

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 3-4 MAY 2006
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

1. Update information in relation to the avian influenza situation in the EU and in third countries

The Commission expressed its concern on the still evolving avian influenza situation and referred to a fax that was sent to the Member States a few days ago asking them to react with outmost caution as regards the avian influenza H5N1 virus. Via a “Tour de Table” the Member States presented the avian influenza situation and the application of measures in their countries.

Following the finding of an infected duck on 2 May, **Denmark** established new zones on 3 May. The risk factors in Denmark are that H5N1 is established in wild fauna and therefore continuous findings in wild birds are expected. Denmark considers the regionalized lifting of restrictions (allowing outdoor poultry holding). In certain risk areas indoor keeping will be maintained. Pigeon races and gatherings are still prohibited.

The German delegation distributed and presented “Current situation of Avian Influenza in the Federal Republic of Germany”. The German delegate gave an update on the outbreak in the poultry farm in Saxony. The lifting of measures according to Decision 2006/135/EC are foreseen for 8 May. Moreover, “Avian Influenza Biosecurity measures in the Federal Republic of Germany” was presented. The holding of chicken, turkeys, ducks, geese and some other species inside closed stables will be maintained until 15 May. As regards the keeping of poultry after 15 May some measures will be relaxed but the ban will certainly not be totally lifted. Feed and water is only provided at places that are protected against wild migratory birds. Additional protection measures in poultry holdings such as veterinary checks and measures for persons are in place. Poultry markets and expositions are prohibited with certain derogations.

The delegate from Estonia stated that the whole territory is a high-risk area since 15 February. Vaccination of zoo birds was started on 13 April. All biosecurity measures will be kept in place at least until June.

Norway has not yet had any positive cases. Migration is taking place rather late this year. The Commission informed the Member States that penguins have been illegally vaccinated in an aquarium in Bergen.

Iceland is carrying out a surveillance programme which is in accordance with the EU surveillance programme.

The Spanish delegate informed that so far no cases of H5N1 were found on the Spanish territory. The measures that are prescribed in the Community are adopted and

implemented. A compulsory census was introduced. With respect to the sampling programme over 20.000 samples were analysed. In 32 high-risk zones birds are kept inside.

In France the situation is that there is a significant reduction of the numbers of infected wild birds. To date 62 birds were found positive for H5N1. Protection and surveillance zones are still in place in the department of Ain. As regards biosecurity measures, the general principle is to keep domestic poultry inside. Markets, fairs and exhibitions are still prohibited. As regards the racing of pigeons training flights are allowed but there is no authorisation for contests. Dogs and cats have to be kept inside in regulated areas. Until 31 May all measures will be maintained. After this date certain measures can be relaxed or lifted. Preventive vaccination is ongoing in the department of Landes until 30 June and depending on the opinion of the French Food Safety Agency AFSSA preventive vaccination might be stopped during the summer.

The delegate from **Cyprus** stated that the measures against avian influenza have been continuously applied since September. High-risk areas were mainly established around wetlands. The Ministry has put in place a contingency plan in cases of outbreaks of avian influenza. Problems occurred with exports to Albania of poultry products. The delegate highlighted again that Cyprus had never been affected by the disease. The sampling frequency of ostrich farms has been intensified. Due to practical problems, birds stay outside in ratite farms.

Latvia has the obligation to keep poultry inside in the whole country. However, confinement measures should be lifted by 15 May. Storks have been tested but found negative.

The delegate from **Lithuania** stated that the virus was not yet been detected in the country. All tests from sampling were negative. Confinement measures in the whole territory should remain in place until 20 May. More than 24.000 samples have been taken in backyard flocks. Pigeon races are forbidden.

Luxembourg has not been affected by the disease. The keeping of poultry inside is lifted as of 1 May. Risk-areas have not been defined but surveillance is maintained in a constant way. Shows and markets are subject to prior authorisation.

Hungary has no new cases to report since the last SCFCAH. Poultry is still kept indoors.

The **Netherlands** have lifted the obligation to keep poultry inside since 1 May. An active and extensive surveillance programme on dead wild birds is in place. In terms of migration the peak of movement has passed. Measures on protection of feed and water remain in place. Regarding backyard poultry keepers a number of measures are still in place. There is also a ban on poultry gatherings. Pigeon races are committed. Regarding vaccination, the Netherlands is half way through the vaccination campaign. The programme covers the whole of the Netherlands and is to run until 30 June. 455 backyard flocks and 2 commercial establishments have been vaccinated. Following the presentation from the Netherlands on the vaccination programme a discussion on this issue took place.

