SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HEL D IN BRUSSELS ON 03-04 October 2006
(Section Animal Health and Welfare & Controls and Import Conditions)

President: Bernard Van Goethem and Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present.

1. Information from Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands on the bluetongue situation.

**Belgium.** The Belgian delegation made a presentation on the current situation as regards bluetongue in Belgium. To date 140 cases have been confirmed and 34 suspicions are under investigation. The Belgian representative also gave recapitulation concerning the measures in force respectively in the restricted and the protection zone and informed the Member States that the Belgian authorities are planning a large screening to establish the bluetongue infection status in the protection zone. No positive case was detected from the 833 samples which were examined so far. As regards the entomological surveillance, no confirmation of virus in culicoides was found.

**Germany.** The German delegation made a presentation on the current situation as regards bluetongue in Germany and reported 1 new case in Rheinland-Pfalz. Up until 2 October, 137 cases have been confirmed. Following the disease situation and the new outbreak in the Netherlands (near the border) the restricted zones were extended. Entomological monitoring showed that in most of the cases the vector was of the Culicoides Obsoletus species.

**The Netherlands.** The Dutch delegation made a presentation on the current situation as regards bluetongue in The Netherlands. To date 104 holdings were infected. Screening in the 20km zone covers 2043 ruminant holdings in which clinical state during the remaining period of the vector season is carried out. To date 11 holdings were found positive. Entomological surveillance took place during which 3242 female culicoides were trapped.

**France.** The French delegation made a presentation on the current situation as regards bluetongue in France. To date only 4 holdings were found infected, 2 of these were detected following clinical surveillance. The 2 other cases were trade related and 7 suspicions are under investigation. The French authorities are planning reinforced serological surveillance in 115 holdings for which 3500 serological tests will be carried out.
2. **Information by Romania on the eradication of classical swine fever and the emergency vaccination programme.**

The Commission distributed the 2007 programme of monitoring control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever in Romania (Doc. SANCO 10552/2006 Rev.2). The programme also covers emergency vaccination against Classical Swine Fever in authorised pig holdings from Romania and in non-professional pig holdings, in compliance with the provisions of article 19 of Council Directive 2001/89/EC.

Its objectives include the monitoring of CSF of pigs and wild boar, rapid and effective application of control and eradication measures, and adequate recording of epidemiological data and an emergency vaccination of domestic pigs in non professional and professional commercial farms.

The vaccination is a transitional measure intending to improve the control of the disease. Romania proposes to start the emergency vaccination on 1 December 2006, using a marker vaccine in commercial farms, while in non-professional holdings a conventional live attenuated vaccine will be used. Emergency vaccination against Classical Swine Fever in wild boar would be implemented at a later stage. Romania requests the EU for the supply with vaccines. In order to monitor the results of the vaccination plan, the Romanian representative requested expert assistance from all the Member States. Monitoring of CSF in pigs and wild boars will be performed in the year 2007. The programme will expire in 2010.

The Commission stated that Romania will be provided with 7 million doses of marker vaccines. 1.5 million doses that are currently available will be supplied to Romania as soon as possible after assessment of the vaccination plan. As far as concerns the live attenuated vaccine, there are currently 1 million doses at the EU bank that will expire end of 2006 and could be supplied to Romania. The Commission insisted that Romania must commit itself to be able to implement the plan. Romania has to ensure that a national control disease centre and an appropriate organisation is established. It should be clear that in any case the emergency vaccination plan will only be allowed for a limited period.

3. **Information on vaccination of poultry against avian influenza in France, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands**

**France.** An overview of last year's vaccination campaign was provided. France informed that it does not desire to re-launch the vaccination campaign.

