SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
(Section Animal health and welfare)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 01-02 JULY 2003

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:

   Avian influenza

   The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany

   The Dutch authorities announced that restrictions remained until 11 July 2003 for the provinces of Flevoland, Gelderland, Limburg, Noord-Brabant and Utrecht only. The measures were already lifted in all the protection zones in the Gelderse Vallei.

   The Belgian authorities announced that the remaining restrictions only applied to the surveillance zones. The final sampling and testing of the sentinel birds are scheduled between 2 and 10 July 2003.

   The German authorities announced that all European and national restrictions had been lifted since 25 June 2003

2. Information on the eradication programmes from MS

   Bovine tuberculosis: Italy, Portugal

   The Italian authorities presented their bovine tuberculosis eradication programme. 80% of the holdings were examined for bovine tuberculosis and 0.67% were found infected (in Campania, the numbers are 76% and 0.2% respectively; in Sicilia, 96% and 4.91%; in Puglia, 90% and 0.49%; and in Calabria 56% and 0.21%).

   The Portuguese authorities will present their bovine tuberculosis eradication programme at the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

   Bovine, caprine and ovine brucellosis: Italy, Portugal, France

   The Italian authorities presented their bovine, caprine and ovine brucellosis eradication programmes. 89% of the holdings were tested for Bovine Brucellosis and 1.1% were found infected (in Campania, the numbers are 74% and 0.6% respectively; in Sicilia, 97% and 8.06%; in Puglia, 95% and 2.05%; and in
Calabria 51% and 2.61%). 84% of the holdings were tested for caprine and ovine brucellosis and 2.42% were found positive (in Campania, the numbers are 83% and 1.4% respectively; in Sicilia, 92% and 19.6%; in Puglia, 90% and 5.5%; and in Calabria 65% and 3.8%).

The Portuguese authorities will present their sheep and goat brucellosis eradication programme at the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

The French authorities distributed their programme for the eradication of ovine and caprine brucellosis. 64 départements are officially free from sheep and goat brucellosis. Since 2000 the eradication programme is applied in 15 départements and vaccination is applied in 11 départements. For 2002, the incidence was 2 caprines and 10 ovines, the prevalence was 6 caprines and 23 ovines and the residual prevalence on 31 December 2002 was 3 caprines and 12 ovines.

**Enzootic Bovine Leukosis: Portugal, Italy**

The Italian authorities presented their enzootic bovine leukosis eradication programme. 84.26% of the holdings were examined and 0.17% were found infected.

The Portuguese authorities will present their EBL eradication programme at the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

**Rabies: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, Finland**

The rabies eradication programmes will be presented at the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

The French authorities distributed their rabies eradication programme for 2004. The départements concerned are: Ardennes, Doubs, Jura, Meurthe et Moselle, Meuse, Moselle, Oise, Bas-Rhin, Haute-Saône, Somme and Vosges.

The Finnish authorities distributed their Rabies eradication programme in 2002. 524 animals of various species were tested and all were found negative. Finland has been declared rabies free since March 2001.

**Aujeszky’s disease: Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Portugal**

The Aujeszky’s disease eradication programmes will be presented at the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

The Belgian authorities distributed their eradication programme for Aujesky’s disease. In 2002, 698 herds were controlled and 204 were found gE-positive. Moreover, an admittance test (for A2-status) was performed on 1.232 herds and 32 were found gE-positive. An acceptance test (for A3 or A4-status) was performed on 2.283 herds and 278 were found gE-positive. A follow-up test (for A3 or A4-status) was performed on 21.934 herds and 464 were found gE-positive (152 with more
than one gE-positive). Finally, an evaluation test (on problem herds) was performed on 153 herds and 90 were found positive. In total 26,300 herds were tested and 1,068 were found gE-positive.

3. **Information of the Member States on the detailed assessment of the animal disease cases for 2002 in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 64/432/EEC**

   Point postponed until the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH.

