SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 2 AND 3 OCTOBER 2007
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

Presidents: Bernard Van Goethem and Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present.

1. **Foot-and-mouth disease situation in the United Kingdom.**

   The British representative made a presentation on the issue. 6 further outbreaks were confirmed from 12 September until 1 October. All animals within and around the infected premises were culled. The British authorities have applied additional surveillance and no relaxation on movement restriction is allowed within the restricted and the surveillance zone. The outbreaks are still localised in an area with low livestock density. The source of the infection has been linked to the initial Pirbright incident. Biosecurity among the livestock keepers and the general public has been reinforced.

   Member States expressed concerns about possible spread of the disease outside the surveillance and protection zone. The British representative explained that this is unlikely to happen since already 60 days have passed from the first outbreak and that area has not been affected. Nevertheless, the British authorities plan surveillance around the areas near the surveillance zone; still to be discussed with the Commission on how to proceed.

2. **Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.**

   During the meeting three letters were distributed: a) the Commission's request to the Russian authorities for applying the principles of regionalisation by allowing exports of pigs for slaughter to Russia from the territory of the EU with the exception of Great Britain, b) a letter sent by the Commission to the Russian authorities with a list of requests from various Member States for inspections by the Russian veterinary services for the approval of establishments for exports of animal products, c) a letter from the Russian authorities informing about temporary restrictions introduced as of 27 September on imports to Russia of live pigs and pig products from Germany due to the suspicion of swine vesicular disease in Western Pommerania.
3. Information from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom on the bluetongue situation.

The Italian representative briefly updated the Member States on the situation which is currently stable. In Sardinia, after massive vaccination, 3 new seroconversion cases occurred. In the rest of the country, there were 65 cases of seroconversion.

The Spanish representative made a presentation on the issue. A new outbreak (the 5th since the 25th of July 2007 when the first outbreak confirmed) of serotype 1 was confirmed on 12 September in a farm located in the municipality of Posadas (Cordoba). Then a further outbreak was confirmed on 20 September in a farm in the municipality of Montemolin (Zafra). Both are secondary outbreaks and they are in provinces with high sheep population. Epidemiological investigations are still ongoing. On 1 October, two further outbreaks were confirmed in the region of Extremadura.

The Portuguese representative made a presentation. Following the confirmation of bluetongue serotype 1 in Spain (municipality of Tarifa), the Portuguese authorities have implemented a specific surveillance programme in the regions of Alentejo and Algarve. The first outbreak of BTV1 was confirmed on 21 September and the second one on the 25th, both within the existing restriction zone for BTV4, in the council of Barrancos, in the region of Alentejo, affecting sheep already vaccinated against BTV4. Immediate restrictions were applied. There are currently two restricted zones in Portugal, one for serotypes 1 and 4 and another one for serotype 4 only.

The Belgian representative made a presentation. In 2007, to date, there are 4,138 confirmed outbreaks in Belgium. The mortality and morbidity rates in sheep are higher in comparison to 2006. Vector monitoring is ongoing. Belgium has suspended its sentinel monitoring programme. However, it has submitted a proposal to the Commission to restart it at the end of the vector season.

The Luxembourg’s representative made a presentation. From January 2007 until 30 September, a total number of 940 holdings were infected, most of them bovine. In comparison to 2006, the mortality rate has been increased, with the highest increase rate in the ovines/caprines (+491%). Traps were set up in the East of the country for entomological surveillance.

The Dutch representative made a presentation. To date, there are 5,051 infected holdings and 405 suspected ones mostly affecting sheep. Awareness has been raised not only in relation to Bluetongue but also because of the foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom. Sentinel monitoring currently apply only in the Northern compartments of the country since 1st of October.

The French representative made a presentation. From the beginning of 2007 and until 28 September, 2,117 outbreaks were registered mainly in the northern departments. It is expected that this number will increase since a big number of positive cases has not yet
been registered. 317 suspicious cases are still under investigation. Due to the increase of cases in July and August, the French authorities decided to introduce a new surveillance programme aiming at: a) efficient clinical surveillance of the animals by the farmers and the veterinarians, b) reinforcement of the serological surveillance in and around the infected areas and c) extending the serological surveillance on the non-affected area. The updated reinforced surveillance programme covers a 400km area split to squares of 20 x 20 km. In the northern part of the French territory, the authorities are facing difficulties concerning the sentinel surveillance programme. Movement restrictions are still in place under conditions. The French and the Italian authorities discussed bilaterally the issue of trading live animals in an effort to ensure that there will be no spread of the disease because of that kind of trade.