**Italy.** The Italian representative made a presentation on the issue. Italy is still implementing an emergency vaccination programme, which had been approved as of 1 October 2004. Between 24/06-29/09/2006, a total number of 217,000 doses of the homologous vaccine (against subtype H7) and 5,719,000 doses of the bivalent vaccine against both avian influenza subtype H5 and H7 were distributed in the regions of Veneto and Lombardy. In these two regions, all
serological and discriminatory tests applied on both vaccinated and non vaccinated birds, were respectively negative, both inside and outside the vaccination area.

**Germany.** The German delegation informed that the beginning of the field study on vaccine efficacy will be delayed until the middle or end of October.

**The Netherlands.** Vaccination already took place and it will be continued next year in free range poultry and hobby holders at least until 31 July 2007.

4. **Presentation of a discussion paper on vaccination of poultry against highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 (DIVA strategy) (Doc. SANCO/10103/2006 – Rev.3)**

The Commission presented the discussion paper on vaccination of poultry against highly pathogenic avian influenza which aims to provide guidance on the possible use of vaccination against HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry or other captive birds in the current EU Member States in the second half of 2006. The Commission questioned the Member States about the appropriateness to create a vaccine bank, and of affirmation which type of vaccine and how many doses should be kept in the vaccine bank. The Commission also noted that some Member States are developing their own vaccine banks. The Member States were asked to comment.

5. **Information on Avian Influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds, final report on avian influenza surveys in poultry in 2005 (Document SANCO/10558/2006-Rev.1)**

The Commission distributed the report and asked Member States delegates to carefully check the report and come back with comments and corrections so that it can be published. It was pointed out that the wild bird data from 2005-including January 2006 would be issued separately from the poultry data. It was emphasised that the Community Reference Laboratory had faced difficulties in collating the data due to lack in information submitted. This has also its bearing on some of the conclusions. The main conclusions of the report are not properly inserted. The wild bird data 2005-beginning 2006 were not yet included in the report. DG SANCO is planning to organise in November or December, a meeting with the Ornithology Committee of DG ENV to review the final report and the state of play as regards the role of wild birds.

6. **Formal presentation by Ireland on the EIA (Equine Infectious Anaemia) situation**
Ireland. The Irish representative made a presentation on the issue. Until 3 October 2006, 25 cases were confirmed in 12 infected premises. 32 premises were restricted, including the contiguous ones and more than 950 animals are still under test. The first ill mare admitted a veterinary hospital on 12 June 2006. On 14 June samples were sent to the Irish Equine Centre, the DAF was notified and the CVRL started post-mortem examination. Two concurrently dead foals from the same farm were also submitted for post-mortem examination. Epidemiological investigations commenced. On 15 June 2006, the first two positive cases (from two non-associated farms) were confirmed. On 16 June, a third case was confirmed. Following the confirmation of the disease, the hospital cleaned and disinfected the contaminated areas. All the residents and departed contacts were isolated, tested and restricted of movement. Both farms subjected to movement restrictions, and all the animals were tested. Contact studs identified and tested, and human contacts were investigated. Other contiguous farms were identified and restricted, an inventory of animals was prepared and all the animals are subjected to test. The investigations showed no evidence of source among the live animals but an early indication that illegally imported hyper-immune plasma was used on the index farm, the same plasma as the one used in Italy (see report on Italy below). The product was not available for testing but the farm employees and the veterinarian were interviewed. All international and European partners were informed. The Irish authorities contacted the industries and informed them about the situation. A significant amount of voluntary testing took place and the sales companies were informed that all sales in 2006 require negative Coggins test. The Irish authorities will continue the risk based sero-surveillance and maintain the restrictions on a small number of high-risk animals for more than 90 days.

Italy said that between April and June some cases of EIA were found, caused by illegal use of plasma. The authorities are investigating the case in close cooperation with Ireland. The owners of horses carry out procedures without veterinary control but the authorities failed to control them and they only see the cases when animals are dead. There is also the problem of import of animals from Romania. New legislation is expected to be adopted soon in Italy.