4. **Information from Italy on the application for additional guarantees in relation with Aujeszky's disease for the Province of Bolzano (Article 9 of Council Directive 64/432/EC)**

   The Italian authorities made a presentation on Aujeszky’s disease in the Province of Bolzano. The total porcine population is 24,000 (1,005 breeding pigs, 95 boars and 22,900 fattening pigs). Almost all fattening pigs and part of the breeding pigs are slaughtered each year in autumn/winter for private consumption. Since 9 March 1999, there is a compulsory eradication programme in breeding and fattening farms. All breeding pigs older than 9 months are sampled once a year and fattening pigs are monitored. In 2002, 322 pigs were sampled and 12 were found positive. Except for one breeding pig from the Veneto region in June 2000, all positive pigs are fattening pigs from other Italian regions. Vaccination has never been carried out in the Province of Bolzano and is forbidden by Decree.

5. **Issues relating to the implementation of Decision 2002/995/EC concerning the imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption (H.N.)**

   The Commission responded to questions that had been raised by the Member States at previous meetings regarding the implementation of Decision 2002/995/EC preventing the personal imports of meat and milk from third countries.

   Member States informed the Commission about mechanisms used by international passenger transport operators to disseminate information on the new rules on personal imports to passengers arriving from third countries. Member States also presented some information on the levels of illegal consignments that had been seized since the new rules came into force in January 2003.

6. **Training courses on the protection of animals during transport for police/gendarmes officers**

   The Portuguese and French authorities informed the Commission and the other Member States on their training courses on the protection of animals during transport for police officers and gendarmes, which implies a collaboration between the competent authorities and the animal protection organisations. The experience was
deemed positive and the interested Member States were therefore invited to communicate directly with the Portuguese and French authorities.

7. **Information to Portugal on a proposal for an additional payment to be made towards its 2000 bovine brucellosis eradication programme (AW)**

   Point postponed until the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH

8. **Final report of a mission carried out in Brazil from 5-19 March 2003 in order to evaluate animal health controls in particular over foot-and-mouth disease, public health control systems and certification procedures [DG(SANCO)/9088/2003] (L.F.)**

   The European Commission presented to the Member States the recommendations it made to the Brazilian authorities:

   - To take immediate action to address the deficiencies still outstanding from FVO mission (DG(SANCO)/3462/2001) to Brazil;
   - To confirm the action taken to suspend approval in one establishment where serious non-compliances with EU requirements were noted;
   - To confirm that adequate facilities and documentation are available for local veterinary units dealing with the animal health controls over bovines destined for the EU market;
   - To provide the Commission Services with updated and detailed information for each state approved or proposed for approval for export to the EU, concerning the facilities available at local health unit level, and the procedures in place for farm registration, animal identification and movement control;
   - To confirm that, in all the approved territories of Brazil, as already agreed for Rio Grande do Sul, if a farm receives animals, irrespective of the age group, that farm will be “blocked” for 40 days to ensure no possible mixing with recently arrived animals;
   - To provide the scientific basis for the current approach used in FMD serosurveillance and the documentation of the absence of FMD virus in the risk areas;
   - To implement, in relation to vaccination efficacy, a statistically based survey to confirm the high coverage rates estimated;
   - To increase supervision of risk farms and vaccine retailers during vaccination campaigns;
   - To provide adequate facilities for the control posts between the different health status areas;
• To clarify to the Commission services the difference between the positive cases of glanders as declared in 2000 (51) and the results (299 positives) of the serological survey carried out the same year;

• To continue the implementation of the system for individual identification of animals eligible for the EU market, rectifying the shortcomings identified during this mission. In particular, these problems with branding reinforce the need for individual identification;

• To ensure that all auxiliaries involved in official inspection tasks have official status and are paid by the public service;

• To ensure that the minimum frequency of supervisory visits to EU-approved establishments is respected;

• To ensure that FMD control, in particular maturation and pH controls are fully implemented and enforced with immediate effect in all EU-approved establishments;

• To provide guarantees and working schedules for the correction of deficiencies noted in all establishments visited and to confirm that all other approved establishments have been reviewed and corrective action taken in respect of any deficiencies found;

• An action plan, indicating the actions taken or planned, and including deadlines should be provided to the Commission Services within one month of the receipt of the final report.

