (Region Abruzzo) to other Member States and to Third Countries, shall stay in place until the Swine vesicular disease situation in Italy is reviewed by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (section Animal Health and Animal Welfare) scheduled for 8 May 2002".

2. INFORMATION FROM FRANCE AND ITALY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLUETONGUE

France

The French delegation informed the Member States that the vaccination campaign in 2002 will be completed soon. In Haute Corse, 75% of ovine population has already been vaccinated, 67% in Corse du sud.

Italy

The Italian delegation presented a report on the vaccination campaign.
Italy also requested the Commission for technical support to a project about the production of bluetongue vaccine. The Commission noted the request and said that the Italian proposals would be considered.

3. **Information from the Member States and Exchange of Views of the Committee on the Progress of the Rabies Eradication Programmes in: Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Austria and Finland**

The point was postponed.

4. **Monthly Information in the SCoFCAH (Section Animal Health and Animal Welfare) from the Member States and Exchange of Views of the Committee on the Progress of the Animal Disease Eradication and Control Programmes Co-financed by the EU. (Doc.SANCO/874/2002).**

The Commission distributed the calendar 2002 for presentation by Member States of the progress of the co-financed animal disease eradication and control programmes.

5. **Update on the Disease Situation on South America and Southern Africa**

The Commission distributed information on the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Argentina (Doc. SANCO/10014/2002-rev. 1) and in Botswana (Doc. SANCO/10013/2002)


7. **Information on the Canadian EBL Scheme (doc. SANCO/879/2002)**

The Commission distributed “Information from Canada on the Canadian health accredited herd program – Enzootic bovine leukosis” (Doc. SANCO/879/2002)

8. **Information on the Situation in the Czech Republic on Brucellosis, EBL and Tuberculosis (doc. SANCO/872/2002)**

The Commission distributed “Information from the Czech Republic on the eradication programmes for brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis and tuberculosis” (Doc. SANCO/872/2002)

The commission distributed the above list.

10. **INFORMATION TO THE MEMBER STATES ON THE REPORTS FOR THE 2001 ERADICATION PROGRAMMES**

The Commission also distributed and presented a table listing the intermediary reports received from Member States as regards eradication programmes 2001.

11. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES.**

The Commission introduced the following proposal:

*Draft Commission Decision concerning certain protection measures relating to classical swine fever in Germany (Doc. SANCO/10017/2002-rev.1)*

On 5 April an outbreak of CSF has been confirmed in Rhineland-Palatinate, outside of the area under restriction because of CSF in feral pigs (see point 1). The German authorities have taken measures provided for in Council Directive 2001/89/EC.

Due to the evolving situation, the Commission proposed banning the export of all live pigs and porcine semen, ova and embryos from Rhineland-Palatinate with the exception of those areas located to the east of the river Rhine.

Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions.


The aim of the draft Decision was to update the list of units in the ANIMO computer network. Germany, Austria, Portugal, Ireland and Spain suggested some amendments. The document has been updated accordingly.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

13. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION AMENDING ANNEXES A, C AND E TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/65/EEC LAYING DOWN ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**
GOVERNING TRADE IN AND IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY OF ANIMALS, SEMEN, OVA AND EMBRYOS NOT SUBJECT TO ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN SPECIFIC COMMUNITY RULES REFERRED TO IN ANNEX A (1) TO DIRECTIVE 90/425/EEC (DOC. SANCO/1971/2000 - REV.13)

With a view to facilitate implementation of Directive 92/65/EEC in relation to movement of animals between approved bodies, centres and institutes, the Commission explained that there appears to be a need to make some technical adaptations to clarify the conditions governing their approval and to include certain quarantine provisions. The proposal also intends to introduce a specific certificate for trade in these animals and to clarify the list of notifiable diseases. The Commission therefore proposed to amend Annexes A, C and E of the above Directive accordingly. The final date for implementation of the new requirements was set at 01.03.2003.

Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions.

14. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE EVOLUTION OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SPAIN (DOC. SANCO/10001/2002)

Due to the classical swine fever situation as explained under point 1, the existing measures, including a ban on the export of live pigs and porcine semen, ova and embryos from the province of Barcelona and the comarcas of Ripollès, Garrotxa and Selva in the province of Gerona in the autonomous region of Cataluña, now applicable until 30 April, was proposed to be extended until 31 May.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The purpose of the proposal was to authorise the use of three slaughterhouses in Italy located in the protection zone for swine vesicular disease.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

The purpose of the proposal was to establish conditions for import from third countries of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

The vote was postponed. The Commission proposed the constitution of a working group on the issue.

17. **Exchange of Views and Possible Opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision Amending Decision 2001/296/EC As Regards the List of Approved Laboratories for Checking the Effectiveness of Vaccination Against Rabies in Certain Domestic Carnivores (Doc. SANCO/741/2002-Rev.1)**

The purpose of the proposal was to add some laboratories on the list of approved laboratories for checking the effectiveness of vaccination against rabies in certain domestic carnivores. Germany proposed to de-list one of these laboratories. The proposal of Germany has been accepted and the document modified accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**


The purpose of the proposal was to allow export of ovine and bovine fresh meat and offal from the provinces of Chubut, santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, located in the region of Patagonia that has been recognised free from FMD without vaccination by the O.I.E. and to update some of the footnotes in the annex II of Commission Decision 93/402/EEC. Some formal amendments have been done to the same annex in order to make it clearer.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

Germany asked to do the same as regards meat of wild animal at the next Committee meeting.

19. **Exchange of Views and Possible Opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision Amending for the Ninth Time Decision 2000/284/EC Establishing the List of Approved Semen Collection Centres for**
IMPORTS OF EQUINE SEMEN FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/10000/2002-REV.1)

The purpose of the proposal was to update the list of approved semen collection centres for imports of equine semen from third countries.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The point was withdrawn from the agenda.

21. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 96/482/EC AS REGARDS THE LENGTH OF THE ISOLATION PERIOD FOR IMPORTS OF LIVE POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/880/2002)

Postponed.

22. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2002/199/EC CONCERNING ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION FOR IMPORTS OF LIVE BOVINES AND PORCINE ANIMALS FROM CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/878/EC)

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The Commission proposed to amend the conditions for importation into the EU of live bovine and porcine animals from Canada and the Czech Republic with regard to the testing requirements for brucella, enzootic bovine leukosis and tuberculosis.

23. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION REPEALING DECISION 94/141/EC APPROVING THE PLAN PRESENTED BY FRANCE FOR THE ERADICATION OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN FERAL PIGS IN THE NORTHERN VOSGES (DOC. SANCO/888/2002)

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The French delegation, at the last SCoFCAH, gave an overview of the results of the 1992-2001 epidemiological surveillance of CSF in feral pigs in the “Vosges du nord”. These results led to consider the Vosges outbreak as extinct. France had subsequently requested that the measures in place be lifted. The Commission tabled a proposal to comply with the French request.
24. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL MEASURES RELATING TO CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF VEHICLES TRANSPORTING PIGS (DOC. SANCO/608/2002-REV.1)**

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. In addition to the measures already being applied and in order to further reduce the risk of spreading foot-and-mouth disease, swine vesicular disease and classical swine fever from the concerned areas in the Community, the Commission proposed to adopt supplementary provisions as regards the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles that have transported pigs to premises located in these areas.

25. **MISCELLANEOUS**

(1) Germany requested to the Commission information about import of “other ungulates”. The Commission briefly showed the legislation and confirmed to the SCoFCAH that import of “other ungulates” is not actually allowed.

(2) Sweden asked to the Commission information about the validity of the vaccines stored in the Community vaccine banks. The Commission answered that actually tests on these vaccines are being done. An evaluation will be possible only when the results of these tests will be available.

(3) U.K. asked information about the disease situation in South Africa. The Commission will send the requested information to all the Member States as soon as possible.

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html)

Alejandro CHECCHI LANG
Director