



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 3 & 4 MARCH 2009
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

President: Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present. The Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia were partly absent but represented.

1. Update from the Member States and the Commission on the bluetongue situation.

The [Dutch](#), [German](#) and [Belgian](#) representatives presented the results of their surveillance and other investigations into bluetongue virus serotype 6 (BTV6).

The Commission issued a [statement](#) on the 4th of March 2009 on the BTV6 and BTV11 vaccine-like strains circulation. All Member States endorsed the statement.

The Greek representative made a [presentation](#) on the BT situation in the island of Lesbos.

The Spanish representative made a [presentation](#) on the absence of BTV4 in Spain since 2006.

The Norwegian representative made a [presentation](#) on the detection of BTV8 in three bovine herds and the subsequent measures applied.

The French representative informed that vector surveillance and the vaccination campaign against BTV1 and BTV8 are ongoing. Information on the surveillance programme for 2009 could not be provided at the moment. The Commission has highlighted the importance of a good surveillance programme. The French competent authority has received a formal request by the Commission to provide such information.

The Commission representative informed about the bluetongue working group held on 2 March. During that meeting, the situation as regards BTV6 and BTV11 was discussed, as well as a number of possible amendments to Commission Regulation (EC) no 1266/2007 on implementing rules for the bluetongue Directive.

2. Update on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation in the Czech Republic, France, Germany and Romania.

The **Czech** representative made a [presentation](#) on an H7N9 low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in breeding geese in the district of Hodonín, in the Southern-Moravian region. The poultry (ca. 3300) present on the holding were culled and about 7000 hatching eggs destroyed. The restricted zone with related movement restrictions was implemented.

The **French** representative gave a [presentation](#) updating on an H5 (N1 excluded) LPAI outbreak in a breeding duck holding (5000 birds) located in the Vendée department and confirmed on 1 February. The poultry have been culled and the restrictions including on movements in the restricted zone are maintained.

The **German** representative gave a final [presentation](#) on the H5N3 low pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks affecting 32 poultry holdings (almost exclusively fattening turkeys) in the Landkreis Cloppenburg between 10/12/2009 and 19/1/2010 (date of last outbreak).

The **Romanian** representative made a [presentation](#) on low pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N3 subtype detected in 19 sentinel ducks/geese placed in the county of Tulcea in the Danube delta in the frame of surveillance for avian influenza. The birds were culled and testing of poultry holdings in the vicinity was carried out yielding negative results.

3. Update on the highly pathogenic avian influenza situation in China.

Document SANCO/4693/2009 was distributed by the Commission during the meeting. The document contains updated information in comparison to document SANCO/4555/2009, presented at the meeting of this Committee held on 3 and 4 February 2009 ([see item 2A of the agenda of that meeting](#)). In detail, it provides 1) a map of Shandong province with poultry holdings under the Export Orientated Scheme (EOS) that are not vaccinated against avian influenza and under official supervision. The poultry is destined for slaughter for the production of heat treated meat, 2) information received on 03/03/2009 from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture on surveillance in poultry and wild birds and on vaccination of poultry, 3) the World's Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) report on the HPAI H5N1 outbreak in poultry during 2009 and 4) an overview from the World Health Organization (WHO) on human cases since 2003.

The Commission reminded that only heat treated poultry meat may be imported into the EU from China, which is sourced from poultry from the above mentioned EOS farms under strict official control and therefore posing a negligible risk.

A Chinese avian influenza laboratory expert has been invited to participate at the meeting of the EU and national reference laboratories for avian influenza scheduled for June. The flow of information on the disease situation in China will continue and Member States will be informed about any further developments.

4. Update on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation in Canada.

The Commission representative informed that Canada has provided detailed information on the epidemiological situation and the disease control measures taken in relation to the low pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks of the H5N2 subtype confirmed in fattening turkeys located in Abbotsford, the British Columbia. The information further includes a description of the areas placed under official restrictions in relation to the outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza situation.

