



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SANCO G – D(2011)1042706

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 30 NOVEMBER & 1 DECEMBER 2009**

**(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

**(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

President: Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present.

On 1 December the Head of the EU laboratories for bluetongue participated during the presentations of items 1 and 2 of the agenda.

**1. Bluetongue situation in the Member States.**

**The Greek** representative made a [presentation](#) on the bluetongue (BT) outbreaks on the island Lesbos (serotypes 1, 8 and 16) and on the islands Chios, Samos and Rhodes (serotype 16) in 2009. Entomological and serological investigations are ongoing also in other islands.

**The French** representative made a [presentation](#) providing information on the epidemiological and entomological surveillance performed during 2009 and on the ongoing vaccination campaign 2009-2010 against BTV1 and 8. To date, 81 BT outbreaks (6 of them of serotype 1, 3 of them of serotypes 1 and 8 and 72 of them of serotype 8) were confirmed in France in 2009.

The representative of the EU reference laboratory for bluetongue (Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright UK) reported on the outcome of the meeting of the national reference laboratories for bluetongue that took place on 30 November. The general conclusion of that meeting was that thanks to the vaccination campaigns of the last few years, there is a sharp decline of BT outbreaks in the EU. It is important to maintain the high level of vaccination against BTV1 and BTV8 to enable eradication of these serotypes.

**2. Distribution of the Evaluation Report "Emergency vaccination against bluetongue in the EU. Nov 2007 - Dec 2008". (Doc. SANCO/7045/2009)**

The draft evaluation report was distributed and presented by the Commission during the meeting. The aim of this report is to evaluate the final reports submitted by the Member States on the implementation of the emergency vaccination campaigns

against bluetongue. The figures in the report are based on the vaccination plans and on reports that were submitted to the Commission in the framework of Commission Decision 2008/988/EC. That Decision approved the emergency vaccination plans against bluetongue of certain Member States and established the level of the Community's financial contribution for 2007 and 2008.

Member States were requested to review the report and to send to the Commission their comments by the end of this week.

**3. Information from the Member States on the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus in animals and guidance from the Commission on surveillance and control measures in poultry. (Doc. (SANCO/6133/2009- Rev.6)**

During the last meeting of this Committee held on 3 & 4 November 2009, a previous version of the document SANCO/6133/2009 (see item 3 of the agenda of that meeting) was presented by the Commission asking Member States to endorse it. However, Member States had requested more time to consult their experts. Revision 5 was prepared by the Commission to take into account their comments. The changes were presented by the Commission's representative who, based on further comments, prepared Revision 6 of the document. The revised document was presented later on during the meeting and was endorsed by the Member States' representatives.

**The Finnish** representative informed about a suspicion of influenza H1N1 in a farm with 600 fattening pigs in the western part of Finland.

**The Danish** representative informed about influenza A positive minks on 26 premises. In six of these farms influenza H3N2 was detected. The last positive case was detected on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. Restrictions on all 26 premises were lifted based on negative testing results. 80% of the minks were removed since it is now the skinning season. The source of the infection is still unknown.

**3A. Information from the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and France on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.**

**The Czech** representative distributed information on an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H5N3 in a mallard holding which had been detected during regular monitoring and was confirmed on 5 November 2009. All susceptible birds in the holding were destroyed on 6 November. A restricted zone was established and epidemiological investigations are ongoing. The final disinfection of the holding was carried out on 12 November.

**The German** representative made a [presentation](#) on an outbreak of LPAI of the subtype H5 in a mixed poultry holding, confirmed on 20 November 2009. Restrictive measures were immediately applied. All poultry present on the holding were destroyed. Cleaning and disinfection of the holding was finalised on 24 November. Epidemiological investigations are still ongoing. 91 backyard poultry holdings located within the restricted zone were tested and yielded negative results.

**The Italian** representative made a [presentation](#) on four new outbreaks of LPAI confirmed on 10 September, 13 and 18 November. Restrictions of movements and

eradication measures were implemented in the affected premises. Birds of endangered species reared in one of the infected farms were not killed but subjected to further surveillance and testing. In total, between 20 April and 8 September 2009, 30 LPAI (4 of subtype H5N7, 3 of subtype H7N3 and 23 of subtype H7) outbreaks were reported in Italy.

