SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 26 June 2006
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)

President: Bernard Van Goethem and Alberto Laddomada

All the Member States were present except Estonia, represented by Finland, Malta and Slovenia.

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

   **Classical swine fever – Germany**

   Germany presented an update on the eradication of CSF in North Rhine-Westphalia and the measures taken. Figures were provided on the pigs that were slaughtered based on the “Belgian model” (Art. 3(a) of Decision 2006/346/EC). The number of pigs and holdings involved, as of 22 June 2006, amounted to 41,166 and 401 respectively. Restrictions on farms in certain surveillance and protection zones have been lifted following negative clinical examination of farms, in accordance with Decision 2002/106/EC. Data were also provided on the results of tests on pigs according to Decision 2006/346/EC and the tests required for the movement of pigs. The German authorities announced that farmers decided not to make use of the provisions of Decision 2006/411/EC to transport pigs from a holding in a surveillance zone to empty farms in the protection zones. The Commission expressed its astonishment as the previous provisions have been asked for by the German authorities with the argument that this was absolutely necessary for 60,000 pigs which needed to be urgently moved from overcrowded farms in the surveillance zones.

2. **Information on the avian influenza situation in Hungary**

   Hungary presented an update of the HPAI situation in Bács-Kiskun, the county with the largest population of poultry, mainly domestic waterfowl, and where most of Hungary’s wild bird cases have been detected.

   On 3 June 2006, the Hungarian delegation reported a new outbreak on a registered goose farm in Bodoglár. Measures of movement control, stamping out, census of holdings, clinical inspection and screening were immediately implemented, as well as preventive and additional control measures. On 10 June, a secondary outbreak in the same village was reported and 4 contact holdings were revealed. PZ/SZ were immediately extended. On 16 June, a new suspicion in a geese flock in Szank has been declared and confirmed. Decisions 2006/415/EC and 2006/416/EC are applied.

   Since 16 June, 10 new outbreaks have been reported among geese and ducks, the last one on 21 June in Petőfiszállás. Restricted zones (PZ/SZ) were enlarged.
holdings in Bács-Kiskun are affected by HPAI, from which 7 have been confirmed. The laboratory tests for the other 8 are pending. The suspected flocks are all sampled for laboratory testing and immediately stamped out. Pre-emptive culling is also carried out continuously in the 1km zone surrounding the outbreaks to avoid further spread of the virus.

The actions currently taken include:

- Targeting of bird surveillance in and around the affected area
- Instructions given to all farmers by official veterinarians
- Involvement of Police and National Security Service
- In Bodoglár and Petőfiszállás, backyard holdings are depopulated
- No enlargement of restricted areas when not necessary
- Pigeon races still banned in the whole country

Problems remain such as the still very high density of poultry population, the slaughter of force-fed ducks and geese, or the fact that some businesses stop feeding poultry to minimise losses. Pigeon races are still problematic as well as changing the legislation in the country.

Updated information is available on [www.oai.hu](http://www.oai.hu)

Although the origin of the epidemic in Hungary cannot yet be determined, the Commission acknowledged the efforts made by the Hungarian authorities. Therefore, no extra measures at Community level are required. An update on pathological signs is necessary and the ban on pigeon races, as expressed by some Member States’ experts, should remain until the restrictions are lifted. The Commission suggested reflecting upon future solutions for poultry husbandry systems. Traditional poultry farming in Hungary is an outdoor activity except for feeding and watering. There are no buildings. The risk related to contacts of such poultry with wild birds which are present in great number in the area was underlined. Nets are the only solution so far in Hungary to protect the flocks. Soil disinfection is envisaged for the open air runs. The Hungarian authorities welcome advice and experience in this field.

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 and in particular in relation to avian influenza**

No items were raised for this point.