President: Mr. Bernard Van Goethem  
All the Member States were present.

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

   **Classical swine fever**

   **France**

   France orally reported on the situation as regards classical swine fever in wild boar in *Meurthe-et-Moselle*. The disease seemed not to have spread outside the zone were it had been identified in the past months.

   **Germany**

   Germany distributed and presented an update report on the classical swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs, providing detailed information on the four latest outbreaks, all situated in Rhineland-Palatinate. The primary outbreak, located within a defined surveillance zone for CSF in feral pigs is of the same genotype investigated in wild boar in the area. The three other outbreaks are linked to this primary outbreak via purchase of animals and they were also located in the zone already subjected to disease control measures and pig movement restrictions.

   See also point 2.

   **Luxembourg**

   Member States were presented a report on the latest classical swine fever outbreak (2002/12) in domestic pigs which was confirmed on 22.10.2002 in a fattening farm situated in the north-eastern part of Luxembourg. In addition to the set-up of protection and surveillance zones, a ‘stand still’ of all movements of breeding pigs was declared on the whole territory of Luxembourg until at least 11.11.2002.

   The Commission reminded Luxembourg about the entry into force of the CSF diagnostic manual on 01.11.2002 (Commission Decision 2002/106/EC) and invited the Luxembourg representative to apply these new provisions so that the disease is more rapidly diagnosed.

   **Swine vesicular disease**

   **Italy**

   The Italian delegation distributed and presented a situation report on swine vesicular disease providing information on the latest outbreaks (September-October) in the southern regions of Basilicata and Calabria.
Member States were also presented information on the outbreaks in the north of Italy identified during the period May-June 2002. Surveillance activities were performed and no further outbreaks were detected.

Italy also made clear that there was neither intra-community trade nor movements of pigs to other parts of Italy from the non-accredited areas of Sicily, Calabria and Campania, as well as from Basilicata.

See also point 2.

**Bluetongue**

*Italy*

Italy orally presented an update on the bluetongue situation. In Sardinia and Tuscany, vaccination has been completed and serological and entomological surveillance was carried out. Subsequently, the Italian delegation submitted a live animal’s movement scheme for both the regions. The Commission noted the Italian request.

2. **INFORMATION ON THE ERADICATION PROGRAMMES FROM MS**

Member States concerned distributed and presented a report on the progress of the approved eradication and monitoring programmes for swine vesicular disease, classical swine fever and African swine fever, giving an overview of the disease evolution and the measures in place:

**Swine vesicular disease (SVD)**: Italy (see point 1)

**Classical swine fever (CSF) / African swine fever (ASF) (Sardinia)**: Italy - A written report was presented. The Commission requested Italy to supplement the information provided with the most recent data on CSF/ASF in wild boar.

**Classical swine fever**: Belgium provided a written report on the surveillance carried out on feral pigs at the border with Germany, Luxembourg and France and on the disease prevention measures applied in pig holdings in the same area.

Germany provided a report on the results of the surveillance carried out on feral pigs throughout the country. CSF seems to have faded out from certain German Lander where it had been detected in the past.

Luxembourg provided on oral report on the surveillance carried out in relation with the disease in feral and domestic pigs.

3. **INFORMATION ON BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS SITUATION FROM THE MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE PART OR THE WHOLE OF THEIR TERRITORY RECOGNIZED AS**

The Member States having their territory or part of their territory recognised as free from bovine brucellosis reported on the results of the surveillance carried out on their territory.

Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Norway distributed a written report and Sweden reported orally. Germany, Italy, Luxembourg the United Kingdom and Portugal requested to postpone their presentation.


The Member States having their territory or part of their territory recognised as free from bovine tuberculosis reported on the results of the surveillance carried out on their territory.

Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Norway distributed a written report and Sweden reported orally. Germany, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Italy and Portugal requested to postpone their presentation.

5. INFORMATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS ON A RAPID SYSTEM TO ASSESS ANIMAL HEALTH RISKS (DOC. SANCO/10524/2002)

The Dutch delegation presented an animal health risk assessment system. The idea is to constitute a database on the basis of which a risk assessment and monitoring of the disease situation can be carried out after an outbreak in another country. The Netherlands offered to demonstrate the system to Member States interested.

6. INFORMATION ON A MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND AUSTRALIA ON REGIONALISATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES

The Commission informed the Member States about a meeting with Australia held on 10-11 October 2002, in order to come to an agreement on both sides’ approach as regards regionalisation in respect of animal diseases, resulting in facilitation of trade. It was agreed to produce a framework document outlining the principles as understood by both parties, with a view to proceeding with the regionalization for classical swine fever (EU) and bluetongue (Australia).
7. **INFORMATION ON SERO-SURVEILLANCE FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA IN ITALY**
   **(SANCO/10549/2002)**

The Italian delegation presented a report on the low pathogenic avian influenza (H7N3) infections in poultry flocks in the Lombardia and Veneto regions in 2002. The first part of the presentation covered the period until 10.10.2002, giving an overview of the epidemiological situation, the results of sero-surveillance, and the restriction and monitoring measures. The representative also informed the Committee members about new outbreaks which occurred as of 11.10.2002 and on the control measures enforced subsequently.

In addition, Italy presented a report on laboratory research as regards H7N3 low pathogenic avian influenza causing the present epidemic. It appeared from the results that the Italian isolate is completely unrelated to the Pakistan vaccine strain. Preliminary data suggest that this virus has been recently introduced from a wild (aquatic) host to the domestic host.

8. **INFORMATION ON NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
   **(SANCO/10550/2002)**

The Commission distributed the above mentioned information on Newcastle disease (ND) in the USA, describing the epidemiological situation in the State of California and submitting a request to regionalise this state for ND.

9. **INFORMATION ON PARAMYXOVIRUS I INFECTIONS IN WILD PHEASANTS**
   **(SANCO/10554/2002)**

The Danish delegation informed the Committee about a case of paramyxovirus-1 which had been diagnosed in pheasants which had been set out for the coming hunting season.

10. **PRESENTATION BY MEMBER STATES OF THE AVIAN INFLUENZA MONITORING PROGRAMMES IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION**

The Member States informed the Commission about the state of play concerning the avian influenza monitoring programmes in poultry and wild birds which had to be submitted in accordance with Decision 2002/649/EC. France, Finland, Ireland and Austria handed out written information.

The Commission announced that a working group would be organised to discuss the technical aspects of the programmes.
11. **INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM AUSTRALIA DEPARTMENT OF BIOSECURITY CONCERNING DRAFT METHOD FOR IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS (DOC. SANCO/10545/2002)**

The Commission distributed the above information.

12. **INFORMATION TO SPAIN ON PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR THEIR 2000 BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAMMES**

The point was withdrawn from the agenda.

13. **WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION AND DISCUSSION**

*APPLICATION FORM, CHECKLIST AND GUIDELINES* for obtaining Community status of approved zone with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and/or infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) (SANCO/10298/2002-Rev.3)

All the Member States, except the United Kingdom, agreed to the proposed document.

14. **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.**

Member States were presented the following proposal:

*Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 93/402/EEC as regards imports of fresh meat from Brazil (Doc. SANCO/10559/2002)*

The Commission informed the Member States about an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Paraguay (Doc. SANCO/10560/2002) and made clear that the area affected was not one of the two regions allowed for export. It seemed therefore that no measures were necessary as regards Paraguay. The surveillance zone of the outbreak however affects part of the territory of Brazil from which exports to the EU are allowed (Doc. SANCO/10561/2002). Hence the Commission submitted a proposal aiming to suspend imports of de-boned and matured bovine meat into the EU from that bordering municipality in Brazil.

**Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority).**

The purpose of the proposal was to approve the individual programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and for the prevention of zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2003.

The Commission reminded the Member states of their obligation to respect public procurement rules. The Commission took note of the commitment made by the German delegation to comply with these rules when awarding supply contracts for the purchase of the vaccines.