The German representative observed that despite the fact that in Germany the disease has spread fast, sentinel animals seemed not to be affected. Therefore, the extension of the zones in France, in an effort to protect these animals is not necessary but the French authorities have to select the methods of surveillance carefully. The Commission representative commented that the disease in Germany believed to be spread in such a way because of the winds but in France this is not the case.

Spain raised the issue of reinforced surveillance by France across their borders avoiding the spread of the disease to the Southern part of the country across the Mediterranean. The French representative explained that they have moved the animals from the southern areas when they realised that the disease was spreading towards the south, thus avoiding any contact with vectors.

The German representative made a presentation. From the beginning of 2007 and until the 1st of October, 11,321 cases were confirmed, mostly in sheep and cattle. Restricted zones have been extended to cover also the Czech Republic. In comparison to 2006 there has been an increase of cases. Movement restrictions are in place.

The British representative made a presentation. The first bluetongue of serotype 8 case was detected on 23 September in a farm for agriculture and visiting purposes in Suffolk. A 20km restricted zone and 150km protection zone were established. 4 further cases confirmed since then, and until the 2nd of October 20 holdings were infected while 11 are still under investigation. All affected animals (cattle mainly) were culled. The source of the disease might be culicoides carried by winds from continental Europe to that area, most likely at the beginning of August. Active surveillance is ongoing. Movement of animals was already banned due to the foot-and-mouth disease (infected holdings are in the same area) however movements are allowed within the zones under conditions.

During the meeting, a map was distributed showing the restriction zones in relation to bluetongue in Europe. In most of the affected countries, bluetongue virus of serotype 8 is currently circulated.

4. Information from Germany on a swine vesicular disease suspicion.

The German representative made a presentation on a suspicion on swine vesicular disease in Medow. The suspicion concerns a mixed establishment where animals are kept for fattening purposes. On 19/09/2007, during the routine tests carried out before the exports of animals, 48 of 551 blood samples were tested CEDI-SVDV-ELISA
positive but no clinical symptoms were observed. Since then, daily clinical inspection was carried out, further samples were collected from all the production units and movement restrictions applied. The German authorities officially announced the suspicion on 21/09/2007 when 14 of 551 samples were found positive in SNT. Retesting revealed that on 27/09/2007, 36 of 557 samples were found positive in ELISA and 2 positive in SNT. In the restriction zone there are only very few small holdings. As of 1/10/2007, the surveillance results showed that there were no clinical cases, 626 feces samples, 39 rectal swabs and two carcasses tested with negative results. As a conclusion two positive young sows in SNT are considered to be "singleton" reactors and there are no signs of any SVD infection (nor clinical neither lab.). Hence all restrictions are repealed on the 1st October.

The Commission representative requested Germany to send to all relevant information on the test results as well as the samples for further testing to the CRL at Pirbright.

5. **Information from Germany on the avian influenza situation.**

The German representative made a presentation on the further development of the situation in Germany. In relation to the outbreak in Wachenroth, cleaning and disinfection have been finalized and on 24 September, the authorities started examinations for lifting the protection zone. On 4 October, it is expected that the examinations for lifting the surveillance zone will begin, foreseen to be completed by 15 October. In relation to the outbreaks in Hofing and Trumling, the disinfection was finalized on 18 September and examinations for lifting the restriction zones will start on 10 October. It is foreseen that the restrictions will be lifted by the end of October. The epidemiological investigations showed that the virus was most probably introduced into the establishment in Wachenroth before 1 August 2007 by slaughter poultry transported from the holding in Hofing to the slaughterhouse located at the premises in Wachenroth. The date of introduction of the virus into the establishment in Hofing was most probably between 25 July and 1 August 2007 possibly by straw or feed contaminated by infected wild birds, by fledglings or by staff. Nucleotide sequencing of the virus shows a close relationship to isolates from wild birds in Germany, the Czech Republic and France.