**The French** representative made a [presentation](#) on an outbreak of LPAI of subtype H5N3, confirmed on 13 November in a duck holding. All necessary control measures were applied. The holding was depopulated on 16 November and a first and second disinfection were performed on 23 and 25 November; the final one is scheduled for 3 December.

**The Spanish** representative made a [presentation](#) on a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak of subtype H7N7 which was confirmed on 13 October 2009 in a laying hen holding. Stamping out of all birds present on the infected holding was finalised on 18 October. Preliminary cleaning and disinfection was carried out on 29 October. All farms within a radius of 12 km around the infected holding were tested with negative results. On 30 November the restrictions will be lifted.

The Commission's representative informed that the measures adopted by the Commission due to the HPAI outbreak in Spain will elapse on 30 November.

### **3B. Information from Belgium and Sweden on the Newcastle disease situation.**

**The Belgian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the Newcastle disease situation in 2009. In total, there were 7 outbreaks in pigeons with the last one confirmed on 27 November. All control measures were taken. Vaccination against Newcastle disease is mandatory in poultry and in pigeons participating in races or shows.

**The Swedish** representative provided information on a Newcastle disease outbreak in a holding with 20,000 broiler breeding birds which was confirmed on 6 November 2009. All birds present on the holding were destroyed. Hatching eggs were traced and destroyed. Within the protection zone there is only one holding with broilers and laboratory testing gave negative results. On 11 November disinfection was finalised and the protection zone will be lifted still during this week. The Commission's representative asked if Sweden was not considering introducing routine vaccination against Newcastle disease but the Swedish authorities do not plan to apply vaccination as there is just one disease outbreak per year.

**The Spanish** representative made a [presentation](#) on a Newcastle disease outbreak in the northern part of the country in a game bird farm which was confirmed on 26 November 2009. Birds were culled and the holding was cleaned and disinfected. Within the restriction zones there are 10 farms. Epidemiological investigation has been carried out.

### **4. Information on 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 – Rev. 8a)**

The Commission's representative informed the Committee on the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version; not substantial ones. The objective of the document is to explain the principles of the additional guarantees as regards Aujeszky's disease (AD) and to provide guidelines on the procedures to list a Member State or a region in Annex I or in Annex II of Decision 2008//185/EC. The guidelines are based on the requirements of Articles 9 and 10 of Directive 64/432/EC and the International Animal Health Code on AD of the International Office of Epizootic Disease (OIE).

#### **4A. Information from Germany and France on the classical swine fever situation in wild boar: Lifting of restrictions in certain areas in Germany.**

**The German** representative made a [presentation](#) on the disease situation in wild boar in North Rhine-Westfalia and Rhineland-Palatinate. In the Palatinate area, there were no classical swine fever detections since May 2009 and the disease was restricted to 4 municipalities. Vaccination will cease in 2010 except in the areas where the outbreaks were detected. In the Eifel area, vaccination will cease on 1 April 2010, restrictions will be lifted and it will be transformed into a monitoring zone. The German authorities aim to cease vaccination in 2010 in the area bordering with France currently under restrictions but wish to discuss it with the French authorities beforehand. The German and the French authorities have coordinated the vaccination dates for the spring vaccination in that area.

**The French** representative informed that the French authorities have asked AFSSA's (French Agency for Food Safety) opinion on the issue. When it is made available, the French authorities will assess the situation and see how to proceed. France expects that Germany will not lift restrictions in that area without France's consensus.

The Commission's representative explained that taking into account that this time of the year there is the hunting campaign in France, by March 2010 the French authorities will have enough data to assess the situation and take a final decision. The data should be sent to the Commission via the relevant database system. If necessary, a meeting could be organised in January 2010 in France between Germany, France and the Commission, to further discuss the situation.

#### **5. Working Document on eradication of bovine, sheep and goats brucellosis in the EU accepted by the “Bovine” and “Sheep and Goats” Brucellosis subgroups of the Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication. (Doc. SANCO/6095/2009)**

The Commission's representative presented the document. The purpose of this document is:

- a) to review the general principles that constitute the basis for strategic planning for surveillance, control and eradication of brucellosis,
- b) to propose short/medium/long term measures based on specific epidemiological situation in order to accelerate the progress of eradication programmes,
- c) to draw conclusions on perspectives on eradication/control,

- d) to stimulate discussion on future strategy and
- e) to assist in the design and improvement of eradication programmes.