The Commission expressed its concerns for the decision taken by the Netherlands that biosecurity measures should be maintained in high risk areas to avoid introduction of the virus into poultry holdings.

The Bulgarian delegation updated the Committee on the disease situation in Bulgaria. The situation is favourable as of 2 May. Surveillance measures are in full compliance with the requirements of Community legislation. There have not been any signals about higher sickness or mortality rates and about any avian influenza suspect cases both in wild and domestic birds on the territory of the country. Poultry is confined.

The Romanian delegate gave a presentation on the disease situation in Romania. Since the first outbreak on 7 October 2005 the disease circulated to 8 other counties. A total of 53 outbreaks of H5N1 were confirmed in poultry, the last outbreak was closed on 21 April. All outbreaks in poultry arose in backyard flocks. During the last month no new outbreaks were registered. 24 wild birds were confirmed positive for avian influenza. There have been no cases of avian flu in humans.

The **Austrian delegation** presented its vaccination plan against avian influenza in zoo birds. Austria also updated on the avian influenza situation: a ban on keeping poultry outdoors is in place since 30 April. Due to several cases of avian influenza in wild birds this ban has been prolonged in certain risk areas until 12 May. 81 swans, 29 tufted ducks and 15 other species were found positive since February. 24 protection and surveillance zones are in place on the Austrian territory. Following advice from the Commission, the Austrian Veterinary Authorities are applying strict surveillance measures.

Poland reported that all protection and surveillance zones were lifted in the different areas that were affected by cases of avian influenza H5N1 virus in wild birds. The Commission would be interested in receiving a written report on the infected swan found in a park in the city of Torun.

The **United Kingdom** distributed an epidemiology report on the H7 avian influenza virus outbreak in Norfolk. On 28 April laboratory examinations revealed evidence of infection with LPAI H7N3 virus strain. Evidence of H7 AI virus infection was found on two additional poultry farms. At the moment it is impossible to determine whether or not these three flocks were infected by a common source, such as infected wild birds. More investigations need to be carried out to determine the possible source of infection and the reason for transmission between flocks, should this have occurred.

Sweden distributed maps indicating cases of avian influenza in wild birds. The last finding was on 26 April near Stockholm. Sweden is planning to keep protection measures in place including confinement but it is trying to find solutions to respond to animal welfare concerns. Pigeon races will be allowed on a national but banned on an international level.

The Commission is intending to send a short questionnaire to Member States on the measures being implemented.

The Commission distributed document SANCO/10318/2006 “**Preliminary summary of the results for avian influenza surveillance in wild birds for the period 1 July 2005 – 31 January 2006**”. For transparency reasons the Commission would like to

make the results public in a summarised form. Each Member States should therefore confirm the information contained in the draft report.

Document SANCO/10268/2006 Rev.1 was distributed to the Member States in preparation of the working group meeting of 8 May. The document refers to **“Guidelines on the implementation of survey programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds to be carried out in the Member States in 2007”**.

Moreover document SANCO/10338/2006 **“Highly pathogenic avian influenza cases in wild birds notified by the Member States to ADNS for the period 1 February – 26 April 2006”** was distributed to the delegates. This document is also part of the guidelines and reflects the format that should be used in future for reporting on dead wild birds. The protocol should replace the excel file that was used previously. It covers both the reporting on LPAI and HPAI. The Commission asked Member States to check this document as it intends to make it publicly available on the web.

The Commission summarised the policy on **pigeon races** in the individual Member States and distributed the table to the delegates of the Committee. Many Member States have not yet provided information and were asked to send it to the Commission as soon as possible.

The Commission updated the Committee on the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency** enhancing import measures respecting live birds and avian influenza. Measures apply to countries which are recognized as being free of highly pathogenic AI in their domestic flocks. Canada still has not changed its position and continues to prohibit trade in poultry, poultry products and birds with any country which is not recognized as free of highly pathogenic AI in its domestic flocks. The Commission presented some of the comments received from France and would be grateful if other Member States would send in comments as well. The Commission announced that there is a working group meeting on 8 May. Moreover the Commission will come back with updated information after discussion with the Canadians on the surveillance plan.

2. Information on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in Argentina, Brazil and Botswana (SANCO/10296/2006)

The Commission provided short chronology of events since the FMD outbreak in Brazil in October 2005 and updated the Committee on the current situation in particular on one outbreak which happened recently in State Mato Grosso do Sul. Document SANCO/10334/2006 containing the latest technical note (No 17) from Brazil was also distributed.