6. **Information from Italy and Portugal on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.**

The Portuguese representative made a presentation on the issue. On 12 September a low pathogenic avian influenza strain of H5 subtype had been detected in the frame of the 2007 National AI surveillance Plan in a holding keeping around 80,000 free range game ducks (mallards) for subsequent release into the wild for hunting purposes. Almost 75,000 birds were stamped out which is logistically very difficult. However, stamping out will be finalised by 4/10. Within the 1km restricted zone established around the outbreak, 6 turkey holdings with a total of 50,000 birds are located. Testing carried out in these holdings brought negative results.

The Italian representative made a presentation on the issue. On 20/09, an H7N3 LPAI outbreak was confirmed in a fattening turkey holding in the Province of Brescia. Birds
showed clinical symptoms at the moment of sampling. The stamping out was completed on 25/09. A further H7N3 LPAI outbreak was confirmed on 27/09 in a mixed farm in the Region of Piemonte. Phylogenetic analysis showed that the virus identified in these two outbreaks is closely related with the virus isolated in previous outbreaks. However, all the 2007 H7N3 LPAI viruses are not related to the H7N3 virus which caused previous LPAI outbreaks during 2002-2004.

Italy has also informed the Members of the committee of a further H7 LPAI outbreak that the National reference laboratory in Padova has confirmed on 1/10, in a holding in the province of Brescia keeping 4,256 ducks. Birds had shown clinical symptoms. The holding has been put under restriction, birds will be killed in the next two days and the 1km restricted zone has been established.

The Commission representative recalled that both Portugal and Italy should at an early stage forward their request for Community co-funding in relation to these outbreaks to the relevant Commission services.

7. Information to the Member States on the proposed amounts to be reimbursed in the framework of the 2006 eradication programmes.

The Commission representative presented the proposed amounts to be reimbursed to some Member States and explained that for some programmes the proposed amounts to be reimbursed appear as suspended but not cancelled at the information paper distributed to the Member States, because some information requested by the Commission is still pending. Member States were asked to send their comments by email.

7A. Information from the Commission on the results of the EU poultry surveillance for avian influenza in 2006.

Member States received document SANCO/10396/2007: Draft Annual Report – Surveillance for avian influenza in poultry carried out by Member States, February – December 2006. The document was prepared by the Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Member States were requested to send any comments on the document latest by 15 October 2007.

In 2006, a total of 28,875 various poultry holdings (i.e. chicken breeders, laying hens, broilers etc.) were sampled by the 25 Member States. More Member States included backyard flocks in their surveillance programmes than in previous years and several of them increased the number of game bird holdings in the survey. Overall 145 holdings tested serologically positive for Avian Influenza (81 for subtype H5, 11 for H7 and 54 for other subtypes). Different subtypes occurred in different Member States. The findings show that as in the previous year the majority of the determined subtype of the positive holdings was H5 and that Avian Influenza was mainly detected in the ducks and geese category. This predominance of the H5 subtype is very different to the findings of the wild bird surveillance where 91% of the detected infections in 2006 (after the exclusion of HPAI H5) were of subtypes other than H5 or H7. Further collection of epidemiological data and joined analysis with the wild bird surveillance data is required to further analyse this finding and increase the epidemiological understanding of avian influenza in EU Member States.
For the year 2007, Member States were requested to provide the relevant information using the online reporting system. Although the deadline for the Member States for providing the data for the second quarter of 2007 was extended until 30 September, to date, only 18 Member States have sent the figures for wild birds and 22 Member States for the domestic poultry. Therefore, the Commission extended the deadline to the 15 of October. For the third quarter of 2007, the deadline is extended until the end of November.

Member States were also asked to send by the end of September 2007 the financial and technical information with regards the implementation of the surveillance programmes until 31 August 2007. However, some Member States didn't provide the requested information and they were asked to do so the soonest possible thus enabling the Commission to make adjustments to the financial decisions for the reallocation of the available resources.

