Presidents: Alberto Laddomada and Howard Batho.

All Member States were present. Spain was partly absent on 30 June. Malta was absent on 1 July.

1. Information on Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.

To ensure the correct implementation of the pre-export certification system set up in the memorandum of 2 September 2004 concerning veterinary certification of EU exports to Russia, the Commission provided the Member States with the latest information as regards the Russian import requirements.

2. Information by the United Kingdom on the avian influenza situation.

The British representative made a presentation on an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 that has been confirmed on 4 June 2008 on a farm keeping 25,000 free range laying hens. Culling of all poultry present on the farm was completed by 5 June. On 28 June the measures in the established protection zone were lifted and the zone was merged into the surveillance zone where disease control measures continue to apply. Possible sources of the infection are still under investigation. There is no evidence of spread of the disease.

The full epidemiology report is available on DEFRA's website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/latest-situation/index.htm

3. Information on the scientific opinion of EFSA on the animal health and welfare aspects of avian influenza and the risk of its introduction into EU poultry holdings.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) representative made a presentation on the issue. The report summarises the main conclusions and recommendations from previous
EFSA opinions, in the light of new scientific evidence available. Furthermore, it assesses the risk factors for the introduction and spread of avian influenza into poultry holdings in the EU and provides for scientific advice to support fine-tuning of current prevention and biosecurity measures taken by the Member States.

The opinion can be consulted on EFSA's website under the following link: [http://www.efsa.eu.int/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713016506.htm](http://www.efsa.eu.int/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713016506.htm)

4. Information from Germany, France, Hungary and Slovakia on the classical swine fever situation in the wild boar.

The German representative made a presentation on the classical swine fever situation (CSF) in Germany (North Rhine Westphalia and Rhineland Palatinate). The situation has improved considerably. The last case was reported on 11 July 2007. Vaccination is carried out regularly during the spring, summer and autumn.

The French representative made a presentation on the issue. During the course of the last few years the positive cases decreased. There was only one case in 2007 in the vaccination area and no positive cases in 2008. Hygiene and biosecurity measures apply for the personnel dealing with carcasses. PCR negative carcasses are put in the market within the restriction zone and the PCR positive ones are destroyed. Wild boar vaccination is applied since 2004 three times per year. The next one is scheduled for October-November 2008. Risk analysis data has shown that risk is still at a high level among the young animals.

The Slovak representative made a presentation on the issue. The situation is very similar to the situation in 2007 with only a new infected area. All the shot wild boars in the infected area and all wild boars found dead outside that area are investigated. On the basis of the latest development of the situation, a letter was sent to the Commission requesting the enlargement of the infected area. (See also item 19).

The Hungarian representative made a presentation on the issue. Until now 195 cases were confirmed in wild boars - 108 cases in the Nógrád County and 87 cases in the specified part of the Pest County. In order to execute the eradication plan, the Hungarian authorities presented a new Action Plan. The most important element of that plan is the extension of the current infected area to certain areas of the county of Heves and the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. New measures contain also more effective control of individual hunting, increase of the number of shot young animals under 12 months old and increase of the hunting bag in the infected area.

4A. Information by Bulgaria on the classical swine fever situation.

The Bulgarian representative made a presentation on the issue. No evidence of the classical swine fever (CSF) has been reported. Clinical surveillance and testing of domestic and wild boar population showed negative results.

The Bulgarian authorities have proposed an amendment of their programme for the control and eradication of CSF for 2008 concerning pigs for slaughter in EU-approved slaughterhouses in Bulgaria. By a combination of 10 measures Bulgaria provides additional guarantees for placing on the market pig meat, minced meat and meat products excluding pigs from its backyard holdings. (See also item 20)
4B. Bluetongue: information from the Member States on the epidemiological situation and on vaccination.

The Belgian representative made a brief presentation on the issue. There is no indication of virus circulation. The vaccination campaign started on 14 May 2008.

The Czech representative made a short presentation on the issue. No new cases were reported. The last one was confirmed on 17 March 2008. Vaccination will probably start in September 2008.