The Commission provided short chronology of events since the FMD outbreak in Argentina in February 2006 and distributed the final report received from the Argentinean authorities on the FMD situation. In that SENASA informs that the outbreak detected in the province of Corrientes has been controlled and eradicated. SENASA also concludes that the vaccination they provide offers good protection against infection, unless it is not done according to the rules. The source of infection was not found, one of the possibilities is illegal movement of animals and/or products from Paraguay, the matter is further investigated by other government agencies. The Argentinean authorities are lifting measures domestically. EU-restrictions, however, remain in place until further discussions take place.

The competent authorities of Botswana reported an outbreak of FMD which occurred 45 km from the border with Zimbabwe. The focus of the outbreak is in the veterinary disease control zone 7. The Botswana authorities have taken restrictive measures by immediately suspending movement of susceptible animals and animal products within and out of zone 7 and by closing down the two EU approved export establishments. Furthermore, surveillance measures in all areas surrounding the focus of the outbreak were implemented. The first clinical signs were observed on 20 April. To be consistent with the measures by Botswana, the Commission intends to present a document which aims to suspend the import of certain products from this date from the affected BW-1 region of Botswana.

3. Information from Germany on the Classical Swine Fever situation in Germany

The German delegate distributed and presented “Update on CSF in domestic pigs in North Rhine Westfalia Germany”. The last outbreak occurred on 1 April and all the infected farms were inside the initially defined risk area. The 10km zone and buffer zone were lifted on 28 April after all clinical and laboratory tests proved negative. The lifting of the 3km zone “Borken” is foreseen for 12 May. The total laboratory testing amounts to 60.000 samples. The Commission would like to reduce the 45 day rule into a 30 day rule. (See also point 11 of this short report)

4. Information on the control and eradication plan of Classical Swine Fever in Romania

The delegate from Romania presented “Classical Swine Fever in domestic pigs and wild boars in Romania”. 284 outbreaks occurred in backyard flocks and 5 dead wild boars were detected in 2006. An eradication strategy based on EU legislation has been drawn up and it provides for the emergency vaccination in commercial farms. There is a Classical Swine Fever emergency vaccination plan with marker vaccine in veterinary authorised pig holdings in compliance with the provisions of Council Directive 2001/89/EC. An emergency vaccination plan in feral pigs is set up with the support of TAIEX and EU experts on 2-5 May.

The Commission summarised that the Classical Swine Fever disease is very serious and widespread in Romania. The problem is that the disease is mainly present in backyard flocks. It is also clear that the virus is present in the wild boar population. However, it is not clear how far it affects circulation of domestic pigs. With the accession of Romania in view, safeguard measures need to be taken. The Commission might come back with a proposal in the next Committee. If the Committee supports the vaccination plan it has to be clear that this is only a temporary measure. The Commission will keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation.

The Bulgarian delegation updated the Committee on the Classical Swine Fever situation. In 2005 a total of 7 administrative districts (wild boar) were affected with the disease. Bulgaria intends to vaccinate feral pigs. The Commission will assess the vaccination plan submitted by Bulgaria.

5. Information by Italy on African swine fever and the implementation of Commission Decisions 2005/363/EC and 2005/624/EC

The Italian delegate distributed and presented "ASF in Sardinia". The epidemiological situation of the disease is favourable. The Commission thanked Italy for this presentation and will come back with detailed comments in future.

6. Information from the Commission on a draft Commission Decision amending Appendix A to Annex VIII to the 2003 Act of Accession as regards certain establishments in the meat sector in Latvia (SANCO/10258/2006/Rev.1) (MH)

The Commission informed that Latvia has submitted a declaration stating that all nine outstanding establishments on the list of establishments in transition in the meat sector have either completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation or have ceased their activities. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.

7. Information from the Commission on a draft Commission Decision amending Appendix B to Annex IX to the 2003 Act of Accession as regards certain establishments in the meat sector in Lithuania (SANCO/10259/2006/Rev.1)

According to an official declaration from the Lithuanian competent authority certain establishments in the meat sector have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. One establishment has ceased its activities. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.

8. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin. (RH) (See point 3 of the 17 December 2004 SCFCAH ; point 2 of the 19 October 2004, 18 January, 16 February, 16 March, 21 April, 24 May, 21-22 June, 23 September, 18 October, 22-23 November, 20-21 December 2005, 24 January 2006 SCFCAHs; point 8 of 7-8 March SCFCAH ; point 7 of 4-5 April SCFCAH)

The first technical meeting on the revision of the common EU export certificates took place in Moscow on 20-21 April. Good progress was made but a lot remains to be discussed. The next meeting in Moscow is planned for 11-12 May. The Austrian Presidency will organise a Council Working Group on 16 May to discuss the Russian certificates.

Russia has applied the provisions of the regionalisation memorandum by regionalising France and Germany for avian influenza.

9. Information on the UK system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals implemented in Great Britain and Northern Ireland temporarily recognised by Commission Decision 2005/617/EC.

The final report 7770/2005 of a mission carried out in the UK from 12 to 16 December 2005 in order to evaluate the operation of the ovine and caprine identification systems was distributed to the Committee.

The overall conclusion is that UK has failed to meet the commitments but that the system could satisfy the requirements once it is fully implemented. Considering the conclusions reached in the FVO report, the Commission cannot propose at this stage to grant either a temporary or permanent derogation. The Commission would be very pleased to hear the Member States' opinion on the present situation. The UK has submitted an Action Plan that will now be assessed by the Commission. If this plan proves that UK meets the requirements the Commission could come back with a proposal for a draft Decision. At the next SCFCAH the Commission will present the results of the expert group meeting which will take place 22 May.

10. Information from the Commission on veterinary programmes (FR)

The Commission highlighted that Romania and Bulgaria might have for the first time the opportunity to receive Community co-financing for their eradication programmes. Document SANCO/10316/2006 "Animal disease eradication, control and monitoring programmes – Priorities for 2007 and timing" was distributed and discussed. The purpose of this document is to set priorities for the allocation of funds for 2007 and outline the steps which will be followed when considering the programmes submitted by Member States and Acceding States for co-financing by the Commission in the context of Council Decision 90/424/EEC. Programmes presented after the deadline of 1 June 2006 will not be taken into account. Furthermore, the supporting document on Guidelines to present the eradication programmes SANCO/10186/2005/Rev.2 was distributed.

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 and in particular in relation to avian influenza and classical swine fever

a) The Commission distributed a « draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/274/EC concerning certain protection measures relation to classical swine fever in Germany ». (SANCO/10336/2006) (JPV)

The Commission's representative explained that on the basis of new epidemiological information provided by Germany the duration for the minimum residence of pigs in the holding of origin should be reduced from 45 days to 30 days. The Commission would like to adopt the Decision by end of this week.

Vote: Unanimously in favour. Greece absent but represented by Cyprus.

b) The Commission presented "a draft Commission Decision concerning measures to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza caused by influenza A virus of subtype H5N1 to birds kept in zoos and approved bodies, institutes or centres in the Member States and repealing Decision 2005/744/EC." (SANCO/10168/2006/Rev.10)

The Committee has already backed this Commission proposal in the SCFCAH of 4-5 April 2006; however, it has not yet been adopted by the Commission. It is therefore possible to propose slight amendments to the title of this decision and to include Austria (which submitted its vaccination plan on 21 April) in Annex III.

c) The Commission presented “a draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards imports of fresh meat from Botswana”. (SANCO/10328/2006/Rev.1) (LK)

In order to take into account the measures introduced by Botswana following the outbreak of FMD, the list of authorised third countries and parts thereof, as set out in Decision 79/542/EEC, should be amended. Accordingly imports from Botswana into the Community of consignments of deboned and matured meat from domestic animals and farmed game slaughtered or wild game hunted prior to 20 April 2006 originating from the territory of BW-1 should be indicated as authorised. However, all consignments of such meat from such animals slaughtered or hunted on or after that date originating from that territory should be indicated as not authorised.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/148/EC on introducing preventive vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 and related provisions for movements in France (SANCO/10331/2006/Rev.2) (MP)

The Commission’s representative explained that during the SCFCAH on 20 April 2006 France has presented its first comprehensive report on the use of preventive vaccination. Furthermore, France has requested a prolongation of the use of vaccination in ducks and geese for the purpose of gaining further experience and epidemiological insight and has correspondingly submitted an amendment to the preventive vaccination plan. With the view to acquiring increased knowledge on vaccination in these poultry categories it is appropriate to approve the amendment to the vaccination plan submitted by France.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning certain transitional measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds in the Community (SANCO/10194/2006/Rev. 8) (WAV/MP)