7B. **Information from the Commission on the "Final Report of the Customs Working Group on Avian Influenza".**

The document was distributed during the Committee meeting held on 11 and 12 September 2007. The report summarises the outcome of the work of the Customs Working Group on Avian Influenza. The work of the group was organised by the Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union with support from the Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection. This group met several times between November 2006 and March 2007 and based itself on the practical experience of Customs as well as Veterinary authorities of the 24 Member States represented and Turkey.

Please click [here](#) to view the full report.

The Commission asked the Member States to distribute the report to their border inspection posts.

7C. **Information from Slovakia on the classical swine fever situation in wild boar.**

The Slovak representative made a presentation and updated the Members of the Committee on the second occurrence of classical swine fever in wild boars in 2007 in the Slovak Republic in the Nové Zámky District, outside the existing CSF infected region. On 20 September, a wild boar was shot within the surveillance and monitoring zone and on 24/09/2007 samples were sent for examination to the Reference Laboratory in Zvolen. On 26 September the Reference Laboratory confirmed the presence of CSF virus and all necessary measures were immediately taken. In the affected area, wild boars are not permanently present but seasonally movements take place each year. The monitoring is focused in the affected area but it also applies in the rest of the country. 20 percent of killed animals and 15 percent of the ones found dead are examined. Epidemiology investigation is still ongoing. The Slovak authorities plan to arrange a meeting of experts with Hungary to discuss the situation in that area.
The Commission welcomed the fact that both Slovakia and Hungary will collaborate and coordinate their efforts to come to a common approach in relation to this problem.

7D. Information from Romania on the classical swine fever situation.

The Romanian representative gave a brief update on the issue. To date, in 2007, there are 167 confirmed outbreaks (3 of them still active in the Timis County, confirmed in August 2007) affecting 19 counties, mainly concentrated in the southern part of Romania. Concerning the infected holdings in the Timis County, the authorities are planning to introduce sentinel pigs at the end of October and then to have them tested during the first week of December. If the three holdings meet the conditions then permission will be given to them for repopulation during December 2007 and January 2008.

The Commission asked Romania to provide to its services the epidemiological reports concerning the outbreaks as well as the reports on the measures implemented within the surveillance and protection zones.


A joint EC/FAO/OIE mission to Armenia on African swine fever (ASF) took place on 10-21 September 2007 to assess the current epidemiological situation in the country as well as the prevention and response of the competent authorities.

Dr. Dominico Rutili, the expert who participated in the mission on behalf of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team, attended the Committee meeting and reported on the situation.

The experts came to the conclusion that the situation in Armenia is worrying and the disease is spreading. Immediate actions should be taken to control the disease and to avoid any further spread and deterioration.

Brief information was also provided to the members of the Committee on the ASF disease situation in Georgia where the disease is currently spreading in the country.

8. 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.

Document SANCO/10394/2007 – Rev.3 has been distributed during the meeting: a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/554/EC concerning certain protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom.

Following recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain, Commission Decision 2007/554/EC was adopted to reinforce the control measures already applied by the United Kingdom against that disease. That Decision lays down rules applicable
to the dispatch from the restricted areas of products considered safe. Based on the information provided by the British competent authorities, it is appropriate to amend Decision 2007/544/EC in order to allow dispatch of fresh meat of certain categories of animal species from areas specifically mentioned in an additional Annex III under specific conditions. Furthermore, adjustments must be made to ensure that certain medicinal products that are derived from animal tissues can be traded. Decision 2007/554/EC should therefore be amended accordingly. At the same time the Decision should be extended until 15 November 2007.

Vote: qualified majority in favour, 29 votes abstained.

8A. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision laying down a list of third countries, parts of third countries, zones or compartments from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into and transit through the Community and the veterinary certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/10011/2007 – Rev.5)

The Commission representative presented the changes proposed by the Commission Legal Service. Therefore, Member States were asked to look at the draft and to send their comments. The Commission's intention is to present the document for an opinion in the next meeting of this Committee.

Vote: postponed.


Canada has reported to the Commission on 27 September 2007 an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N3 in a poultry holding in the province of Saskatchewan. Canada has taken appropriate control measures and immediately suspended certification for live poultry, poultry meat and other products liable to spread the virus, for imports into the Community from the whole territory of Canada. The information provided by the Canadian authorities on the epidemiological situation indicates no further virus spread. (Document SANCO/10398/2007 providing information in this regards was distributed by the Commission).