Taking into account the above mentioned information, the Commission has prepared a draft Regulation for amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 laying down a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into and transit through the Community and the veterinary certification requirements. This draft Regulation is presented under item 22 of the agenda.

5. Update on the classical swine fever situation in Germany.

The German representative made a [presentation](#), updating the Committee on the measures applied in Germany following the positive cases of classical swine fever (CSF) in wild boar detected since January 2009 in certain areas of the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate.

The Commission distributed documents SANCO/4215/2008 and SANCO/4216/2008 which were voted at the meeting of this Committee held on 3-4 February 2010 ([see items 9 and 10 of the agenda of that meeting](#)), as regards animal health control measures and the eradication and emergency vaccination plans for CSF in Germany. The Commission has stopped the adoption procedure of document SANCO/4215/2008, prepared a new version of it based on the information received by Germany over the last few days and distributed it during the meeting. The Commission proposed to expand the areas under restriction where the new cases of CSF were detected. The most recent case of CSF was detected on 3 March 2009 and this was not taken into account during the preparation of the new proposed text. Germany should provide to the Commission and the Member States further information on this last case within 90 days and should take all the necessary measures.

6. Information from Romania on the Newcastle disease situation.

The Romanian representative made a [presentation](#), providing an update on the information given at the previous meeting of this Committee of 3 and 4 February 2009 Newcastle disease in captive birds (parrots) confirmed on 16 January 2009.

6A. Information from the Czech Republic, Germany and France on the epidemiological investigations carried out in relation with cowpox virus in rats.

The Czech and French representatives made a presentation on the epidemiological investigations in relation to cowpox virus in rats, following its detection in humans in

Germany and France. Investigations carried out in the Czech Republic based on the information sent via the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) indicate as a possible source of infection rats that were introduced to France and Germany from breeder rat establishments in the Czech Republic.

The German representative informed that the only available information is the one provided by the keeper where the cases were detected. The Robert Koch Institute is authorised to deal with it.

The Commission highlighted the necessity of a good cooperation on this issue between the three Member States and the awareness and precautionary hygienic behaviour when handling these animals.

7. Information from the Member States as regards West Nile Fever.

The Italian representative made a [presentation](#) on the results of the surveillance carried out in the Ferrara province after the detection of West Nile fever (WNF) in a horse. Vaccination is allowed but as there is no vaccine available it is not applied.

The French representative informed that following the outbreaks in 2000, surveillance is in place in 10 departments in the Mediterranean area and in Corsica. There are no positive cases since 2007. Awareness of horse owners was raised through the veterinarians and a system was established to inform the public about the disease as well. Vaccination is allowed but is not compulsory.

The Spanish representative informed that surveillance has started in 2001 and it is continued since then. For the moment, the Spanish authorities compare the WNF disease data with the data available for avian influenza and bluetongue, based on the fact that WNF is a vector transmittable disease and could be transferred by wild birds as in the case of the other two above mentioned diseases. In 2008, more than 99 species were sampled and some positive cases were found.

The Commission representative informed that the vaccine against WNF produced by an American company is already registered by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) however, it is not available in the market yet.

Member States were furthermore informed that a meeting organised by the Commission will be held by the middle of April to discuss the disease situation and to exchange views based on the experience of both the public health doctors and the veterinarians. The aim of the meeting would be an effective future strategy for the WNF in Europe.

8. Information from Poland on the bovine tuberculosis situation.

The Polish representative made a [presentation](#) on the process of the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Poland. The eradication of that disease has been finalised and therefore Poland has requested the Commission to be declared an officially tuberculosis-free Member State as regards bovine herds.

8A. Exchange of views on the listing of bovine embryo collection and production teams in third countries.

The Commission distributed information on modifications to the list of bovine embryo collection and production teams, following a request from the Australian authorities.

9. Information on the Infectious Salmon Anaemia outbreak in the United Kingdom.

The British representative made a [presentation](#) updating the Members of the Committee on the occurrence of Infectious salmon anaemia in South West Shetland, Scotland, UK. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing. The source of the disease is still unknown.