The Danish representative briefly informed on the serological positive but PCR negative founding in a cow. The animal did not show any clinical signs. This is a secondary outbreak and will not affect the restricted zones in place. The vaccination campaign will start on 28 July 2008 by vaccinating cattle, sheep and goats.

The German representative made a presentation on the field trial of 3 different vaccines against bluetongue. The purpose was to test the vaccines for future use in Germany and to compare their efficiency. The overall conclusion is very positive. Only 53 animals have been infected in May compared to 900 in January. 6.7 million of cattle and 2.5 million of sheep have been already vaccinated which is about 44 % of all animals. In total, 21 million of vaccine doses are available.

Spain: About 90% of sheep and 70 % of cattle population have been vaccinated both with serotype 1 and 4 vaccine. Vaccination against serotype 8 on cattle and sheep population started on 1 June 2008. No virus circulation for serotypes 1 and 4 in the BTV-1 and BTV-8 zones has been reported.

The French representative made a presentation on the issue. In 2008 almost 6.000 outbreaks were reported - mainly due to virus circulation from 2007. Vaccination against serotype 8 started at the end of March and against serotype 1 started at the end of May 2008.

Italy: The Italian authority notified to the Commission a case of a seropositive animal. It is a secondary outbreak in the province of Verona. In that province, vaccination started about 10 days ago already whereas in the province of Mantova did not start yet.

Luxembourg: Obligatory vaccination for sheep and cattle began in May 2008. About 70.000 animals have already been vaccinated. No reduction of the milk production was observed. Surveillance is still ongoing.

The Netherlands: No new cases were reported and no virus circulation was observed. Investigations so far gave negative results. The voluntary vaccination campaign is very successful.

Austria: 30.000 vaccine doses are available.

The Portuguese representative made a presentation on the issue. The seasonally vector free period ended on 8 May 2008. New animal movement rules were adopted. Up to date, about 71 % of the holdings were vaccinated against serotype 4 and about 54 % against serotype 1.

Sweden: 1 million of doses against serotype 8 have been ordered.
The United Kingdom: No new cases reported this year. 22.5 million of vaccine doses against serotype 8 have been ordered. To date, over 11 million of doses have been distributed. Further deliveries are expected during summer.

4C. Information by Italy on the swine vesicular disease situation.

The Italian representative updated the Members of the Committee on the evolution of the situation. An outbreak of swine vesicular disease (SVD) was confirmed in a slaughterhouse in the Forlì-Cesena province on 3 June 2008. Slaughtered animals in that slaughterhouse (41 in total) were traced back and destroyed. All farms and animals in the Forlì-Cesena province from which those 41 animals originated were tested with negative results. The SVD free status of the Province of Forlì has been suspended.

4D. Information from Romania on the classical swine fever eradication programme.

The Romanian representative briefly informed on the issue. After the shortages and quality problems with the classical swine fever (CSF) marker vaccine, the Romanian authorities had to stop using it. However, based on a risk assessment and under the supervision of the veterinary authorities, vaccination with marker vaccine should be allowed in large commercial farms which are under the risk of getting CSF. Additional biosecurity measures should apply.

5. Information by Belgium, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands and Romania on the Newcastle disease situation.

The Belgian representative made a presentation as regards the current situation in Belgium. A total of 4 outbreaks were so far reported in 2008. Vaccination against Newcastle disease is mandatory in holdings with more than 100 birds. Also pigeons participating in races or shows must be vaccinated.

The German representative made a presentation on Newcastle disease detected in pigeons in Landkreis Rottal-Inn, Bavaria. The diagnosis pigeon variant PMV-1 has been confirmed on 22 April 2008 in pigeons on a hobby poultry holding in Ering where a total of 415 birds were kept, thereof 306 pigeons. Clinical symptoms of the disease were only observed in pigeons. All birds had been vaccinated in November 2007. All the animals in the affected farm and two neighbouring contact farms were killed. Protection and surveillance zone were established and movement restrictions applied.