In the light of this information and in view of the Veterinary Agreement of the European Community with Canada, it is appropriate to restrict banning of imports from the territory of only to the disease affected area. The measures should apply until 30 November 2007 and be reviewed in the light of the development of the epidemiological situation.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

The draft Decisions in points 9, 10 and 11 of the agenda were discussed simultaneously. They relate to the importation into the EU of cooked poultry meat from China. The Commission representative informed the Member States that the three decisions on China under items 9, 10 and 11 on this agenda will only be adopted following the signature of the memorandum and the exchange of virus samples between the Chinese National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza in Harbin and the Community Reference Laboratory in the UK.

Commission Decision 2002/994/EC concern certain protective measures with regard to the products of animal origin intended for human consumption or for animal feed and imported from China. According to that Decision, Member States may authorise imports of such products if they are accompanied by a declaration of the Chinese competent authority stating that each consignment has been subjected before dispatch to a chemical test in order to ensure that the products concerned do not present a danger to human health.

The Chinese authorities have provided the appropriate residue monitoring plan for poultry intended for export to the Community and the Commission has approved it by Commission Decision 2004/432/EC. The results of the most recent Commission on-the-spot inspection visit regarding residues have been favourable. The residue safeguard Decision 2002/994/EC was therefore proposed to be amended to add poultry meat products to Part II of the Annex to that Decision.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


The purpose of this proposal is to prolong Decision 2005/692/EC which applies until 31 December 2007, until 31 December 2008.

Furthermore, it is the intention to authorise the Province of Shandong in China for the importation into the EU of poultry meat products heat treated to a minimum temperature of 70 °C. See point 11 on the agenda, document SANCO/10174/2007. It is therefore appropriate to amend Decision 2005/692/EC accordingly, and to allow the importation of heat treated poultry meat products from the Province of Shandong. Decision 2005/692/EC was therefore proposed to be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Commission Decision 2007/777/EC lays down the animal and public health rules on imports into the Community of consignments of certain meat products for human
consumption, including the lists of third countries and parts of third countries from which imports of such products are to be authorized.

Under that Decision, China is only authorized to export to the Community heat treated poultry meat products, heat treated in a hermetically sealed container to an Fo value of three or more. The Chinese authorities have asked the Commission to authorize the importation into the Community of poultry meat products which have been subjected to a heat treatment with a minimum temperature of 70 °C. Several inspection missions carried out by the Commission's services in China in the Province of Shandong have shown that the competent authority in China in particular in the Shandong Province is sufficiently well structured regarding the animal health status concerning poultry and they comply with the specific animal health requirements laid down in the Community legislation.

It was therefore proposed that the Province of Shandong in China be authorized for the importation into the EU of poultry meat products heat treated to a minimum temperature of 70 °C. Decision 2007/777/EC was therefore proposed to be amended accordingly.

The Commission has drawn the attention of the Member States to recital 7 of the draft Decision, on the sending of avian influenza virus isolates by China to the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for Avian Influenza. The Commission informed the Member States that the 3 draft Decisions voted today, that would make it possible for China to export heat treated poultry meat products from Shandong to the EU, will only be adopted by the Commission after that the virus isolates are received by the CRL. The Chinese National Reference Laboratory is at the moment in contact with the CRL on this issue. The Commission will keep the Member States informed of developments.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


The Commission representative explained the changes made on the document in comparison to the previous version. Member States requested some clarifications which the Commission agreed to include in the final draft.

Technical agreement: postponed.

Commission Decision 2005/393/EC demarcates protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue in Member States where bluetongue has occurred and where the eradication of the disease has not yet been achieved.

Following the notification of outbreaks of bluetongue in mid-August and early September 2006 by Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands, the Commission has amended several times Decision 2005/393/EC as regards the demarcation of the restricted zones concerned.