10. Information from Spain, Italy, Poland and Portugal on the results of the implementation of Bovine Tuberculosis co-financed eradication programmes 2007.

The [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#) representatives presented the results of the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis co-financed eradication programmes for the year 2007 in their countries.

Document SANCO/4820/2009 was distributed by the Commission during the meeting. The document is a report on the meeting of the Task Force for monitoring disease eradication in the Member States.

11. Information from the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia and Finland on the results of the implementation of the Rabies co-financed eradication programmes 2007.

The [Austrian](#), [Czech](#), [Slovak](#) and [Slovene](#) representatives made presentations on the results of the implementation of the rabies co-financed eradication programmes for the year 2007 in their countries. Slovakia has declared itself free from rabies as there were no positive cases detected since August 2006.

The **German** representative informed that in the last few years only simple vaccination is applied. The last 4 cases were detected in rats in 2006. No other positive cases were detected since then. In 2008, the vaccination area in Palatinat was reduced. In Autumn 2008, following the World's Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules, Germany has been recognised as free from rabies. In 2009 no vaccination will be carried out.

The Commission's representative explained that some Member States should revise their rabies and bluetongue eradication programmes. These should be communicated to the Commission as soon as possible.

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

The Commission updated on the situation after the last contacts with the Russian Federation (RF) authorities on listing of establishments. A meeting in Prague is foreseen for 25 and 26 March in a form of a technical round table followed by a meeting with the Head of Rosselkhozndadzor. The RF legal requirements on meat and milk will be the subject of the technical roundtable.

The RF website gives the list of authorised establishments for each country, as well as restrictions and certifications conditions. The RF also proposed to discuss new certificates.

13. EU requirements for export certification.

The Commission representative informed about the incorrect interpretation of export certificates by the border inspection posts in the Member States, in particular the parts concerning the attestation. Member States' representatives were asked to follow up this issue with their Chief Veterinary Officers. The Commission will provide guidance information to the Member States on the requirements for certification of ungulates and fresh meat.

14. Project Documents for adoption at the 38th General Session of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD) – April 2009. (Doc. SANCO/4467/2009)

The Commission's representative presented the working document SANCO/4467/2009 which contains project documents concerning minimum standards for certain FMD laboratories that will be presented for adoption during the 38th General Session of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD) to be held on 28-30 of April 2009 in Rome, Italy.

Member States were requested to send any comments to the Commission during the next two weeks. The final version of the document will be then forwarded to the Council.

15. Guidance to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC regarding additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs related to Aujeszky's disease and criteria for listing a Member State or a region thereof as free from Aujeszky's disease or as having an approved disease control programme. (Doc.SANCO/3023/2008)

The Commission, in this working document, has incorporated all the Member States' comments on this issue, sent to the Commission over the last 2 months and the experts' opinion following a task force meeting.

The objective of this paper is a) to explain the principles of the additional guarantees as regards Aujeszky's disease (AD) and b) to provide guidelines on the procedures to list a Member State or a certain region thereof in Annex I or in Annex II of

Commission Decision 2008/185/EC. The guidelines are based on the requirements of Articles 9 and 10 of Directive 64/432/EEC and the International Animal Health Code on AD of the International Office of Epizootic Diseases (OIE).

16. Information on plucking/harvesting feathers from live geese.

The Commission's representative informed the Member States that recently, a television programme broadcasted a report where feathers from live geese were being plucked under painful conditions in Hungary.

According to the Community law, plucking feathers is forbidden but harvesting down feathers is allowed as this practice consists of removing feathers that are ripe due to the natural phenomenon of moulting and therefore is not painful.

At the meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of 11 February 2009, the Hungarian Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed that the practice of plucking feathers as shown on that programme is forbidden in Hungary and constituted an isolated case of cruelty towards animals which will be thoroughly investigated.