Some Member States expressed their concerns in relation to the import of horses from Romania since it will enter the single market at the beginning of 2007. Romania replied that all their horses are tested for diseases. In Romania, the problem is not created by the sport horses but by the ones kept for work. This year until now the authorities eliminated 4,300 horses for which the owners should be compensated. The authorities don't have the means to compensate the families and as a result, they refuse to have their horses eliminated.

Germany also presented a report on EIA. In total, 12 horses were infected of which 3 new cases in the land Thuringia. At that stage of investigation movement of infected animals, and not the use of infectious plasma, was considered the most likely source of infection, but the inquiry would to continue to rule out or confirm the involvement of imported equidae.

The Commission commented that mistakes have been made by practitioners. Providing excellent information is essential for the horse industries and for the
public. The Commission stated that very little if any information had been received from Member States, notably Italy, as regards the application of Decision 2004/825/EC on protective measures with regard to imports of equidae from Romania, and in particular Article 5 thereof. No information has been communicated to the Commission on the origin of the infected blood product used both in Italy and Ireland. Details are missing on the origin of the horses affected by EIA in Germany. The Commission concluded that the issue of equine infectious anaemia should be further discussed in future meetings.

7. Information from Turkey: presentation on the situation of avian influenza and Newcastle disease in Turkey

Turkey which was especially authorized to join the meeting when this point was discussed, gave an update on outbreaks and measures taken for both diseases. Concerning avian influenza, to date 230 cases were confirmed, among them, 30 concerned wild birds; the most recent case was reported on 31 March 2006. Since October 2005, the disease was observed in 53 out of the 81 provinces. During the outbreaks, protection and surveillance zones were established as well as strict movement controls and biosecurity measures. The hunting of wild birds was banned and awareness was raised among the public about the disease. During the epidemic, the Turkish authorities have been regularly informing the EU, the OIE and the neighbouring countries and a bilateral meeting with Syria was organised. A general meeting on avian influenza was organised by FAO in April, in Ankara, and all information gathered in Turkey was shared. After the outbreaks, serological, viological and clinical surveillance has taken place in backyard and commercial flocks, with negative results. Vaccination against avian influenza has not been applied in any part of Turkey. Turkey requested the EU to lift the restrictions relating to importation into the EU of live poultry and poultry products from Turkey. Concerning Newcastle disease, prophylactic vaccination is applied. In 2005 and 2006 a total of 7 cases were confirmed and all necessary measures are being taken in case of an outbreak. There have been no cases in the commercial sector. Reports were sent to the EU and to OIE regularly by Turkey.

The Commission asked Turkey to continue its international cooperation on avian influenza and to apply the avian influenza surveillance guidance. Community assistance was offered, if needed.

8. Information from the Member States on eradication programmes 2005
Rabies 2005: Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Finland
Aujeszky's disease 2005: Belgium, Spain

Czech Republic. The representative of the Czech Republic made a presentation on the eradication programme concerning rabies. The Programme was launched in 1989 when rabies in foxes was widespread in the country. The oral
vaccination was very efficient and since 2004 Czech Republic is considered a rabies-free state. The last case was found in April 2002. There were no cases in 2004 and 2005 apart from one case of bat rabies. In 2005, the oral vaccination area was restricted to the 60km wide protective belts that border countries to the north and east. Post vaccination surveillance and monitoring showed no cases until autumn 2005. In 2005 during the spring and the autumn campaign, 800,000 vaccine doses were applied each time in an area of 31,900km². The same is planned for 2006 with the only difference to cover an area of 26,054 km². The Czech Republic would like to keep the programme for as long as the neighbouring countries are having their eradication programme.