Following substantiated requests submitted by Germany, France, Denmark, Portugal, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and Austria, it was proposed to amend the demarcation of the restricted zones in Germany, France, Denmark, Portugal, the Czech Republic, and to establish new restricted zones in Austria and United Kingdom. Decision 2005/393/EC was proposed to be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down additional measures on control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions of movements of susceptible animals in relation to bluetongue. (Doc. SANCO/10178/2007 – Rev.6)

Following the adoption of Decision 2005/393/EEC, the bluetongue situation in the EU has considerably changed and new experience has been gained on disease control. The new situation as regards bluetongue has prompted the Commission to request scientific advice and support from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) that has delivered two scientific reports and two scientific opinions in 2007.

Based on the experience and scientific knowledge gained in the last years, the Commission proposed with this proposal to better harmonize at Community level rules on control, surveillance, restrictions and movements of susceptible animals in relation to bluetongue as they are of fundamental importance for safe trade in animals moving from restricted zones, with the aim of establishing a more sustainable strategy for the control of bluetongue. It is also appropriate to provide for the harmonised criteria that should be used for the definition of the seasonally free period. Furthermore, the conditions laid down in Decision 2005/393/EC for movements of vaccinated animals need to be amended.

The Commission's representative explained that according to this proposal, it will be possible to move animals from a restricted zone to a free zone if the animals meet certain health requirements not needing any prior approval of the authorities of destination. The movement conditions are in line with the ones of the OIE that were supported by the Member States last year.

The concept "protection against attacks by vectors was discussed and the Commission's representative explained that it means a "set of measures and elements that protects from vectors attack" in the sense of the expression "non è attaccabile" used by the President of the Scientific Commission of the OIE present in the Italian delegation.

Most Member States supported the proposal acknowledging the efforts made by the Commission to find ways to have sustainable rules for bluetongue. Some of them
expressed the opinion that prior approval should be given by the country of destination, for animals coming from restricted zones. Other Member States did not support the proposal because they do not believe that the conditions set in Annex III.A.2 could be met as regards protection from vectors attack.

Sweden abstained with the following statement:

"Sweden is abstaining and we would like to make a statement in connection to that. After the discussion here at the meeting we understand that the safety issue in points 1, 2, 3, and 4 in annex IV (regarding the definition of "protected attack") can be subject to interpretation. We regret that the meeting could not agree on a clarification that protection means fully protected, which would have allowed us to give a vote in favour. We would like to encourage the Commission together with the Member States and OIE to continue to develop the issue of ensuring the transport of safe animals in order to prevent further spread of the disease".

Vote: qualified majority in favour, 36 votes against, 10 votes abstained.


This draft proposal has been presented during the meeting of this Committee held on 11 and 12 September 2007. Then, certain Member States provided comments which have been taken into consideration during the preparation of this new revision 3.

Moreover, the Commission representative explained that in accordance with the Agreement between EC and Switzerland and Article 2(4) of that third country shall use the same certificates as the Member States for the intra-Community trade in semen of bovine species.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision establishing the list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of ova and embryos of the porcine species and repealing Decision 94/63/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10275/2007)

Directive 92/65/EEC lays down the animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to the animal health requirements laid down in the specific Community acts referred to therein. It also provides for the establishment of a list of those third countries or parts of third countries, able to provide guarantees equivalent to those referred to therein, and from which Member States may import semen, ova and embryos of the porcine species.
Part III of the Annex to Commission Decision 94/63/EC establishes a list of third countries from which Member States are to authorise imports of ova and embryos of the porcine species, and third countries from which imports of porcine semen are authorised, in accordance with Commission Decision 2002/613/EC of 19 July 2002 laying down the importation conditions of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

Decision 94/63/EC has been amended several times to take account of new scientific and technical developments. At present, it applies to semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species and ova and embryos of the porcine species.

The Commission intends to lay down in a separate act [doc. SANCO/10190/2007-Rev. 1 under item 17 here below] the animal health conditions applicable to imports into the Community of semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species, including the list of third countries from which Member States are to authorise imports of those commodities.

Decision 2002/613/EC establishes a list of third countries from which Member States are to authorise imports of porcine semen. That list was set up based on the animal health status of third countries from which Member States are to authorize the imports of live pigs. As there is no scientific evidence suggesting that with regard to major exotic contagious diseases the risks arising from the health status of the donor porcine female and male could be mitigated by treatment of the embryo, it is appropriate and in the interests of consistency and coherency of Community legislation, to refer to that list in the present Decision when laying down a list of third countries from which Member States are to authorise imports of ova and embryos of that species.