The Dutch representative made a brief presentation on the situation in the Netherlands. On 22 May 2008 three racing pigeons tested positive for Newcastle disease in a pigeons racing club. A total of 250 deaths were reported until 30 May 2008.

The Finnish representative orally briefed the members of the Committee on 6 outbreaks that had been confirmed in racing pigeons in Finland in June 2008. All birds in the affected holdings were culled and destroyed. Movement restrictions applied to all poultry holdings within a radius of 5 km around the outbreaks until they are tested for Newcastle disease. Furthermore, poultry holdings which keep poultry outside, within 10 km of each outbreak, are tested for Newcastle disease. So far no positive cases have been found in poultry.
The Romanian representative made a presentation on the 6 outbreaks that have been confirmed in backyard poultry holdings in 3 counties from January till May 2008. The most likely reason for the outbreaks is thought to be insufficient vaccination coverage of backyard flocks although vaccination is compulsory in Romania. The source of the disease is most likely wild birds.

6. Information by Portugal on the vaccination plan against low pathogenic avian influenza.

The Portuguese representative presented preliminary results of the emergency vaccination plan against avian influenza in a game bird holding of breeding ducks. The vaccination campaign has been directed against avian influenza virus of subtypes H7 and H5. A total of 1,611 ducks have been vaccinated in the holding located in a high risk area for the introduction of avian influenza viruses. The first vaccination was carried out in February 2008. Efficacy of the vaccination is very high. Clinical surveillance of vaccinated birds is being carried out.

The document "Preventive vaccination plan in Portugal" has been distributed and presented during the meeting. According to this plan a total of 4,500 animals in a breeding duck holding will be vaccinated against avian influenza virus of subtypes H7 and H5. The vaccination campaign should start on 8 September 2008 and apply until 31 July 2009. However, the vaccine is not yet available and therefore the draft Commission Decision under item 15 concerning this plan could not be presented for an opinion.

7. Surveillance for avian influenza in poultry carried out by the Member States during 2007.

The Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) representative made a presentation on the results of the avian influenza surveillance in poultry during 2007. The survey provided information on which sectors of the poultry industry are more likely to be affected by H5/H7 LPAI and identified which other sectors are less likely to be affected.

The following documents were distributed:

Document SANCO/2179/2008: "Annual report of surveillance for avian influenza in the EU 2007 - draft working document". Member States were asked to check the figures and send their comments to the Commission.

Document SANCO/2182/2008: "Antigens for serological testing". This informs about a change in one antigen to be used for avian influenza surveillance.


The Commission representative informed on the outcome of the conference "International Forum on Global Aspects of Farm Animal Welfare" held in Brussels in April. The forum
was first of its kind. Representatives of farmers, retailers, politicians, academics, animal welfare and consumer organisations shared their experiences and discussed global strategy for the welfare of farm animals. Another important aspect was multilateral discussions between international organizations (WTO, OIE and FAO). The Commission organises an international conference on global trade and farm animal welfare to be held in January 2009. The aim of the event is to present positive experiences of inclusion of animal welfare in the trade environment. 400 places will be available.

9. Information on the progresses achieved on animal welfare in the context of the Bilateral Agreements with Chile and Canada and in the context of the EC-New Zealand Cooperation Forum.

The Commission has prepared the text of the cooperation agreement on animal welfare with Australia. The intention is to sign this agreement before the end of 2008 in South America. Canada has already integrated animal welfare in the bilateral veterinary plan. A working plan for the coming years has been drawn up and a support activity for the development of an OIE centre is put forward via a scientific network. Awareness on animal welfare is raised on technical and scientific level.

10. Information on activities on Animal Welfare carried out in Latin America.

The Commission is supporting a conference in Panama which should be organized by OIE. The aim is to provide expertise in particular to all Southern America countries. The Commission conducted a number of workshops in Uruguay and Argentina. An interesting seminar took place this year and a strategic plan for animal welfare and capacity building for Asia and Oceania was developed. A specific seminar on animal transport has been organized. The main point for these agreements is that every contribution has been very well received, and taken into account.