The Commission has requested information from the Hungarian authorities on the results of their investigation of this particular case. Furthermore, a letter was sent by the Commission to the Member States' CVOs requesting additional information on the practice of harvesting down feathers with the intention to make an inventory of the practices used and then to discuss it in the meeting of this Committee in April. The Commission highlighted that transparency at EU level is necessary, as well as to keep competitiveness on the market while at the same time ensuring the consumers' interests and animal welfare.

17. The Joint Africa – EU Strategy: five SPS deliverables under the first Action Plan 2008-2010.

The Commission's representative presented the outcome of the First Joint Expert Group Meeting held in Addis Ababa on 14 November 2008, in the framework of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy, Partnership on Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure. The detailed report of the meeting was communicated to the Member States well in advance of the meeting of this Committee.

18. The implementation of the "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa" (high level opening conference, and training of the officials of the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities).

The Commission's representative informed that the initiative "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa" (BTSF-Africa) will be launched during a high-level conference to be held in Addis Ababa on 3 April 2009. Under the BTSF-Africa, the EU and the African Union Commission will jointly coordinate the implementation, from 2009 to 2010, of seven capacity building activities worth around 10 million Euros. The activities target the public and private sectors playing a role in the SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) systems at national, regional and continental levels. The key objective is to

support food safety mainly by the transfer of technical expertise and policy advice in areas of food safety and quality across Africa.

19. Information on Commission Decision amending Decision 2008/866/EC as regards an extension of its period of application. (Doc. SANCO/4641/2009)

Decision 2008/866/EC of 12 November 2008 on emergency measures suspending imports from Peru of certain bivalve molluscs intended for human consumption was adopted as a result of contamination with the hepatitis A virus of certain bivalve molluscs imported from Peru which were identified as being the origin of an outbreak of hepatitis A in humans. That Decision applies until 31 March 2009.

The Peruvian authorities have provided certain information concerning the corrective measures put in place to improve control of the population of bivalve molluscs intended for export to the Community. That information is however insufficient and a Commission inspection is to be carried out in Peru. Pending the submission of all relevant information by the Peruvian authorities and the results of that inspection, it is appropriate to extend the application of Decision 2008/866/EC until 30 November 2009.

To adopt a proposal to extend the applicability of Decision 2008/866/EC until 30 November 2009, the Commission used the possibility of a written procedure as foreseen in Article 9 of the internal rules of procedure of this Committee. Member States have received a fax from the Commission on 19 February 2009 by which they were requested to provide their opinion on document SANCO/4641/2009 by 23 February 2009. Member States were in favour of the draft Decision and the Commission adopted it.

This item was added on the agenda of this meeting for Member States' information only.

20. 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.

The following documents were presented for an opinion:

Doc. SANCO/4215/2008 – Rev.2: draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2008/855/EC as regards animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in Germany.

Doc. SANCO/4216/2008 – Rev.2: draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/135/EC as regards the eradication and emergency vaccination plans for classical swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany).

These two drafts were presented for an opinion at the meeting of this Committee held on 3 and 4 February under agenda items 9 and 10 and received the favourable opinion of the Committee Members. The votes of these new legal texts supersede the votes taken in the meeting of the Committee in February.

Vote: unanimous in favour, 62 votes were absent but represented.

- 21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration that certain regions of Italy are officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and enzootic-bovine-leukosis, that certain administrative regions of Poland are officially free of enzootic-bovine-leukosis and that Poland and Slovenia are officially free of bovine tuberculosis. (Doc. SANCO/4536/2009 – Rev.2)**

The competent authorities of Italy, Poland and Slovenia submitted to the Commission supporting documentation as regards certain administrative regions of their respective Member State, demonstrating compliance with all the conditions required for an officially free status for bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis or enzootic bovine leukosis respectively.