9. Documents for distribution / Documents pour distribution

• Applications from member states for achieving the status as approved farm situated in non-approved zones as regards VHS and IHN:

  - Application from Germany for approval of the farm Einöde with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN);

  - Application from Germany for approval of the farm Karl Uhl Fischzucht with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN);

  - Application from Germany for approval of the farm Heinz Kinzmann with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN);

  - Application from Germany for approval of the zone Wolfegger Aach with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN);

  - Application from Italy for approval of the farm Stanzial Eneide with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN);
- Application from Italy for approval of the farm Allevamento Ittico – Petrolini Macello with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis (IHN).

The Commission invited the Member States to send possible comments on those applications by 01 September 2003.

10. Distribution for information / Distribution pour information :

- Report of a mission carried out in Slovenia from 12 to 16 May 2003 in order to review the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to the up-grading of certain classes of food processing establishments and associated live animal controls and in order to review additional public health and animal health controls [DG(SANCO)/9003/2003-MR]

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.

No draft Commission Decision was presented at this Point.


Following an inspection on 19-29 May 2003 of the Food and Veterinary Office in the United States of America in order to assess the epidemiological situation as regards Newcastle disease, the control measures in place and the implementation of Decision 2003/67/EC, it can be concluded that the disease seems to be under control although not fully eradicated yet. It also appears that the epizootic has been contained in the initial infected area of California and only limited introductions into neighbouring states have occurred.

The Commission therefore presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending for the second time Council Decision 2003/67/EC as regards protection measures relating to Newcastle disease in the United States of America, reducing the size of the restricted area and further prolonging the protection measures until 1 December 2003.

Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2001/618/EC to include certain
departments of France and the Province of Bolzano in Italy in the lists of Member States and regions free of Aujeszky’s disease and regions where approved eradication programmes are in place (doc. SANCO/10350/2003) (A.L.)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending Decision 2001/618/EC to include certain departments of France and the Province of Bolzano in Italy in the lists of Member States and regions free of Aujeszky’s disease and regions where approved eradication programmes are in place.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending the programmes approved by Decision 2002/304/EC with a view to obtaining the status of approved zones with regard to the fish diseases viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) applied in Finland and Italy (Doc SANCO/10348/2003-rev.2) (YT). (See also point 9 of the agenda of the SCFCAH meeting on 8-9 April 2003 - documents SANCO/10203/2003 and SANCO/10204/2003)

In order to preserve the vulnerable species Baltic salmon, sea trout and whitefish, restocking in the Finnish rivers Kyijoki and Summanjoki are necessary. The Finnish authorities wish to transfer live eggs from wild fish from the Pyhtää restriction zone, provided that all appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the eggs are free of VHS and IHN.

In order to increase the level of protection as regards introduction of fish, live trout and other fish destined to restaurants for direct consumption as well as rainbow trout intended for introduction into certain artificial lakes or fish water, must come from farms or areas recognised free of VHS and IHN.

The Commission therefore presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending the programmes approved by Decision 2002/304/EC with a view to obtaining the status of approved zones with regard to the fish diseases viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) applied in Finland and Italy.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**


As no cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported in Botswana since January 2003 and all vaccinated animals have been destroyed and intensive surveillance, including serological surveillance is being carried out with negative results, the Botswanan authorities have given the necessary guarantees to the Commission that some veterinary control zones may again be considered free of foot and mouth disease
without vaccination. Accordingly the importation into the Community of de-boned and matured fresh meat (excluding offal) of bovine, ovine and caprine species.