The Commission presented 3 documents:

Document SANCO/10574/2004-Rev.7: "List of Member States (or regions) officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis, IBR, Brucella melitensis and Aujeszky’s disease or where approved Aujeszky’s disease and IBR control programmes are in place."

Document SANCO/10288/2008: "The results of screening for Brucella melitensis carried out during 2007 in the Member States or regions thereof officially free of brucellosis (B. melitensis)". 
Information is still missing from certain Member States as regards some diseases. Member States should check the data and inform the Commission in case of any mistakes.


According to article 8 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC and articles 73(3) and 79(4) of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, Member States must provide the Commission with information on their national stock of FMD antigens and vaccines. Information is still missing from some Member States.


According to Chapter II(1)(f)(vii) of Annex A to Council Directive 88/407/EEC Member States must provide information to the Commission on the characteristics and form of marking of doses of bovine semen. Member States were reminded to provide the information to the Commission without further delay.

13A. Information concerning the European Veterinary Week (10-16 November 2008).

The Commission representative informed the Committee on the European Veterinary Week which will be held from 10 to 16 November 2008. This event is organized jointly by DG SANCO and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe. The Veterinary Week will focus on biosecurity both on the farms and at borders.

14. 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/1962/2008-Rev.1 was distributed during the meeting: a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/870/EC as regards the approval of the plan for the emergency vaccination against classical swine fever of pigs in holdings with a marker vaccine in Romania. Commission Decision 2007/870/EC approving the plans for 2008 for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs and of pigs in holdings against that disease in Romania was adopted as one of a number of measures to combat classical swine fever in that Member State. That Decision applies until 31 December 2008.
One of the plans approved by that Decision concerns the emergency vaccination against classical swine fever of pigs in pig holdings with a marker vaccine. The availability of such vaccine was restricted after the approval of that plan. Romania has accordingly amended that emergency vaccination plan and submitted it to the Commission for approval on 30 June 2008. After being examined by the Commission, the amended plan was found to comply with Directive 2001/89/EC. Therefore, that plan should be approved.

Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision concerning preventive vaccination against low pathogenic avian influenza in mallard ducks in Portugal and certain measures restricting the movements of such poultry and their products. (Doc. SANCO/1469/2008-Rev.1)

Due to the fact that the Portuguese authority still had not received confirmation from the vaccine supplier on the delivery of vaccine, this draft has been postponed and will be again proposed for vote at the next meeting of the Committee. (see also item 6).

Vote: postponed.


Commission Regulation (EC) No 318/2007 lays down the animal health conditions for imports of certain birds other than poultry into the Community and the quarantine conditions applicable to such birds after import. Annex V to that Regulation sets out a list of quarantine facilities and centres in the Member States approved for the import of such birds. Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Portugal and the United Kingdom have sent an updated list of those quarantine facilities and centres to the Commission and the list of approved quarantine facilities and centres set out in Annex V should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Commission Decision 2005/176/EC lays down the codified form and the codes for the notification of animal diseases to the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) pursuant to Directive 82/894/EEC. Several Member States have adjusted the names and boundaries of their veterinary regions and the new regions should therefore replace those currently listed in the Decision. Furthermore, it should be made possible to distinguish between notifications of outbreaks of African swine fever in wild boar and of outbreaks of that disease in domestic pigs.
The list of diseases in Annex I to Directive 82/894/EEC was recently updated. Certain diseases affecting fish were included in that list and Teschen disease (porcine enterovirus encephalomyelitis), which is no longer a compulsorily notifiable disease, was deleted from that list. It is therefore necessary to change Annex V of Decision 2005/176/EC accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**


By Commission Decision 2007/683/EC the Commission approved the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever (CSF) in feral pigs against classical swine fever in the affected areas of Hungary. Hungary has informed the Commission about the recent evolution of CSF in feral pigs in that Member State. In the light of the epidemiological information available, the measures set out in the plan for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs need to be extended to certain areas of the county of Heves and the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén.