The purpose of this Decision is to amend the relevant Annexes of Decision 2003/467/EC to take account of the officially free status for the diseases and the administrative regions notified to the Commission by these three Member States.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

- 22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 laying down a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into and transit through the Community concerning veterinary certification in relation to low pathogenic avian influenza. (Doc.SANCO/4553/2009)**

The title of this draft Regulation has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:

Draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 laying down a list of third countries, territories, 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/4553/2009 – Rev.1)

The Commission's representative presented the document, already mentioned under point 4 of the agenda. The purpose of this draft Regulation is to amend:

a) the model veterinary certificates for day-old chicks other than ratites and hatching eggs of poultry to allow for alternative certification provisions for Canada in the case of future outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI), taking into account the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Canada on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animal products, which provides that each Party to it is to recognise a sanitary measure of the other Party as equivalent, if the latter objectively demonstrates that its measure achieves the appropriate level of protection. Canada has demonstrated its capability to respond to outbreaks of LPAI in poultry holdings on its territory and to successfully prevent the spread of infection. Moreover, as already mentioned during the presentation of item 4 of this agenda, it has provided the Commission with detailed information on the epidemiological situation and the disease control measures taken,

b) the model veterinary certificate for egg products included in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 798/2008, to take into account the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on certain treatment procedures for the commodities for the inactivation of disease agents,

c) in Annex III to that Regulation the testing method for a Salmonella subspecies of animal health relevance, to allow third countries to use laboratory methods as recommended by the OIE,

d) Annex XI to correct a footnote in the model veterinary certificate for transit/storage of specified pathogen-free eggs, meat, minced meat and mechanically separated meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products and

e) to provide for a transitional period to permit Member States and industry to take the necessary measures to comply with the applicable veterinary certification.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

23. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2001/881/EC as regards the list of border inspection posts. (Doc. SANCO/4499/2009)

The Annex to Commission Decision 2001/881/EC drawing up a list of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries and updating the detailed rules concerning the checks to be carried out by the expert of the Commission, contains a list of border inspection posts and assigns a new international 'TRACES-code' to each border inspection post.

The purpose of this draft Decision is to amend that Annex in order to:

a) replace the old TRACES-codes with new ones which are based on the norms of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations and the International Air Transport Association,

b) add a border inspection post in Latvia, following a satisfactory inspection by the Commission inspection service, and

c) activate, suspend, temporarily suspend, delete or update certain border inspection posts or inspection centres in certain Member States, following communication sent by those Member States to the Commission.

The Commission's representative informed that pending internal consultation, the document could not be presented for an opinion. As it is urgent, the Commission will use the possibility of a written procedure as foreseen in Article 9 of the internal rules of procedure of this Committee. Therefore, Member States will receive a fax by which they will be requested to provide their opinion on the final version of the document which will also be communicated to them.

Informal vote: approved by Member States.

23A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision listing the units of TRACES and repealing Decisions 91/398/EEC and 2002/459/EC. (Doc. SANCO/4786/2009)

Commission Decision 91/398/EEC on a computerised network linking veterinary authorities, defines the type of units that are part of the Animo network and lays down the requirements for those units. Commission Decision 2002/459/EC lays down a list of those units and repeals Decision 2000/287/EC laying down a list of those units.

To ensure the operation of TRACES network, the integrated computerized communication system, the various units should be re-defined and the existing list should be updated. To avoid any duplication of the listing of the border inspection posts, reference should be made to the list laid down in the Annex to Decision 2001/881/EC (mentioned in item 23 of the agenda). To identify without ambiguity the Member State to which the different units belong, these should be codified according to the code 3166 alpha 2 of the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO). For the border inspection posts the new TRACES-codes used should be based on the norms of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations and the International Air Transport Association.

In the interest of clarity and coherence of Community legislation Decisions 91/398/EEC and 2002/459/EC should be repealed and replaced by this Decision.

The Commission's representative informed that pending internal consultation, the document could not be presented for an opinion. As it is urgent, the Commission will use the possibility of a written procedure as foreseen in Article 9 of the internal rules of procedure of this Committee. Therefore, Member States will receive a fax by which they will be requested to provide their opinion on the final version of the document which will also be communicated to them.