The document is primarily based on conclusions and recommendations presented in various Task Force meetings and on the experience of the Member States. It could be useful not only to the Member States currently with a brucellosis eradication programme co-financed by the Community but also to the countries under accession that have problems with this disease. In order to be easily accessible by all interested parties, it will be published on the Commission's website

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/taskforce\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/taskforce_en.htm).

#### **6. Working document "Transport of dangerous materials of animal origin" (joint document with DG TREN).**

The Commission's representative presented the working document and explained that this is the result of consultation and discussion between two Commission Directorates General – Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) and Transport and Energy (DG TREN) - and experts of the advisory committee on dangerous goods. The objective of this document is to precisely describe the interaction of the two legal frameworks covering the transport of dangerous materials of animal origin: Directive 2008/68/EC on the inland transport of dangerous goods and Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption. Both legal frameworks lay down requirements as regards the road transport of certain infected material of animal origin, in particular as regards conditions applicable to consignments, as well as personnel and vehicles carrying out the transportation. Although the two legal frameworks have different scopes, DG SANCO and DG TREN believe it is necessary to clarify which commodities are subject to which particular legislation. They have prepared this common guidance for the implementation of both pieces of legislation, Directive 2008/68/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002, in order to avoid administrative burdens and simplify procedures to be more user friendly.

The document was communicated by the Commission to Member States' experts prior to this meeting and they have already sent some comments. Member States were asked to send additional comments to the Commission before the end of the year.

#### **7. State of play of the implementation of Directive 1999/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens.**

The Commission reported on the situation regarding the phasing out of unenriched cages as reported by the industry as well as on the industry's request for introducing a 5th indicator for the marking of eggs from enriched cages. The Commission did not support this proposal and highlighted that such production indicator would eventually be used in the same way as the voluntary indication of “enriched cages” currently foreseen in Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008. Only two Member States supported the introduction of such indicator and several Member States declared that the Directive will be implemented by the legal deadline. An information point on the implementation of the Directive will be placed regularly on the agenda of the

SCFCAH to assist Member States in the phasing out of battery cages by the legal deadline.

**8. Declaration from Germany of a VHS/IHN free compartment in accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.**

**In accordance with article 10 of Decision 2009/177/EC the information can be found in the following link:**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)**

The Commission's representative informed the Member States that the declaration will be made available on the Commission's website by the end of the day. Member States could send any comments by email within the next two months.

Information on the German declaration was distributed during the meeting.

**9. "Koi Herpes Virus and carp breeding in the context of Council Directive 2006/88/EC". Exchange of views on a resolution adopted by The Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture. (Doc. SANCO/7055/2009)**

The Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA), comprised of representatives of the EU aquaculture industry, has issued a resolution on 10 November 2009 regarding "KHV and carp breeding in the context of Council Directive 2006/88/EC".

Document SANCO/7055/2009 contains information on Council Directive 2006/88/EC and on the Koi Herpes Virus which is listed as a non-exotic disease by that Directive. It also contains the resolution of ACFA and the actions already taken by the Community in this regard.

The Commission's representative explained that pending the submission of data as regards the epidemiological situation of this disease by the Member States, it is premature to take further measures. The Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers will be in contact with the Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries which is also involved in this issue and will inform the Member States in case any new information reveals.

All Member States endorsed the document.

**10. 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.**

No item raised.

**11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on measures to control increased mortalities in Crassostrea gigas. (Doc. SANCO/6463/2009 – Rev.1)**

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

**Draft Commission Regulation implementing Council Directive 2006/88/EC as regards measures to control increased mortality in oysters of the species Crassostrea gigas in connection with the detection of Ostreid herpesvirus 1  $\mu$ var (OsHV – 1  $\mu$ var). (Doc. SANCO/6463/2009 – Rev.2)**

This draft has been discussed in the previous meetings of this Committee held on 16 October 2009 ([see item 28 of that agenda](#)) and on 3 and 4 November ([see item 21 of that agenda](#)). Following the request of two Member States, the Commission has organised a working group meeting on 18 November to further discuss this issue with the Member States' experts. Member States have sent comments that were taken into account for the preparation of revision 2 of this draft.