For the sake of transparency of Community legislation, the Annex to Decision 2007/683/EC should be replaced by the text in the Annex to this draft Decision.

**Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.**

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2005/59/EC as regards areas where the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of feral pigs against classical swine fever are to be implemented in Slovakia. (Doc. SANCO/1963/2008)

By Commission Decision 2005/59/EC the Commission approved the plans for the eradication of CSF and the emergency vaccination of feral pigs against CSF in Slovakia as one of the measures to combat the disease.

Slovakia has now informed the Commission about the recent evolution of the disease in feral pigs. In the light of the epidemiological information available, the measures of the plan for the eradication of CSF in feral pigs need to be extended to include the districts of Rimavská Sobota, Nové Zámky, Levice and Komárno.

For the sake of transparency of Community legislation, the Annex to Decision 2005/59/EC should be replaced by the text in the Annex to this draft Decision.

**Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.**

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/805/EC as regards animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States and the extension of application of that Decision. (Doc. SANCO/1893/2008-Rev.1)

The title of the draft Decision presented at the meeting has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:
Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/805/EC as regards certain Member States regions set out in the Annex and the extension of application of that Decision.

Commission Decision 2006/805/EC was adopted in response to outbreaks of CSF in certain Member States. That Decision lays down certain disease control measures concerning CSF in those Member States and applies until 31 July 2008. In the light of the disease situation of CSF in certain areas of Bulgaria, Germany, France, Hungary and Slovakia, it is appropriate to extend the period of application of that Decision until 31 July 2009.

Viewing the evolution of the disease in Hungary and Slovakia, the areas of these Member States in which the control measures apply, need to be extended as explained in items 18 and 19 here above.

As the disease situation in Bulgaria has significantly improved and CSF is not suspected anymore to be endemic in pigs in holdings, the prohibition to dispatch fresh meat and meat preparations and meat products from Bulgaria to other Member States should therefore no longer apply.

The Commission proposed with this draft Decision to amend Decision 2006/805/EC accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.

21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision on the temporary admission and imports into the Community of registered horses from South Africa. (Codification of 1997D0010) (AEF/IP)

The Commission's legal service representative briefly explained the codification exercise. Codification means bringing together the basic act and all its amendments in one new legislative act which will repeal all the acts incorporated in it. During the codification process no substantive changes can be inserted to the act.


Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.

22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation amending the Annex to Regulation (EC) 21/2004 as regards the means of identification of animals and the content of the movement documents. (Doc. SANCO/1427/2008-Rev.1)

This draft proposal has been presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee on 3 June 2008 (see agenda item 19). At that meeting, Member States were asked to study the proposal and to send any comments to the Commission Services. This new version of the proposal takes into account the comments made by the Member States and the legal service. The Commission presented this proposal for an opinion.

The Dutch representative made a statement:
The Netherlands is very happy with the addition in the text of the option to use injectable transponders as identification for animals not involved in intra-community trade. The Netherlands has a big hobby sector for which this method will be very useful. However the Netherlands votes against the proposed text since it can not agree with the delay of the obligation of individual registration in the movement documents from 2010 to 2011. The Netherlands feels that 2010 should be maintained as date, although a delay for individual countries that are not ready yet would be acceptable.

The Italian representative made a statement:


Questa misura rappresenta, a nostro modo di vedere, un giusto compromesso tra fondamentali esigenze di tipo sanitario e di sicurezza alimentare e quelle, probabilmente altrettanto importanti in alcuni Paesi membri, di poter scongiurare che l’adeguamento alle nuove misure previste dal Regolamento possa provocare difficoltà nella gestione delle normali attività sanitarie e delle operazioni connesse all’avvio degli animali verso gli stabilimenti di macellazione. Per le motivazioni suddette, ed in assenza di ulteriori elementi di novità nelle proposte formulate dalla Commissione, non si può che esprimere una posizione contraria all’approvazione del documento in questione.