**Germany.** The German representative made a presentation on the issue. In 2005 there was an increase of cases in comparison to the year 2004, the majority of which were fox cases. 3 human cases were also confirmed, not linked to rabies within the country. Measures were taken including epidemiological analysis of rabies situation, identification of risk areas, extension of vaccination areas for prevention of further spreading, increase of the number of vaccination campaigns in high risk areas, supplementary manual distribution of vaccine baits in populated areas and intensification of surveillance. During the year, three vaccination campaigns took place, in spring, in summer and in autumn, using 990,000 vaccine baits. In total 22,980 animals, hereof 19,472 foxes were investigated. The oral vaccination continued in 2006.

**Estonia.** The Estonian representative made a presentation on the issue. The number of cases seemed to be reduced year after year from 2003 onwards, when the number of positive cases was 814, in 2004 it was 314, in 2005 it was 266 (mainly among wild animals) and in 2006, to date, 102 cases have been detected (89% originated from non-vaccinated areas). Until 2005, the only preventive method was compulsory vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies. During the last 3 years, a total of 130,000 baits have been distributed to domestic animals. In 2006, two vaccination campaigns on the territory of Estonia are planned. The first one took place in April-May and the second one will take place in September-October. To date, 3478 samples for tetracycline detection and 1000 samples for antibody titration were taken. Estonia intends to continue vaccination campaigns until rabies is eradicated and in case neighbouring countries are not aimed at achieving this target synchronously with Estonia, vaccination will be continued in a buffer zone along the borders (30-50 km) with these countries where rabies is still present.

**France.** The French representative made a presentation on the issue. The vaccination campaign took place in 3 phases. A vaccination campaign took place in April 2005, basically at the borders with Germany. During the spring vaccination campaign, 84,400 vaccines were delivered covering an area of 4,380km² and during the Autumn campaign, 87,200 vaccines were delivered covering an area of 4,360km². In 2006, France and Germany jointly continued increased surveillance at the border area. France suspended oral vaccination for 2006 as there is no real fear of spread of the disease.

**Latvia.** The Latvian representative made a presentation on the issue. In 2004 there were 443 positive cases and in 2005, 421 cases, of which the majority were
found in foxes. Two vaccination campaigns took place in spring and autumn covering an area of 27,000km² and a total number of 1,247,200 vaccine baits were delivered. Passive surveillance in 2006 showed some cases in both wild and domestic animals of which 74% were in territory where vaccination was not performed during 2005. Vaccination is extended to the whole country in 2006. The Commission stressed that Latvia will need to improve the surveillance and efficiency of the campaign.

**Lithuania.** The Lithuanian representative made a presentation on the issue. There was an increase of cases from 1994 until 2005. In 2005, 1,652 positive cases were found, the majority being wild animals. Two vaccination campaigns took place. The first one covered half Lithuania and the second one in autumn covered the whole country. The Commission commented that the results of the oral vaccination campaign started in 2006, will become clear next year.

**Austria.** The Austrian representative made a presentation on the issue. The number of cases has been decreased considering that in 2003 there were 20 cases, in 2004 only 1 and no cases in 2005. In 2006, there is one case currently under investigation. In 2005, two vaccination campaigns took place in spring, covering an area of 14,426km², using 356,000 vaccine baits and in autumn, covering an area of 13,724km² using 338,315 vaccine baits. In 2006, the vaccination area was the same as in 2004 but in 2007 it will be reduced. The Commission asked for additional information concerning the last two cases which occurred in 2004 and 2006.

**Poland.** The Polish representative made a presentation on the issue. There is a decrease of cases from 1999 until 2005. In 2005, 94 wild animals and 35 domestic animals were found positive. Since 2002, vaccination covered the whole country. As of 2003, the number of baits distributed per km² has been increased from 16-20 to 25-40 in 2005 (along the borders with Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine). In April-May 2005, 16,445,000 vaccine baits were distributed. An additional number of 1,644,500 vaccine baits were distributed in spring 2006.