**Vote:** 83 votes in favour, 4 abstentions (qualified majority).


The Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to re-distribute funds between eradication and monitoring programmes which will not use the full funding allocated and other programmes which will spend in excess to the allocated amount.

**Vote:** 83 votes in favour, 4 abstentions (qualified majority).

Austria requested the following declaration by the Commission for the protocol:

“Concerning the payments regarding salmonellosis the Commission Decision will be amended upon application by Austria if during the following weeks a positive case of salmonellosis will be found.

These costs shall be covered either by the budget for 2002 or if not possible, provision shall be made for a refund in the year 2003.”

The Commission took note of this request.

The Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to re-allocate funding from Member States which are not using their full allocation for the monitoring of TSE to those that are exceeding it.

**Vote:** unanimous vote in favour.

18. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving the programmes for the monitoring for TSE presented for 2003 by the Member States and fixing the level of the Community’s financial contribution (Doc SANCO/3294/2002-rev.2)**

The purpose of the proposal was to approve the programmes for the monitoring for TSE presented for 2003 by the Member States and fixing the level of the Community’s financial contribution.

**Vote:** 83 votes in favour, 4 abstentions (qualified majority).

The Commission made the following declaration:

“The services of the Commission can confirm that in a situation where only one supplier is available on the market, rules on public procurement are not relevant for the purpose of this Decision.”

See also point 15.


The purpose of the draft Decision is to harmonise the certificates and import conditions for live animals and meat products and consolidate the existing legislation into one Decision. There was some discussion on the text in particular in relation to certain temporary provisions. However nearly all Member States could support the proposal so the Commission expressed its intention to present the final text at the SCFCAH of 03-04 December 2002 for technical agreement and subsequent WTO submission in the framework of the SPS Agreement.

See also point 20.
20. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision drawing up a list of third countries or part of third countries for imports of equidae (SANCO/10168/2002)**

This point is linked to point 19.

The draft Decision presented under point 15 does no longer include a column for equidae. Several Decisions laying down the animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of equidae do however include lists of third countries approved for that purpose. The Commission, with the present draft Decision, proposes to combine the specific lists mentioned above and the details of regionalisation in one consolidated list, including specific columns for semen, ova and embryos of the equine species.


The aim of the draft Decision is to fix a financial contribution towards the operational costs related to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Netherlands in 2001 and also to define the eligible expenditures.

The vote was postponed.

22. **Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution towards the operational costs related to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Ireland in 2001 (SANCO/1004/2002)**

The aim of the draft Decision is to fix a financial contribution towards the operational costs related to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease Ireland in 2001 and also to define the eligible expenditures.

The vote was postponed.

23. **Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution towards the operational costs related to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in France in 2001 (SANCO/1005/2002)**

The aim of the draft Decision is to fix a financial contribution towards the operational costs related to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease France in 2001 and also to define the eligible expenditures.
The vote was postponed.

24. Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Community for the compulsory slaughter between 1 July and 30 September 2001 of animals under eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in United Kingdom (SANCO/928/2002)

The Commission explained that financial contribution towards the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom in 2001 for outbreaks which occurred until 30.06.2001 has been fixed by Decision 2001/654/EC. The present draft Decision aims to fix a supplementary financial contribution for the compulsory slaughter following outbreaks which occurred between 1 July and 30 September 2001.

The vote was postponed.


In order to take into account the OIE most recent publication, the Member States were presented a draft Decision to update the list of molluscs diseases, pathogens and sensitive species in Annex D to Directive 95/70/EC.

All the Member States seemed to agree to the text.

The vote was postponed.

26. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the second time Decision 2002/308/EC establishing the lists of approved zones and approved farms with regard to one or more of the fish diseases viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) (SANCO/10543/2002)

Member States considered a draft Decision granting the status of approved zone for certain zones in France and Italy in respect of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN). Furthermore, the Commission proposed to grant the status of approved farm in a non-approved zone for certain farms in Austria, Germany, France and Italy. The proposal intended to amend Annexes I and II of Decision 2002/308/EC accordingly.
Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The point was withdrawn from the agenda.