The Spanish representative made a statement:

The Spanish delegation thanks the European Commission work developed and open dialogue on the draft Commission Regulation on the identification of sheep and goats that today undergoes opinion of SCOFCAH.

But our vote is negative for the following reasons:

- We understand that this project goes beyond the mandate that appears in Article 10 (1) of Council Regulation 21/2004 and opens new transitional periods in implementing the regulations. The latest opinion of the European Parliament does not question the entry into force of electronic identification but the financing of the same.

- Was called to a multiplicity of identification devices (4 combinations for intracomunity and 8 for national movements), although that is a good consequence of technological advances,
should be reflected in the document of animal movement (type and location of the device for reading during the trazability controls).

- It gets doubts on the credibility of the system especially in the member states since 2005 had began to introduce electronic identification (Spain being the second census in the EU and already has high percentage of ovine adult females identified electronically) against those who have not progressed and have waited the last minute to ask for more time. We do not accept two years more to give time for filling individual identification in the movement document.

- Certain comments for the improvement of the text have been submitted and requested the Spanish version before its publication to avoid mistakes of translation in this issue is so sensitive for a sector currently in a delicate situation as is the sheep and goat sector.

Vote: qualified majority by 276 votes in favour, 69 votes against.


In Romania, certain establishments in the meat, poultry meat, fish, milk and milk products sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. In addition, certain establishments have ceased their activities. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition. Appendix B of Annex VII to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Chapter I of the Annex to Decision 2007/27/EC lists compliant establishments authorised to receive and process without separation compliant and non-compliant milk while Chapter II of that Annex lists compliant establishments authorised to receive and process separately compliant and non-compliant milk. One establishment listed in Chapter I of the Annex to Decision 2007/27/EC has chosen to process only compliant raw milk. That establishment should therefore be deleted from the list in Chapter I of that Annex.

Furthermore, certain milk processing establishments are now in compliance with Community legislation. Those establishments process compliant and non-compliant milk without separation and should be added to the list in Chapter I of that Annex. Chapter I of the Annex to Decision 2007/27/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.
Vote: unanimous in favour.

24A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending the Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania as regards certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/1965/2008)

The Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania lists milk establishments which comply with structural requirements and have been authorised to receive and process compliant and non-compliant raw milk. Bulgaria has provided guarantees that five milk processing establishments have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Those establishments are allowed to receive and process non-compliant raw milk. Therefore, they should be included in the list of Chapter I of the Appendix to Annex VI.

One establishment listed in Chapter II will receive and process only compliant raw milk. This establishment has to be deleted from the list of Chapter II of the Appendix of Annex VI. One other establishment currently listed as EU approved establishment will receive and process compliant and non-compliant milk in two separate lines. This establishment has to be added to the list of Chapter II.

The Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Commission Decision 2007/716/EC lays down transitional measures for structural requirements of certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors in Bulgaria. According to an official declaration from the Bulgarian competent authority, certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.

The Annex to Decision 2007/716/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Decision 90/424/EEC lays down the procedures governing the Community's financial contribution towards the national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of the animal diseases and zoonoses listed in the Annex to that Decision. That Decision includes Spring viraemia of carp (SVC) on the list of animal disease for which Member States may be eligible for financial contribution from the Community for national eradication programmes.
Directive 2006/88/EC on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals, lists the aquatic animals non-exotic diseases for which Member States should be eligible for financial contribution from the Community for national eradication, control and monitoring programmes. That Directive, as amended by Commission Directive 2008/53/EC, no longer lists SVC in Part II of Annex IV thereto, since the costs related to the measures to eradicate that disease would be disproportionate to the economic losses caused by it. It is therefore appropriate to delete that disease also from the list of animal diseases and zoonoses set out in the Annex to Decision 90/424/EEC. The Annex to Decision 90/424/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.

26. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision concerning the financial contribution by the Community, for the year 2008, towards a study covering the area of animal transport. (Doc. SANCO/1380/2008)

Under Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field, the Community may avail itself of studies necessary for the development of Community legislation in the field of animal welfare.