For the sake of clarity of Community legislation, it was proposed to repeal Decision 94/63/EEC.

Due to the requests of some Member States for more time to comment, the draft was only presented and not subject to voting.

Vote: postponed.

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on imports of semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species into the Community as regards lists of third countries and of semen collection centres and embryo collection teams, and certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/10190/2007-Rev. 1)

Directive 92/65/EEC provides for: a) a list of those third countries or parts of third countries from which Member States may import semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species and which are able to provide certain guarantees to be established, b) the establishment of a list of semen collection centres which are authorised to collect, process and preserve in third countries such semen destined for the Community, c) such semen to be accompanied by health certificates, models of which are to be established in accordance with that Directive, d) the establishment of animal health conditions for imports into the Community of such semen.

Commission Decision 94/63/EC draws up a list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species
and ova and embryos of the porcine species, and since its application on 31 January 1994, it has been amended several times. This Decision is to be repealed and replaced by the draft proposal under item 16 here above, doc. SANCO/10275/2007.

This draft proposal will establish by the same act, a list of third countries and approved collection centres from which Member States authorise imports into the Community of semen of the ovine and caprine species, a list of third countries and approved embryo collection teams from which Member States authorise imports into the Community of ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species, as well as the certification requirements relating to imports of such semen, ova and embryos.

**Vote: postponed.**

18. 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 New Zealand and the United States of America. (Doc. SANCO/10380/2007-Rev. 2)

Commission Decision 92/452/EEC established a list of embryo collection and production teams approved in third countries for export to the Community of embryos of the bovine species. It provides that Member States are only to import embryos from third countries where they have been collected, processed and stored by embryo collection teams and embryo production teams listed in that Decision.

Following the request of Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America, the list was proposed to be amended by replacing, deleting or inserting certain embryo collection and production teams in those countries. Decision 92/452/EEC was therefore proposed to be amended accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision establishing a model for the lists of entities approved by Member States in accordance with various provisions of Community veterinary legislation, and the rules applying to the transmission of these lists to the Commission. (MVL) (Codification of 2001D0106)

>This item has been withdrawn from the agenda.


This draft proposal was presented at the SCFCAH meeting of 18 September, Biological Safety section. Then, the vote on this proposal has been postponed due to
procedural reasons. However, the committee was asked to give its position and the Commission took note of the unanimous support of the Member States.

The procedure came to an end; therefore, the document was presented for an opinion during the meeting of this Committee, Animal Health and Welfare section.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

20A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on a financial contribution from the Community towards certain measures in the field of animal health and welfare and certain technical and scientific measures. (Doc. SANCO/10131/2007 – Rev.1)

The purpose of this proposal is the financial contribution by the Community, as provided for in Decision 90/424/EEC (which lays down the procedures governing financial contributions from the Community towards specific veterinary measures, including measures in the field of animal health and welfare and technical and scientific measures), for:

a. a Eurobarometer survey on the possible use of animal cloning in the agro-food sector,

b. a study on temperatures under which animals are transported over long journeys,

c. the financing of training seminars on the implementation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Guidelines on animal welfare, organised by the OIE,

d. the edition of approximately 1800 copies of a booklet on bluetongue, at a maximum rate of 50% of eligible costs and up to a maximum amount of EUR 10,000 to the OIE.

Member States discussed the proposal and they asked to be consulted on the questions to be used on the Eurobarometer survey. The Commission agreed on that.

Vote: qualified majority in favour, 10 votes abstained.


The purpose of this draft Regulation is to allow additional uses for materials resulting from the biodiesel production process approved under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-products, in line with available scientific evidence. Furthermore, the Regulation is intended to adjust the monitoring requirements for the first use of certain treatment processes for animal by-products in a Member State to what is necessary to ensure sufficient protection of public and animal health.
Some Member States requested that the Commission would further investigate the possibility that the biodiesel might be used for additional purposes.

The Commission asked Member States to send their comments on the proposed document in advance of the next Committee meeting.