Member States were asked to send any comments by email latest by 10 December. This draft will be finalised in view of a possible submission for a formal opinion at next meetings of this Committee.

**Vote: postponed.**

**12. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes VIII, X and XI to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption. (Regulatory procedure with scrutiny of the European Parliament and of the Council) (Doc. SANCO/10034/2009 – Rev.4)**

Previous versions of this draft Decision have been presented by the Commission during the meetings of this Committee of 16 October 2009 ([see item 26 of the agenda of that meeting](#)) and of 3 & 4 November 2009 ([see item 24 of the agenda of that meeting](#)). Since then, the Commission has received comments from Member States. A new version of the document has been prepared to take into account these comments. The changes introduced into the document were explained to the Member States.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

**13. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down health guarantees for the transit of equidae and repealing Decision 2008/907/EC. (Doc. SANCO/6174/2009 – Rev.2)**

*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 laying down health guarantees for the transit of equidae through territories listed in Annex I to Directive 97/78/EC.**

Article 9(1)(c) of Council Directive 91/496/EEC stipulates that transit of equidae through the territories listed in Annex I to Directive 97/78/EC, from one third country to another third country or to the same third country shall be authorised, provided these equidae afford health guarantees recognised as being at least equivalent to those adopted pursuant to Chapter II of Council Directive 90/426/EEC on animal health conditions governing the movement and import of equidae from third countries.

Commission Decision 2004/211/EC establishing the list of third countries and parts of territory thereof from which Member States authorise imports of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species, and Commission Decision 92/260/EEC setting out health conditions and veterinary certification required for the temporary admission of registered horses, provide all health guarantees necessary for transit through the European Union of equidae.

Commission Decision 2008/907/EC laying down health guarantees for the transport of equidae from one third country to another in accordance with Article 9(1)(c) of Council Directive 91/496/EEC, allows transit of equidae under the principal animal health conditions, including the relevant list of third countries, applicable to temporary admission of registered horses.

The purpose of this Decision is to extend the scope of countries of origin and destination by also allowing the transit through the European Union of equidae from those third countries, territories or parts thereof from which temporary admission or imports of registered horses are authorised pursuant to Decision 2004/211/EC.

In the interests of clarity of Union legislation, Decision 2008/907/EC should be repealed and replaced by the present Decision.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

**14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex D of Directive 92/65/EEC as regards semen storage centres, embryo collection and production teams, conditions for collection, production, processing, storage and transport of semen, ova and embryos, animal health requirements for the donor animals of the semen of the equine, ovine and caprine species and of the ova and embryos of the equine species. (Doc. SANCO/6172/2009-Rev. 3)**

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

**Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex D to Directive 92/65/EEC as regards semen collection and storage centres, embryo collection and production teams, conditions for donor animals of the equine, ovine and caprine species and for handling semen, ova and embryos of those species.**

Previous versions of this draft Regulation were presented by the Commission at the meetings of this Committee of 16 October 2009 ([see item 25 of the agenda of that meeting](#)) and of 3 & 4 November 2009 ([see item 27 of the agenda of that meeting](#)). Revision 3 was prepared to take into account the comments sent by three Member States. The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into the document and replied to questions raised by some Member States.



**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

- 15. 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/10721/2009)**

Deleted from the agenda. Prior this meeting, Member States were requested to give their opinion on this draft Decision via a written consultation. The draft has received a favourable opinion.

- 16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/716/EC as regards certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/10722/2009)**

Deleted from the agenda. Prior this meeting, Member States were requested to give their opinion on this draft Decision via a written consultation. The draft has received a favourable opinion.

- 17. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2010/XX (SANCO/4787/2009) as regards the entry for Japan in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat are authorised and as regards certain transport requirements set out in the animal health certificates for fresh meat of domestic bovine and domestic ovine animals. (Doc. SANCO/7052/2009)**

As amendments of Draft Regulation (SANCO/4787/2009) are under consideration, a draft is not being presented at this stage. (see the relevant information under miscellaneous, issues raised by the Commission, documents distributed, SANCO/7057/2009).