**Slovakia.** The Slovakian representative made a presentation on the issue. The number of positive cases has been decreased since 2003. That year, the number of positive cases was 354, in 2004, 64 and in 2005, 48. During the first half of 2006, only 3 positive cases were found. The oral vaccination has been carried out every year since 2000. In 2006, during the spring campaign, a total number of 844,900 doses were distributed by air and 12,000 manually. Slovakia is facing the lack of human resources for the distribution of the vaccine baits and for taking samples.

**Finland.** Finland has no positive cases since 1989 and was declared rabies free in March 1991. Since 1991, 80,000 vaccine baits are distributed every autumn along the south eastern border with Russia. Since 2004, vaccines are distributed biannually, in spring and autumn. Continuous surveillance and monitoring for rabies is carried out by the Finnish Food Safety Authority. In 2005, a total of 510 animals were examined, all with negative results.
Information on the **Aujeszky's disease** by **Belgium** and **Spain** has been postponed.

9. **Information about the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1739/2005 laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States**

   The Commission informed the Member States about this Regulation laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States, which should be implemented beginning of January 2007. The Member States were requested to provide information, as to which of their national sectors is responsible for circus operators and their registration. The Member States discussed the Regulation and expressed their views. The draft DEFRA guidance relating to the Regulation was distributed in the meeting.

10. **Information to the Member States on proposed reimbursements to be made in the framework of the 2005 TSE monitoring, scrapie eradication and BSE eradication programmes**

    The Commission informed the Member States that the proposed payments for certain Member States had already been presented at last month's SCFCAH (first batch). During this meeting, a table listing the second batch of proposed payments for the 2005 TSE Eradication and monitoring programmes was distributed.

11. **Information to the Member States on the proposed amounts to be reimbursed in the framework of the 2005 eradication programs.**

    The Commission distributed a table listing a first batch of the payments for the 2005 eradication programmes and informed the Member States that another batch would also be presented at the next meeting. Figures have already been discussed with Member States.

12. **Information from the Commission on reports received from the Member States on the results of controls made in 2005 in the bovine sector regarding Community provisions for identification and registration in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 (Doc. SANCO/10534/2006).**

    The Commission distributed the information document. Data from some Member States were still missing and the Commission requested to provide it urgently.
13. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.

Some Member States enquired about transit of animal products destined to Russia via Belarus and Ukraine. The Commission explained that so far there is no information of any problems in such transit.

14. Exchange of views on imports of fishery products from Indonesia

The Commission informed the Committee members that, to date, it has received information on imports of fishery products from Indonesia, from 10 Member States and asked others to submit the reports missing. The Commission will come back to Member States with proposal to review the Decision 2006/236/EC governing the special conditions on the import of fishery products from Indonesia the end of the year.


The Commission informed the Member States that the invitations to the Workshop were sent, together with a questionnaire, which will be the basis of the discussions during the workshop. The scope of the Workshop is the welfare mainly of farmed animals but covers also pet and laboratory animals. The Commission stressed the importance of having Member States' feedback by the set deadline, 3 November 2006.

16. Information and exchange of views on the measures taken by the Member States concerning the environmental enrichment of pigs and the prevention of tail docking.

The Commission requested the Member States to send an update in the form of written information on the measures set up concerning the improvement of the environment of pigs. Certain FVO missions showed differences as regards the implementation of the measures.

16A. Information by Italy on the African swine fever situation in Sardinia
The Italian representative made a presentation as regards the African swine fever situation in Sardinia. The situation today appears to have improved since 2004. During the past two years there was a dramatic decrease of outbreaks which didn't lead to a decrease of the surveillance. Over the last 18 months, 6000 holdings were tested and the number of samples taken during the last hunting season has been increased by 8%. In 268 out of the 377 regional communities, there was no positive case since 1993. The only high risk area is the mountainous area of the region. The Italian authorities proposed the modification of the African swine fever infected zone in Sardinia and the correction of the Community provisions accordingly. The Commission requested more substantiated information and data on the surveillance carried out. The Italian request will be further discussed on the next meeting of this Committee.