A study supporting the implementation of the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006–2010 has been scheduled for 2008 in particular for the preparation of an impact assessment in relation to animal transport. The aim of the study is to evaluate the different policy options linked to identified scenarios as regards travelling times and space allowances for the transported animals and to assess their respective animal welfare and health, public health, economic, social, environmental and administrative impacts. The maximum amount allocated to this action is 58,000 Euros.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

26A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution by the Community to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for actions in the area of animal disease information. (Doc. SANCO/2016/2008-Rev.1)

Pursuant to Decision 90/424/EEC, the Community may undertake, or assist the Member States or international organisations in undertaking, the technical and scientific measures necessary for the development of Community veterinary legislation and for the development of veterinary education or training.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is a representative intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. In the field of disease information, OIE has the unique experience of developing the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID), an interface that provides for a comprehensive range of information on animal diseases.

An EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) is needed for the development of the Community legislation. This system should be aligned with the OIE-WAHID system by establishing actions in partnership with the OIE.

It is therefore appropriate to make a Community financial contribution for the financing of the development of the ADIS and for the analysis of the animal health activities in the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean areas for the period from 2008 to 2012 by the
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The maximum amount of that contribution should be specified.

**Vote: qualified majority by 342 votes in favour, 3 votes absent.**

**26B. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the list of third countries and parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat is authorised, as regards Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. (Doc. SANCO/852/2008-Rev.1)**

The title of the draft Decision presented at the meeting has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:

**Draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the entries for Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay in the list of third countries and parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat are authorised.**

Part 1 of Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC draws up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and lays down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat.

Argentina is listed in Part 1 of Annex II to that Decision and has been divided into different territories mainly according to their animal health status. In 2007, the Argentinean provinces of Neuquén and Rio Negro were recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as having a free of foot and mouth disease without vaccination status. In February 2008, a Community inspection was carried out in Argentina. As the outcome of that mission was favourable, it is appropriate to authorise imports into the Community of bone-in fresh meat from certain animals from those provinces.

In May 2008, the status of free of foot and mouth disease with vaccination was reinstated by the OIE for certain Brazilian States, including Paraná and São Paulo. Considering the free of foot and mouth disease status of those States, and considering the results of the Community inspections carried out in Brazil, these States should be re-included in the list of territories from which imports into the Community of fresh de-boned and matured bovine meat are authorised under the uniform conditions applicable to the other Brazilian States free of foot and mouth disease with vaccination and currently authorised for such imports into the Community.

In 2007, Paraguay was recognised by the OIE as having a free of foot and mouth disease with vaccination status with the exception of a high surveillance area along its external borders. In April 2008, a Community inspection took place in Paraguay. The favourable outcome of that inspection suggests that it is appropriate to authorise imports into the Community of de-boned and matured fresh bovine meat from the territory of Paraguay which is recognised by the OIE as having a free of foot and mouth disease with vaccination status. Decision 79/542/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**
27. Exchange of views on a Draft Commission Regulation laying down a list of third countries for imports and transit through the Community of meat of wild leporidae, farmed rabbits and wild land mammals and the veterinary certification requirements thereof. (Doc.SANCO/1823/2008)

Community provisions concerning the animal and public health conditions for import from third countries and transit through the Community of meat of wild leporidae, farmed rabbits and wild land mammals are laid down in Commission Decision 2000/585/EC.

The existing Community legislation as regards imports of meat of wild leporidae, farmed rabbits and wild land mammals should take into account the public health requirements laid down in Regulations (EC) Nos 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, 853/2004 on specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, 854/2004 on specific rules for the organisation, of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption and 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

Commission Decision 2007/240/EC lays down new veterinary certificates for importing live animals, semen, embryos, ova and products of animal origin into the Community and provides that the various veterinary and public and animal health certificates required for such imports and the certificates for transit through the Community of products of animal origin are to be based on the standard models for veterinary certificates in Annex I to that Decision. Accordingly, the model certificates set out in Annexes II and III to this Decision should be compatible with TRACES.