Informal vote: approved by Member States.

24. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving on behalf of the European Community certain amendments to Annex V to the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Canada on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animal products. (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/4244/2008)

The Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Canada on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in respect of trade in live animals and animal products provides for the possibility of recognising equivalence for sanitary measures after the exporting Party has objectively demonstrated that its measures achieve the importing Party's appropriate level of protection. The determination of equivalence was carried out and concluded with Canada for equivalence on public health measures concerning fishery products. Equivalence has been concluded on a reciprocal basis.

The Joint Management Committee established under the Agreement, at its meetings of 27-28 April 2005, 5-6 October 2006 and 3-4 October 2007, issued recommendations concerning:

- a) the determination of equivalence on i) hygiene rules and on microbiological criteria for fishery products and ii) for poultry post-mortem requirements on poultry meat,
- b) the establishment of rules for imports into the Community for fish caught under the authority of a recreational fishing licence from Canada,
- c) fresh and minced meat to update the legal basis of the EU and Canadian standards, and
- d) provision for the possibility of imports from Canada of live bivalve molluscs for wet storage, relaying or depuration in the Community other than market size live bivalve molluscs, in line with Community legislation.

As a result of those recommendations it is appropriate to modify the relevant parts in Annex V to the Agreement. The amendments are to be agreed upon an exchange of notes between the Parties. Accordingly, the recommended modifications to Annex V to the Agreement should be approved on behalf of the Community.

Commission Decision C(2008)2633 of 19 June 2008, which was not published in the Official Journal of the European Union, made certain amendments to the Annex V to the Agreement. It is therefore necessary to make certain adaptations of a diplomatic nature to the text of the letters set out in Annex to that Decision and for clarity reasons, that Decision should be annulled and replaced by the present draft Decision.

Vote: unanimous in favour, 46 votes were absent but represented.

- 25. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the financial contribution of the Community for the year 2009 for the computerisation of veterinary procedures, the system of notification of animal diseases, communication measures and studies and evaluations and on a direct grant to the OIE based on 168.1 I of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. (Doc. SANCO/4100/2008)**

Under Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field, the Community is to 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 purpose of this Decision is to provide for the year 2009 the necessary financial resources for the Commission to carry out the necessary studies and evaluations to further improve policy measures, to meet its obligations in communication policy regarding animal health and welfare and to support TRACES and ADNS systems. The maximum amount to be allocated to these actions should be specified.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will host from 24-26 June 2009 an International Conference on "Foot-and-Mouth Disease, the way towards eradication"

in Asunción, Paraguay. This OIE conference will support the actions identified in the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a new Animal Health Strategy for the EU (2007-2013). Therefore it is appropriate for the Community to contribute to this initiative in order to achieve a better protection from this disease. Therefore, the Community should support this OIE initiative.

The Commission's representative presented the draft Decision and replied to questions raised by the Member States on the TRACES and ADNS systems and on the activities concerning animal welfare.

Vote: qualified majority by 316 votes in favour, 29 votes abstained.

26. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the establishment of a voluntary system of preventive biosecurity measures with respect to avian influenza and laying down conditions for the approval of compartments of poultry and other captive birds. (Doc. SANCO/4063/2008 – Rev.2)

The title of this draft Regulation has changed from the one included on the agenda, to read as follows:

Draft Commission Regulation concerning the voluntary establishment of additional preventive biosecurity measures for compartments with respect to avian influenza and laying down conditions for the approval of compartments of such compartments of poultry and other captive birds.

In order to enable Member States to officially approve compartments which have established a voluntary system of additional preventive biosecurity measures regarding avian influenza, and to facilitate trade of poultry and other birds coming from approved compartments, the requirements for such approval should be detailed in Community legislation.

The proposed draft Commission Regulation introduces rules and lays down conditions and biosecurity criteria for the approval of compartments of poultry and other captive birds with respect to avian influenza in the Community.

The requirements for compartments for imports from third countries should be laid down in Community legislation at a later stage following the same criteria and requirements.

