SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
(Section Animal health and welfare)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 28 MAY 2003

President: Mr. Bernard Van Goethem.
All the Member States were present, except Luxembourg which was represented by Belgium.

1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING:

Avian influenza

The Netherlands

The Netherlands distributed and presented report on the AI disease situation. To date, the total number of infected holdings in the Netherlands is 241. So far, culling has been carried out in 13,965 holdings. No new outbreaks have been confirmed since the end of April.

The Dutch delegation also provided detailed information about the restocking procedure. Before starting this procedure all manure and feed must be removed from the infected holdings, and a last disinfection will be carried out. On infected holdings, the stables will be restocked with sentinel-birds. A small number of poultry (1% of the usual flock) will be placed in the stables for a period of three weeks. Every week the local veterinarian will carry out a clinical inspection. At the end of the three-week period an official veterinarian will carry out a final clinical inspection, and samples will be taken for laboratory examination. The final screening on the “non-culled” holdings in the protection and surveillance zone will take place as soon as the restocking procedure starts. When the restocking procedures with sentinel birds as well as the results of the final screening are satisfactory, the restricted areas will be gradually lifted.

See also point 4.

Belgium

The Belgian delegation distributed and presented a follow-up report of the cases of avian influenza in the Belgian poultry sector. The presentation provided information on the chronology of events and detailed data on the 8 outbreaks currently confirmed in the provinces of Limburg (5) and Antwerpen (3). The representative also gave an overview of the measures taken in Belgium. So far, the outbreaks resulted in the pre-emptive culling of all poultry on 121 professional holdings and approx. 190 backyard flocks.

Serological screening in poultry/pigs mixed farms in the protection zones showed only negative results.

The Belgian delegation also explained the planned strategy for re-stocking after culling. The strategy presented was similar to the one presented by the Netherlands.
See also point 5.

Germany

The German delegation distributed and presented a detailed report concerning the outbreak of two suspicions of avian influenza which occurred in Nordrhein-Westfalen, near the border with the Netherlands. The outbreak was confirmed on May 13th and appropriate measures have been taken.

See also point 6.

2. **INFORMATION – DISTRIBUTION OF THE OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNING:**

   Diagnostic Techniques and Vaccines for Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Avian Influenza and some other important OIE List A Diseases


3. **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.**

   No items were raised.


   The Member States considered a proposal to extend until 17 June the existing measures to prevent the spreading of the disease and to eradicate it.

   **Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**


   Since 27 May, the export of live poultry and hatching eggs from the whole country of Belgium is allowed, with the exception of the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg.

   The Commission proposed to prolong the measures still applicable in those two provinces until 11 June. Starting from 12 June, restrictions would only apply in the surveillance zones (10 km zones around the outbreaks).

   **Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

6. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2003/358/EC CONCERNING**
PROTECTION MEASURES IN RELATION TO AVIAN INFLUENZA IN GERMANY (DOC. SANCO/10312/2003-REV.3) (M.P.)

The Member States considered a proposal to extend the existing measures until 24 June and, in the light of the positive evolution of the disease, to reduce the restricted area to the part of North Rhine-Westphalia located west of the Rhine from 3 June onwards, provided that no further outbreaks occur.

Starting from 25 June, restrictions will only apply in the surveillance zone (10 km zone around the single outbreak).

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**


The French and German delegations presented information concerning the classical swine fever situation in feral pigs.

The Member States were presented a proposal aiming to prolong the measures established with Decision 2002/1009/EC, while amending the areas of France and Germany where certain disease control measures established in this Decision are applied.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

The Commission reminded the Member States that the deadline for the introduction of 2004 eradication plans is 30 May 2003.

8. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION LAYING DOWN ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE LIFTING RESTRICTIONS APPLIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/40/EEC IN RELATION TO AVIAN INFLUENZA (DOC. SANCO/10311/2003-REV.3) (JPV)**

The purpose of the draft Decision was, in the three Member States concerned, to introduce a set of measures to be carried out before the restrictions in the protection and surveillance zones (minimum 10 km around confirmed avian influenza outbreaks) may be lifted. Animal feed, litter and manure from infected holdings have to be removed and destroyed. The repopulation of these holdings can only take place after the introduction of sentinel birds has demonstrated the absence of any avian influenza virus.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**
9. **MISCELLANEOUS**

(1) The Commission distributed the following proposal for consideration: “Draft Commission Decision establishing transitional measures for the control of movement of animals of susceptible species with regard to foot-and-mouth disease” (Doc. SANCO/10112/2003-rev.2)

(2) A question from Denmark concerning prior to export vaccination against Newcastle disease was referred to the 13 June 2003 SCFCAH.

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)

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