The Commission’s representative explained that small amendments have been made to this proposal which was presented to the delegates of the Committee already several times. The Commission also announced a working group meeting on the Diagnostic Manual for 15 May.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending decision 2006/135/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry in the Community (SANCO/10261/2006/Rev. 11) (AEF/MP)

The Commission's representative explained that the proposal reflects the fact there is a parallel document on transitional measures. The Commission took account the various progress made by some Member States in transposing the new Directive.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2005/710/EC, 2005/734/EC, 2005/758/EC, 2005/759/EC, 2005/760/EC, 2006/247/EC and 2006/265/EC, relating to certain measures adopted on account of the threat posed by the Asian strain of the avian influenza virus (SANCO/10314/2006/Rev.3) (AB)

The aim of this proposal is firstly to extend preventive measures against avian influenza laid down in Decisions 2005/710/EC, 2005/734/EC, 2005/759/EC, 2005/760/EC, 2006/247/EC and 2006/265/EC until 31 December 2006. It was agreed to extend the import ban on live captive birds from third countries and the restrictions on the movement of birds accompanying their owners until 31 July.

Moreover, the Commission's representative explained that information sent to the Commission by Romania and Bulgaria and the surveillance undertaken in those third countries makes it clear that they have controlled the disease on their territory and also ensured that the virus has not spread to those areas which to date have been free of the virus. It is therefore appropriate to limit the suspension of the imports provided for in Decisions 2005/710/EC and 2006/247/EC to those parts of Romania and Bulgaria that have been affected by the virus and are at risk. The Commission also stated that Croatia has reported further cases of the disease in wild birds outside the area currently regionalised in Decision 2005/758/EC. Accordingly, it is necessary to extend the suspension of certain imports from Croatia as laid down in that Decision to cover the newly affected part of the territory of that third country.

Finally, the Decision whereby the Swiss authorities apply the same rigorous prevention and control measures in their restriction zones in the event of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak there, as are laid down in the EU Decisions for avian influenza in wild birds and in poultry should be extended. This Decision should be extended to 31 December 2006.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the fourth time Decision 2005/758/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to avian influenza in Croatia (SANCO/10315/2006) (AB)

This draft Decision was combined with the draft measure presented under point 15 of this short report.

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving on behalf of the European Community amendments to Annexes V and VIII to the Agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products (SANCO/10177/2006/Rev.1) (LT)

The Commission explained that the Joint Management Committee at its meeting on 20 October 2005 issued a recommendation concerning the determination of equivalence of sanitary requirements for live bees and bumble bees. The Committee also recommended the determination of equivalence of certification systems and suggested appropriate procedures to conduct physical checks at the import of these commodities.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/56/EC on health certificates for the importation of live animals and animal products from New Zealand (SANCO/10178/2006) (LT)

The Commission's representative explained that account should be taken of recent acknowledgements of equivalence of the disease status and of sanitary measures for trade in live honey bees and bumble bees. Simplified veterinary certification was agreed for this category. An appropriate model certificate should be set out. Other certification provisions need to be updated to take account of the changes in relevant Community legislation. Decision 2003/56/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the purchase by the Community of marker vaccine against classical swine fever to increase the Community stocks of those vaccines (SANCO/10297/2006) (JPV)

The Commission's representative gave an overview of the Classical Swine Fever vaccine bank. The shelf life of the vaccine has been prolonged for six months after its expiry at the end of 2005. The shelf life will now be prolonged for another six months. Moreover, the Commission made clear that Classical swine fever is wide spread in Romania and constitutes a danger for the Community. Romania has elaborated an emergency vaccination plan with marker vaccine and has requested the Community for support by delivering the vaccine. For the purpose of reinforcing the Community ability to respond to classical swine fever, it is necessary to purchase 7,000,000 doses of marker vaccine and to make arrangements for keeping them in stock and having them rapidly available in case of an emergency. The intention of this draft measure is that the Community shall purchase as soon as possible of marker vaccine against classical swine fever.

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 92/452/EEC as regards certain embryo collection and production teams in the United States of America (SANCO/10294/2006/Rev.1) (HK)

The United States of America have provided guarantees regarding compliance with the appropriate rules set out in Directive 89/556/EEC and the embryo collection teams concerned have been officially approved for exports to the Community by the veterinary services of that country. Decision 92/452/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning the financing of studies, impact assessments and evaluations covering the areas of food safety, animal health and welfare and zootechnics (SANCO/10231/2006) (EM)

The Commission's representative explained that evaluating policies and preparing impact assessments for all proposals are commitments of the Commission to implement the "Better Regulation initiative". In order to carry out these tasks, a call for tender for an evaluation/impact assessments/studies framework contract covering the policy areas of food safety, animal health and welfare, and zootechnics has been launched following an open procedure during the last quarter 2004. The framework contract has been concluded on 18 June 2005 for a first period of 24 months. This framework contract is already providing relevant information serving as a basis for the Community decision making process. All individual tasks shall be subject to specific agreements. These agreements shall be signed between the Commission and the selected contractor as defined in the framework contract.