For the sake of clarity it is appropriate to repeal Commission Decision 2000/585/EC which is replaced by this Regulation. For a period of six months after the date of application of this Regulation, the use of certificates issued in accordance with Decision 2000/585/EC before the amendments introduced by the present Regulation should be authorised thus avoiding any disruption of trade.

The Commission asked the Member States to send any comments by email with the intention to present for an opinion an updated version of the proposal in a future Committee.


The title of the draft Decision presented at the meeting has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:

Draft Commission Decision approving certain national programmes for the control of Salmonella in flocks of broilers of Gallus gallus.

In order to achieve the Community target Member States are to establish national programmes for the control of Salmonella in flocks of broilers of Gallus gallus and submit them to the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. Certain Member States have submitted such programmes, which were found to comply with the relevant Community veterinary legislation and in particular with Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. Those national control programmes should therefore be approved.

29. Exchange of views on a Draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as regards the minimum requirements for bluetongue monitoring and
surveillance programmes. (Doc. SANCO/2157/2008)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 lays down rules for the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of animals, in relation to bluetongue. Annex I of that Regulation establishes the minimum requirements for the bluetongue monitoring and surveillance programmes to be implemented by the Member States. It is essential that appropriate surveillance and monitoring programmes are in place to achieve among others the objectives of detection of bluetongue occurrence at the earliest possible stage, general or specific bluetongue virus serotype freedom demonstration and for the determination of seasonally vector-free period. Such surveillance and monitoring programmes should include minimum components that operate seamlessly across all Member States while ensuring sufficient flexibility to be adapted to local epidemiological conditions. Changes in the epidemiological situation and the implementation of a mass vaccination policy make necessary to adapt the surveillance schemes in place in the Member States. Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 should therefore be amended accordingly.

Some Member States raised specific issues and the Commission asked them to send any comments by email with the intention to present for an opinion an updated version of the proposal in a future meeting of this Committee.
**Miscellaneous**

**Document SANCO/1680/2008-Rev.2** was distributed during the meeting: a draft Commission Decision derogating from Decisions 2003/858/EC and 2006/656/EC and suspending imports into the Community from Malaysia of consignments of certain live fish and of certain aquaculture products. Rev.1 of this draft was voted on the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain held on 18 June 2008 (agenda item 13). In this new revision the Commission limited the scope of this ban to certain ornamental fish belonging to family Cyprinidae. As Rev.2 of the draft does not contain substantial amendments the vote on the previous draft is maintained. Member States agreed on this approach.

The **Commission** reminded Member States to meet the deadline 31 August 2008 for the reports on the controls of identification of bovine, sheep and goats based on Regulation 1505/2006 and Regulation 1082/2003. Due to the fact that there were different interpretations as regards the percentage of holdings to be controlled in the bovine area, a fax to all CVOs has been sent on 17 June 2008 clarifying that situation.

The **Commission** explained the new legal framework concerning the approval of farms and zones free with regard to VHS and IHN. It was highlighted that the procedure laid down in Directive 91/67/EEC will be replaced by the new procedure laid down in Directive 2006/88/EC (to become applicable by the 1st August). Therefore, Member States were requested not to send any more applications following the procedure of Directive 91/67/EEC as it is technically impossible to assess these applications and to issue a new Decision granting the approval due to time constraints and to wait until 1st of August, when Member States may use the procedure laid down in Directive 2006/88/EC.

The **Commission's** representative informed on the situation as regards personal imports from Croatia into the EC. The eradication programme for CSF in Croatia should be the same as that in Romania where there is a requirement for the Romanian Veterinary Services to take measures to ensure that travellers moving from Romania into other Member States carry no pig meat or pig meat products with them. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Croatian authorities to take similar measures in the event of a CSF outbreak in Croatia. The Commission will try to come up with additional information to clarify these requirements for travellers coming from Croatia.