16B. Distribution for information of the reports of the annual meetings of EU national swine vesicular disease laboratories 2004 and 2005

The reports of the annual meetings of the EU national swine vesicular disease laboratories, held in November 2004 and November 2005, were distributed during the meeting for information purposes.


The Commission representative presented the changes in relation to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. Detailed explanations were given as regards which animals could or could not be transported, as to when an animal is not fit to travel and when is it possible to transport an unfit animal. New rules for sea transport and for assembly centres are introduced. Current staging points will be changed by control posts (places where animals are rested for at least 12 hours instead of 24) and will be inspected twice a year.

Member States exchanged views and discussed the changes on the Regulation.

16D. Presentation by JRC (Joint Research Centre) on the technical specification of the satellite navigation system for vehicles transporting animals on long journeys.

The representative of JRC briefed the Member States on the principles of a satellite navigation system for long journey transport of animals. The conclusions of the international workshop on the issue, held in June 2006, were presented as well as the amendments made in relation to technical aspects of the system. JRC is still working on the system.
17. 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 (Doc.SANCO/10597/2006 – Rev.5)

The purpose of this draft Decision is to amend Decision 2005/393/EC as regards the conditions applicable to movements from or through restricted zones in relation to bluetongue. France and Germany informed the Commission of the need to adapt their restricted zones, in accordance with the epidemiological situation, as presented by Member States under point 1 of this agenda.

Vote: postponed.

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever and the emergency vaccination of pigs in holdings and of feral pigs against classical swine fever in Romania (SANCO/10396/2006-Rev.5)

Following the presentation of the Romanian representative of the plans for the eradication and emergency vaccination against classical swine fever in the feral pigs and pigs in holdings submitted by Romania, the Commission proposed to approve the plans subject to and on the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Romania. However, provisions are laid down for the fresh meat produced from pigs vaccinated during the emergency vaccination. That meat has to be marked and may not be dispatched to other Member States. This Decision shall apply until nine months after its entry into force and be reviewed meanwhile, if needed.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


The Commission proposed to amend Annex D to Council Directive 95/70/EC which refers to diseases considered to be exotic to the Community. New epidemiological investigations have demonstrated that several diseases listed in the Directive in question, are either considered widespread in the Community mollusc farming industry or without significant impact. The species referred to as susceptible host species for the diseases and pathogens in question should be in line with most recent edition of the OIE international Aquatic Animal Health Code.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

The Member States were presented a draft Decision to update the lists of national reference laboratories. The competent authorities of almost all Member States submitted requests for updating details concerning national reference laboratories listed in a number of Directives and Decision. Those laboratories are competent for performing the analyses in relation to animal infectious diseases which are of the higher risk for the Community animal health status. A complete revision of the lists of national laboratories in Member States is therefore necessary.


Vote: unanimous in favour.

(Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament)

The draft Regulation intends to approve a technical process for the generation of energy, using as starting material certain medium-and low-risk animal by-products. The technical process consists of a thermo-mechanical treatment of the starting material, through which a powder-like substance is obtained which may be burnt on site. The process was submitted by a private applicant and was assessed favourably by the European Food Safety Authority.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

The animal by-products Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 lays down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption, including requirements for the placing on the market of these products. Some Member States and operators raised concerns at the strictness of certain requirements and on the weakness of others and they asked for their amendment. This includes amendments of existing health certificates for the import of animal by-products and introduction of certain new certificates. The scope of the proposed draft Regulation is to adjust the requirements for the placing on the market of animal by-products while ensuring protection of animal and public health.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 lays down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption. The Regulation classifies animal by-products into three Categories 1, 2 and 3, depending on the risk arising from such products. Commission Regulation (EC) No 878/2004 provides for transitional measures in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 for certain Category 1 and 2 animal by-products intended for technical purposes. According to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002, animal by-products other than Category 1 or 3 materials are classified as Category 2 material, irrespective of any further consideration regarding the risk arising from such products. However, certain animal by-products not listed as Category 3 material can be considered as posing a low risk. Their automatic classification as Category 2 material seems not risk-adequate. The "Report on animal by-products" 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 certain articles of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 in the course of a Co-Decision Review. Pending these amendments it should be possible to use certain low risk animal by-products classified as Category 2 material for technical and for feeding purposes. The scope of this draft Regulation is, therefore, to allow the use of certain Category 2 low risk materials for the manufacture of technical products and for certain feeding purposes by way of amending Commission Regulation (EC) No. 878/2004.