- 18. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the entry for Japan in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat are authorised and as regards certain transport requirements set out in the animal health certificates for fresh meat of domestic bovine and domestic ovine animals. (SANCO/7044/2009)**

Withdrawn from the agenda.

## Miscellaneous

### Issues raised by the Member States:

- **The Danish representative suggested** to the Commission to organise **a working group to discuss co-financing of programmes** and the eligibility of the Member States to apply for such programmes. The Commission's representative informed that such a working group meeting will be organised by the Commission in February 2010 and Member States were requested to send by email any further issues on co-financing to be included in the agenda of that meeting.

### Issues raised by the Commission:

- The Commission's representative informed that an effort is being made to give the **possibility to the Member States to submit to the Commission the eradication and monitoring programmes to be implemented in 2011 via on-line system** to facilitate their work. For this purpose, the Commission's services are finalising pdf templates to be used. Member States were asked to contact the Commission's services in case any of them would volunteer for testing these templates.
- On 30 November, Member States were informed about the **impacts for this Committee with the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty** that will enter into force on 1 December 2009. There will be changes to the procedures for enacting legislation, national parliaments will be given more formal power to question Commission proposals and the 'co-decision' procedure becomes the standard legislative procedure. The current system of comitology will change and will be replaced by two other systems.

As there are still discussions ongoing between Commission, Council and Parliament on several issues concerning the new comitology, the Commission will inform the Member States when more information is available.

- The Commission's representative **reminded the Member States of their obligation to provide by 1 January 2010 information on the webpage(s) that they have prepared**, using the format laid down in Commission Decision 2009/712/EC, **to display the information on their establishments and laboratories approved in accordance with the relevant provisions of the EU law.**

The list of "other laboratories", including rabies serology laboratories, referred to in Chapter 3 of Annex II to Decision 2009/712/EC is of particular importance. As from 1 January 2010 and according to Council Decision 2000/258/EC as amended by Council Directive 2008/73/EC, it will be up to Member States' competent authorities to authorise laboratories to perform the serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines.

The list of rabies serology laboratories that in the past were approved by the Commission is currently available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm)

and it reflects Commission Decision 2004/233/EC.

In that context, it is extremely important, both from a legal and a practical point of view, that Member States check the above webpage and decide on the list of laboratories that they want to approve as from 1 January 2010. The lists of approved laboratories and the link(s) to the relevant national web page(s) should be also provided to the Commission before that date.

- Member States were informed that the next meeting of this Committee will be held on 12 January and not on 8 January as originally scheduled. Then a Chief Veterinary Officers meeting is organised on 14 January.

The following documents were distributed:

- **Veterinary Services in the European Union – Animal health** - updated on 30 November 2009.
- **SANCO/7057/2009**: working document – note on the update on the state of play as regards Draft Commission Regulation laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the Union of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements (Doc. SANCO/4787/2009).

This document is related to item 17 of the agenda.

The Commission's representative informed the Member States that the draft Regulation will be sent to the European Parliament and the Council since it falls under their scrutiny for three months. Compared to the last version of the draft presented at this Committee, there has only been minor adjustments of the HS-codes referred to in the draft. Furthermore, before adoption, the text of the draft must be updated to be in conformity with the Lisbon Treaty.

- **SANCO/4788/2009 – Rev. 4**: guidance document on the animal health requirements for placing on the market, import and transit of aquaculture animals according to Council Directive 2006/88/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008.

This document is directed at competent authorities and aquaculture production businesses, exporters and importers of aquaculture animals and products thereof in the Member States and in third countries. Its purpose is to provide guidance on the scope of the animal health requirements relating to the movement of aquaculture animals, on where in the legislation the rules for different type of consignment can be found and answers to some frequently asked questions.

The Commission's representative explained the amendment done on this document in comparison to the previous version, which was introduced in order to help the Member States to interpret Part I of the certificates. The Commission's intention is to publish this document on the Internet at the beginning of 2010. Member States could comment on the document by 15 December.