As no cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported in Swaziland since January 2002, and the last vaccination was carried out in May 2001, and all vaccinated animal have been identified and intensive surveillance including serological surveillance is being carried out with negative results, the Swaziland authorities have given the necessary guarantees to the Commission that part of the territory may be considered free of foot and mouth disease without vaccination. Accordingly, the importation into the Community of de-boned and matured fresh meat (excluding offal) of bovine species should be allowed from this zone.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the 15th time Decision 2000/284/EC establishing the list of approved semen collection centres for imports of equine semen from third countries (SANCO/10362/2003) (AEF)

Following notifications by the Canadian authorities of amendments to certain approval details of one equine semen collection centre and by the American authorities of two additional equine semen collection centres, the Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending for the 15th time Decision 2000/284/EC establishing the list of approved semen collection centres for imports of equine semen from third countries.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


As required in the Council Directive on Community measures for the control of foot and mouth disease, it is necessary to produce working standards for tests for the detection of antibodies against the foot and mouth disease virus so as to ensure the reliability of results of surveillance for absence of infection in animals of susceptible species and to contribute to the further validation of tests for the detection of infected animals in a vaccinated population.

Vote postponed until the 09-10 September 2003 SCFCAH

18. Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community towards the operational costs of the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom in 2001. [SANCO/40/2003-rev 1(LVDB/TC)] (see point 17 of the SCFCAH of 06-07/05/2003 and point 18 of the SCFCAH of 13/06/2003)
Decisions 2003/214/EC, 2003/258/EC and 2003/290/EC required the Netherlands to implement the preventive emptying and destruction of poultry in holdings at risk situated in the zones mentioned in these Decisions, beyond the minimal requirement laid down in Article 5 of Directive 92/40/EEC to destroy poultry and eggs found in disease-affected holdings. Having regard to the budgetary appropriations available in 2003, an additional financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs made in application of this preventive measures may be proposed in due course.

The same level of additional contribution should be made available to Belgium where the same requirement was implemented in the context of the same crisis.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of the blue tongue disease in Italy in 2001 and 2002 [SANCO/69/2003-rev 1 (LVDB/TC)] (see point 19 of the SCFCAH of 13/06/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of the blue tongue disease in Italy in 2001 and 2002.

Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of the Newcastle disease in Denmark in 2002 [SANCO/1048/2002-rev 1(LVDB/TC)] (see point 22 of the SCFCAH of 06-07/05/2003 and point 20 of the SCFCAH of 13/06/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of the Newcastle disease in Denmark in 2002.

Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on a first financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in the Netherlands in 2003.
22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on temporary measures to prevent the transmission of foot-and-mouth disease from certain North African countries to the territory of the European Union (doc. SANCO/10367/2003) (AEF)

The Commission presented to the Member States a decision on temporary measures to prevent the transmission of foot-and-mouth disease from certain North African countries to the territory of the European Union, following a confirmation on 18 June 2003 by Libya of foot and mouth disease in cattle and considering that transport vehicles used for the transport of animals on arrival from Libya to the European Union may cause a potential risk of harbouring the virus. The Decision provides for the cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles coming from Libya.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

23. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a first financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Belgium in 2003 (SANCO/88/2003) (LVDB/TC)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on a first financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Belgium in 2003.

Vote postponed until the 15-16 July 2003 SCFCAH

24. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of classical swine fever in Germany in 2002 [SANCO/98/2003 (LVDB/TC)]

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision related to a financial contribution from the Community in the framework of the eradication of classical swine fever in Germany in 2002.

Vote postponed until the 15-16 July 2003 SCFCAH

25. Miscellaneous – Divers

- The Commission informed the Member States of a workshop on “Classical Swine Fever: Clinical Signs, epidemiology and control”, which will take place on 6-9 October 2003 at the EU reference laboratory for CSF in Hanover, Germany.
• The Commission presented the report of a working group meeting of bee experts to discuss control strategies against the small hive beetle and other Apiculture infestations and disease, which took place in Brussels on 24 June 2003.

• The Member States informed the Commission of their position regarding vaccination against Newcastle disease in a non-vaccinating Member State before dispatch to another State.

• The Swedish authorities informed the Commission and the Member States of a salmonella outbreak in a feeding plant in Sweden.

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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