The draft Regulation was discussed and Member States were requested to send any comments on the issue.

Vote: postponed.

The animal by-products Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by products not intended for human consumption, rules for their importation, placing on the market and their export. It provides that, only animal by products that comply with specific health requirements may be used as starting materials for the manufacturing of cosmetics, medicinal products and medical devices.

Member States and EU operators have expressed concerns at the strictness of the requirements of this Regulation concerning imports of “intermediate / bulk products”, which are used as starting materials for the manufacture of medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and laboratory reagents in EU.

The scope of the proposed draft Regulation is to relax the health requirements and to adapt them to the delicate nature of "intermediate / bulk products". If channelled properly, it is believed that the import of these products under the less strict regime being proposed would pose no risk to animal or public health.

The draft Regulation was discussed and Member States were requested to send any comments on the issue.

Vote: postponed.

25. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community towards the eradication of classical swine fever in Germany in 2006. (Doc. SANCO/3008/2006 Rev.3)

A draft Commission Decision granting a financial contribution from the Community towards the expenditure incurred by Germany in taking emergency and protection measures to combat classical swine fever disease in 2006 was presented for vote. This draft Decision foresees a first tranche payment of 5 million Euros awaiting the results of an audit that will be carried out to examine the eligibility of the expenditure claimed by Germany regarding this outbreak. Germany stated for the record that in their opinion the first tranche payment should have been higher. Nevertheless, they voted in favour of this Decision.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

The codified form and the codes for the notification of animal diseases mentioned in Directive 82/894/EEC are laid down in Commission Decision 2005/176/EC. Because of certain developments this Decision needs to be amended: Bulgaria and Romania should formally be added to the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) in view of their Accession, the Faeroe Islands can be added since ADNS has been made part of the veterinary agreement and they communicated to the Commission the regions they will apply for the notification of animal diseases via the ADNS system. Spain has adjusted the names and boundaries of its veterinary regions and, in order to be able to distinguish avian influenza outbreaks in poultry from cases detected in wild birds and to distinguish between low pathogenic and highly pathogenic cases, different disease codes should be laid down for these separate events.

Document SANCO/10611/2006 was distributed during the meeting and the Member States were requested to send any comments on this issue to the Commission.


The purpose of this Decision is to determine a health mark as an alternative to the health mark foreseen in Annex II of Directive 2002/99/EC laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption. The alternative mark should be clearly distinguishable from other identification and health marks to be applied for fresh poultry meat. The Member States exchanged views and made suggestions as regards the use of the proposed health mark, its dimensions, shape and initials to be included in the mark. Member States were requested to provide comments on the issue.


Commission Decision 2006/415/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in poultry in the Community, requires health marking of meat from wild feathered game originating in restricted areas and destined for the national market. Commission
Decision 2006/416/EC concerning certain transitional measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds in the Community requires health marking of meat from poultry originating in restricted areas and destined for the national market. Commission Decision 2006/563/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 in wild birds in the Community requires health marking of meat from poultry, farmed feathered game and other captive birds originating in restricted areas and destined for the national market. In order to allow the use of the alternative mark mentioned here above in point 27 of this agenda, all three Decisions should be amended accordingly.

Member States were requested to send any comments on the issue.