This Commission Decision aims to provide an adequate funding (900.000 €) to cover the expenses expected during the second year of functioning of the framework contract.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

22. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the placing on the market of certain animal by-products (Legal basis: Art. 28, 29(3), 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/3890/2005 Rev. 6) (KSV)

The Commission's representative outlined the proposed draft Regulation includes several amendments to the by-products Regulation. It is the intention to propose this document for technical vote at the next Committee. A final vote is foreseen in early autumn. Several Member States made positive comments on the Commission proposal.

23. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down transitional measures in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 for certain animal by-products classified as category 2 material and amending Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 (Legal basis: Art. 5(4), 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/10100/2006 rev.4) (KSV)

The Commission explained that the “Report on animal by-products”¹ adopted by the Commission on 21 October 2005 and presented to the Council on 24 October 2005 reflects the above and envisages respective amendments of Articles 4, 5 and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 in the course of the Co-Decision Review scheduled to start from the end of 2006. Pending these amendments it should be possible to use certain low risk animal by-products classified as Category 2 material for feeding purposes. Commission Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 of 29 April 2004 laying down transitional measures in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 for certain animal by-products classified as Category 1 and 2 materials and intended for technical purposes² should therefore be amended accordingly.

It is the intention to propose this document for technical vote at the next Committee. A final vote is foreseen in early autumn.

24. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down implementing measures for the lists of plants to be drawn up by Member States in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption (Legal basis: Art. 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (SANCO/10099/2006) (KSV)

The Commission’s representative explained that Article 26(4) of the above Regulation provides for Member States to draw up lists of plants approved in accordance with that Regulation within its territory and to make these lists available to other Member States and to the Commission. Detailed arrangements should be laid down for the presentation of the relevant information. This is the purpose of this Regulation which should be submitted for vote at one of the subsequent Committees.

25. Exchange of views of the Committee on technical specifications in relation to the master list of lists and the lists of approved plants handling animal by-products (SANCO/10149/2006) (This document is based on SANCO/10099/2006, see point 24 of the agenda) (KSV)

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 October 2002 on animal by-products not intended for human consumption, plants handling those animal by-products must be approved by the competent authority of each Member State. According to Article 26 of that Regulation, Member States must make up-to-date lists of such plants available to other Member States and to the public. This document lays down technical specifications for the presentation of approved lists in the internet.

¹ Document COM(2005) 521 Final

² OJ L 162, 30.4.2004, p. 62

26. Exchange of views draft Commission Regulation implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards the method for identifying equidae (SANCO/10061/2006 – Rev.1) (KUS)

The Commission explained the key issues of the document and asked Member States to forward it to the individual national experts for potential comments. With a view to the uniform application of Community legislation on the identification of equidae in the Member States and to ensuring it is clear and transparent, Decisions 93/623/EEC and 2000/68/EC should be repealed and replaced by a Regulation directly addressing the various stakeholders responsible for identifying equidae independently of the movement status of the animals. In order to allow the Member States to adapt to the rules laid down in this Regulation, transitional measures should be provided for. It is intended to present the draft for an opinion in a joined Committee of the SCFCAH and the Standing Committee on Zootechnics as soon as possible.

27. Miscellaneous

DK – The Danish delegate wonders whether the 30 day rule applies to the Oldenburg cattle-exhibition (Holstein exhibition). Germany found a solution to avoid the 30 day period

ES- Spain has sent a letter on 25 April to the Commission concerning possible illegal introduction of meat from Uruguay.

AT- The Austrian delegate asked whether it is possible to tag a short-ear sheep. The Commission bilaterally discussed this issue with the Austrian delegate.

The Commission informed that there is African Horse Sickness (AHS) in an AHS-free area in South Africa.

Furthermore the Commission reported on west Nile virus in Argentina. The virus was identified in 2 holdings and Argentina has suspended its exports. The Community is not blocking the whole of Argentina. Argentina can certify that the holding is free of AHS. The Commission also distributed information concerning the preparedness of the equestrian events in Hong Kong 2008 Olympic Games.