The Commission's representative presented the draft Regulation and replied to Member States' questions. The Commission's intention is to present it for an opinion at the next meeting of this Committee.

27. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down a list of third countries, territories or zones authorised for the introduction into the Community of certain animals and meat and the veterinary certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/4787/2009)

Council Decision 79/542/EEC drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat establishes the sanitary conditions for the importation into the Community of live animals excluding equidae, and for the importation of fresh meat of such animals, including equidae, but excluding meat preparations.

Since the date of adoption of that Decision, a number of new animal health and public health requirements have been laid down in other Community acts, constituting a new regulatory framework in this area. Directive 72/462/EC, which is the legal basis for Decision 79/542/EEC, has also been repealed by one of these new Community acts, Directive 2004/68/EC.

Decision 79/542/EEC has been amended several times and import provisions based on the new regulatory framework have already been introduced in Decision 79/542/EEC. For the sake of clarity and transparency, the measures that are laid down in Decision 79/542/EEC are included in this Regulation, which is laid down on the basis of the new regulatory framework.

By the entry into force of this Regulation, Decision 79/542/EEC elapses and thus no longer applies. However, for the sake of clarity and transparency for both Member States and third countries, Decision 79/542/EEC will be explicitly repealed by a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council after the entry into force of this Regulation.

In the interest of simplification of Community legislation, the measures laid down in Commission Decision 2003/881/EC of 11 December 2003 concerning the animal health and certification conditions for imports of bees (*Apis mellifera* and *Bombus* spp.) from certain third countries are included in this Regulation. Consequently, Decision 2003/881/EC is to be repealed.

It is appropriate to introduce a transitional period to allow Member States and industry to take the necessary measures to comply with the requirements laid down in this draft Regulation.

The Commission's representative presented the draft Regulation and asked the Member States to send any comments to the Commission by email.

28. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/268/EC on the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds. (Doc. SANCO/4692/2009)

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

Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/268/EC on the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds to be carried out in the Member States.

Decision 2007/268/EC lays down guidelines for the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds and for submission of the results of this surveillance to the Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza.

The Commission has introduced an on-line system for reporting which should be reflected in the guidelines.

Furthermore, the strains designated by the Community Reference Laboratory to confirm serological positive findings for avian influenza of the subtype H5 should be replaced by other strains that have proven to be fit for purpose for diagnostic use and enable rapid supply and cost effective production.

Decision 2007/268/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by Member States:

- **The Dutch** representative informed that at the next meeting of this Committee, a presentation will be made on the **Q fever** situation in the Netherlands.
- **The British** representative briefly informed on an infection with an **avian influenza virus of subtype H6N1** in two associated flocks of breeding turkeys that showed clinical signs. Investigations to exclude high pathogenicity are ongoing.
- **The British** representative asked the Commission to clarify whether **import of chondroitin** or products containing this by-product is allowed into the EU. The British claimed that such imports from China were allowed by some Member States. The Commission representative explained that further information on this issue is necessary before informing the Member States and that this issue will be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee.

Issues raised by the Commission:

- In order to continue their approved preventive vaccination plan against avian influenza in one game bird holding, **Portugal needs additional doses of bivalent H5/H7 vaccine**. Member States were asked to check if such vaccine is currently available in stock in order to provide the necessary doses to Portugal or if they could assist Portugal in finding a vaccine producer.
- **Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine to Iraq.**

The Commission has received through the Food and Agricultural Office (FAO)-based European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD) a request by Iraq to provide support for an emergency vaccination campaign against FMD to be carried out to control the current FMDV-A outbreaks in the Eastern parts of that country.

As a contribution towards the vaccination campaign against this disease in the Eastern part of Iraq, the Commission aims to send a consignment of 500,000 doses of trivalent vaccine against FMD to that country. For that reason Commission's services requested Merial S.A.S to formulate the vaccine from the FMD antigens stocks stored in the premises of the EC antigen bank.