**Miscellaneous / Divers**

- The French representative made a presentation on the *Equine Infectious Anaemia situation in France*: since 25 May until 28 September 2007, 7 animals were infected in the department of Ardèche. The most recent cases were confirmed on 13 and 28 of September. All necessary measures were taken or are currently taken, including euthanasia of the infected animals, disinfection and testing of all animals in the holding. Epidemiology investigation is still ongoing however the French authorities were not able to establish any link between the outbreak in May and the one in September.

- The Commission informed Member States that since China is Member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as such, ornamental fish of susceptible and non-susceptible fish could be exported by that country into the Community. Commission Decision 2003/858/EC lays down the list of third countries or parts thereof, from which Member States are authorized to import live fish, their eggs and gametes for farming in the Community. Hong Kong is not mentioned on that list but Member States should consider it as part of China until the current list is modified and the issue is clarified, only in relation to imports of ornamental fish.

- The Commission representative informed Member States that on 28 September 2007, the Court of First Instance has ordered the suspension of enforcement of point 3) of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 727/2007 of 26 June 2007 amending Annexes I, III, VII and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, for the inclusion of points 2.3 b)iii), 2.3 d) and 4 in Chapter A of Annex VII. The Court of First Instance had to treat the request of France on this issue as an urgent issue and therefore, pending the judgment in the main case, it has given a summary judgment as explained above. The representative of the Commission's Legal Service explained the Commission's position during the procedure.

Member States were also informed on the immediate actions that should be taken by them following the Court's order. The ruling of the Court was distributed to the Member States. Since this has immediate effect, a letter will also be sent via the Permanent Representations to the authorities of each Member State informing them of the situation.
A declaration of the Commission has been distributed during the meeting on 2 October 2007:

"On 28 September 2007, the Court of First Instance of the European Communities, pending the judgment in the main case, ordered the suspension of enforcement of point 3) of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 727/2007 of 26 June 2007 amending Annexes I, III, VII and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, for the inclusion of points 2.3 b)iii), 2.3 d) and 4 in Chapter A of Annex VII.

As a result of this order, Member States with a confirmed case of classic scrapie in a flock must henceforth restrict eradication measures to implementing only those provisions set out in points 2.3 b)ii) (culling), and 2.3 b)ii) (partial culling) of Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 727/2007.

Those animals falling under the provisions laid down in points 2.3 b) iii), 2.3 d) and 4 must be immediately slaughtered and destroyed, with the exception of those covered by the four indents of point 2.3 b) ii).

The option provided for by point 5) of Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 in case an atypical scrapie case is discovered, remains applicable.

In addition, the above order also has no effect on the amendments to Annexes I, III and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 introduced by Regulation (EC) No 727/2007. This means that the following measures remain in force:

- Introduction of specific definitions for TSE in small ruminants, classical scrapie cases and atypical scrapie cases
- Review of TSE surveillance in small ruminants: number of TSE tests to be carried out
- Review of TSE eradication measures in small ruminants: measures to be implemented in affected flocks where atypical scrapie is diagnosed
- Introduction of harmonised requirements for breeding programmes for TSE resistance in sheep
- Review of actions to be taken following a BSE test in bovine animals at slaughterhouse level”.

- The Commission informed the Member States that information was sent by the Japanese competent authorities in relation to the vaccine used for the vaccination of equidae against equine influenza in Australia. Currently three states in Australia are affected. The Commission representative explained that investigation is still ongoing as to whether the vaccines used are efficient. Any animals imported into the European Community should be vaccinated.

The Commission representative reminded the Member States about:
• The deadline for the submission to the Commission, of the updated contingency plans on Avian Influenza which was set for the 30\textsuperscript{th} of September 2007 has passed; however, some Member States didn't send the information; so, they were asked to do so the soonest possible.

• The Commission representative reminded Member States of the event which is organised on the occasion of the 50 years of food safety. This event will be held on 25 and 26 October in Brussels and Chief Veterinary Officers, the Chief Feed Officers, the Chief Plant Officers and the Chiefs covering the rest of the sections of the Standing Committee are invited. More information on the event had been given during the meeting of this Committee on 11 and 12 September 2007.