In addition to the draft Decision, the Commission distributed “Information on Newcastle disease in Australia in the State of New South Wales” (Doc. SANCO/10555/2002)

Following a further outbreak of Newcastle disease in a poultry holding located in New South Wales, Australia, the Member States were presented a draft Decision aiming to prolong the protection measures laid down in Decision 2002/357/EC until 1 May 2003 pending the results and conclusions of the FVO mission scheduled for mid January 2003. Furthermore, the Commission proposed to amend the import requirements for fresh ratite meat in order to take into account the recent outbreak in New South Wales.

Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent (qualified majority).


The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The purpose of the draft Decision is to grant financial aid to the Community Reference Laboratories to assist them in carrying out the functions and duties laid down in the relevant Directives.

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The purpose of the draft Decision is to establish a list of third countries from which imports of live molluscs, their eggs and gametes are authorised for growth, fattening or re-lying in the Community. Furthermore, the proposal intends to lay down the animal health conditions for these imports and to supplement the import certificates already laid down in Directive 91/492/EEC for live molluscs with the appropriate animal health requirements. The Member States were also presented animal health import conditions and certification requirements for live molluscs intended for immediate human consumption or for further processing before human consumption.

The Member States were requested to send their comments within two weeks.

31. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision drawing up a list of third countries and laying down the animal health conditions and certification requirements for imports of live fish, their eggs and gametes for further growth, fattening or re-lying and laying down the animal health conditions and certification requirements for imports of live fish intended for immediate human consumption or for further processing before human consumption (Doc. SANCO/10145/2002-rev.3 and working document SANCO/4433/2001-rev.1)

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The purpose of the draft Decision is to establish a list of third countries from which imports of live fish, their eggs and gametes are authorised for farming in the Community. Furthermore, the proposal intends to lay down the animal health conditions for these imports and to supplement the imports certificates already laid down in Directive 91/493/EEC for live fish of aquaculture origin and products thereof with appropriate health requirements. The Member States were also presented animal health import conditions and certification requirements for import of live fish intended for immediate human consumption or further processing before human consumption.

The Member States were requested to send their comments within two weeks.

32. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision establishing the list of aquaculture animal species considered not susceptible to and not responsible for transmission of certain diseases and laying down the special animal health conditions and the requirements for movement documents for placing on the market of the species, their eggs and gametes referred to in Article 14 of Council Directive

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The proposal intends (1) to establish the list of aquaculture animal species, their eggs and gametes, not susceptible to and not responsible for transmission of the diseases bonamiosis and marteliosis, and (2) lay down the animal health conditions and the model of the accompanying document for the introduction of these species.

The Member States were requested to send their comments within two weeks.


The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The purpose of the proposal is to include in Decision 2001/138/EC provisions on sampling plans and diagnostic methods for the detection and confirmation of ISA, as well as to define the criteria for the establishment of zones and official surveillance following suspicion or confirmation of ISA.

The Member States were requested to comment on the text within two weeks.

34. MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Finland reported on (1) a case of scrapie and (2) on a case of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis in imported sheatfish.

(2) Spain requested the restrictive measures for bluetongue to be repealed.

(3) Germany tabled requested certain explanations on the financial aspects concerning a number of items: refunding arrangements for classical swine fever 1999, rabies refunds 2001, rabies vaccination in certain candidate countries and BSE programmes 2003. The Commission provided appropriate clarifications to these questions.

(4) Sweden requested to know to which degree Decision 200/68/EC had been implemented in other Member States.

(5) Denmark tabled a request for further regionalisation as regards Newcastle disease.
(6) The Commission reiterated its request for contingency plans for OIE list A diseases. Only a minority of Member States had replied to the original request.

(7) The Commission also reminded the Member States concerned about information on ovine brucellosis to be provided before the next meeting.

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

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