The purpose of this draft Decision is to amend Commission Decision 2005/779/EC concerning animal-health protection measures against swine vesicular disease in Italy that lays down measures as regards the disease status of holding and regions, surveillance and movements of pigs from regions not recognised as free from swine vesicular disease. Following the outbreaks of swine vesicular disease recorded in certain regions of Italy and the information provided by the Italian authorities, the measures as regards surveillance on holdings and assembly centres for pigs should be enhanced. The measures are already implemented in Italy.

This draft Decision was presented for study and consideration and Member States were requested to send their comments on the issue.


Directive 91/496/EEC lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks in respect of animals, certain products of animal origin and certain plant products introduced into the Community from third countries. Directive 97/78/EC lays down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries. As veterinary checks at border inspections posts are carried in close co-operation with customs officials, it is appropriate to use a list of products that refer to the Combined Nomenclature provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2658/87
on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff as a first basis for selection of consignments. Composite products are products containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin as specified in Article 1 to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. In order to avoid differences in interpretation between Member States, leading to distortions in trade and to potential animal health risks, rules should now be laid down at Community level concerning the checks to be carried out on composite products at the Border Inspection Posts.

The Member States expressed their views and have been requested to send their comments on the issue.

Miscellaneous

- **Document SANCO/10613/2006, information received from Member States on Biosecurity measures** that Member States apply or intend to apply, was distributed during the meeting. Member States who didn't send the relevant information were requested to do so or to propose modifications and corrections.

- **Problems reported when confining poultry during Spring**
  Most Member States didn't receive any complaints concerning the commercial farms but only complaints concerning backyard flocks and in cases where the net system is applied. The Commission stressed that specific precautions should be taken to avoid any animal welfare problems.

- **Bowland Case**
  The Commission representative briefly updated the Member States on this case and announced that the Commission is preparing a safeguard clause, which will require the Member States to withdraw Bowland's curd cheese from the market. When Bowland improves its hygiene procedures the safeguard clause will be withdrawn.
  The opening of an infringement procedure against the UK is also being considered by the Commission, as it would appear that UK authorities have failed with their control obligations.

- **West Nile fever in France**
  The French representative informed the Member States that in the South of France between 18-26 September, they found 5 cases of horses with clinical signs of the disease. The Commission services were informed on 29 September. The necessary measures were taken by the 4 affected communities.

- **Avian Influenza in ostriches – South Africa**
  Document SANCO/10609/2006 was distributed during the meeting. The Commission informed the Member States that further information has been communicated to its services by the Republic of South Africa in relation to the avian influenza outbreak in the Western Cape Province. According to the information received, serosurveillance is ongoing along with compartmentalization and disease control measures.
- **Cyprus** informed the Member States that the authorities planned an exercise in relation to avian influenza to be held the week of 9-15 October 2006.

- The Danish representative raised the subject of the **EU Member States future Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) status in relation to OIE**. OIE has informed by letter the Member States that member countries wishing to submit dossiers for evaluation by its Scientific Commission should take note of the time schedule of meetings of the Commission and ad hoc groups and submit applications at the latest 3 weeks prior to the meeting of the responsible ad hoc Group. The meetings of the first Ad hoc group are scheduled for 14-16 November 2006. Denmark would like to know whether the Commission intends to coordinate a common feedback covering the BSE status of all the EU member States to the OIE. The Commission replied that there are three different options: a) the Commission sends one application for the whole EU to the OIE, b) each Member State prepares its own application and the Commission sends it to the OIE or c) each Member State prepare and send its own application directly. The Commission is in favour of the second option and will assist Member States in the preparation of the application dossiers.

- **Document SANCO/10581/2006 – Rev.1** was distributed during the meeting. With this document, the Commission proposes a strategy to be considered as guidance for the Member States that need to implement a harmonised Bluetongue monitoring and surveillance scheme in the EU. This strategy should be considered as the minimum level of monitoring and surveillance that should be established as soon as possible in all affected Member States. Member States were requested to send their comments on the issue.
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)