President: Alberto Laddomada.
All the Member States were present. Greece was partly absent and not represented.
During the presentation of point 2, a representative of the European Food Safety Authority attended the meeting.
During the presentation of point 6, a representative of the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Germany, attended the meeting.

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

   There was no information provided on the bluetongue situation in the Member States.

2. **Presentation of EFSA opinion on Q fever.**

   The increase in human cases of Q fever in the Netherlands in 2008 and 2009, prompted the Commission to send a mandate to EFSA to assess the significance of the occurrence of Q fever in the EU Member States, to assess the risk factors for Q fever occurrence and persistence in animal husbandry and the related risks for humans and, finally, to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of disease control options.

   A representative of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented outcomes and replied to questions raised by Member States.

   According to the scientific opinion, the overall impact of Q fever on the health of humans and domestic ruminants in EU Member States is limited. However, taking into account the complex epidemiology of this disease agent, in certain epidemiological circumstances and for particular risk groups the public health impact and thereby also the impact on society and/or the economy can be significant.

   The Commission's representative highlighted that the EFSA opinion supports to a large extend the measures taken by the Dutch authorities regarding Q fever and recommends amongst others, further investigations and research. The Netherlands initiated a number of technical and scientific studies on disease dynamics and the effectiveness of possible control measures applicable to domestic ruminants, such as
vaccination of goats. As these studies will benefit all Member States, the Commission intends to provide for EU co-financing.

3. **Information from Italy on the situation as regards low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

The Italian representative made a presentation on the outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry, occurred in Italy between February and end of April 2010.


The following documents were distributed by the Commission during the meeting:

- SANCO/7043/2010 - Rev.1, with the title "Reporting of Newcastle disease in pigeons and other birds kept in captivity and of low pathogenic avian influenza in other captive birds",

- SANCO/7074/2010, with the title "Information from France on low pathogenic avian influenza in decoy birds".

The Commission's representative presented the document SANCO/7043/2010 - Rev.1 and explained the changes introduced in comparison to the previous version presented at the last meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April 2010 (see item 7 of the agenda of that meeting). During the same meeting, France has initiated the discussion on the obligation for reporting findings of low pathogenic avian influenza in bird populations other than poultry which may lead to unjustified trade restrictions imposed by third countries (see items 5B and 7 of the agenda of that meeting). Further information was communicated by France to the Commission which was included in document SANCO/7074/2010. Member States further discussed the issue. The Commission asked Member States to send their comments in order to see how to clarify this matter.

5. **Information from Spain on the Aujeszky’s disease situation.**

On the request of Spain, this item was postponed.

6. **Presentation of the data base for monitoring classical swine fever in wild boar in the EU.**

A representative from the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany made a presentation on the database for monitoring classical swine fever (CSF) in wild boar in the EU. The database is associated to the EU reference laboratory on classical swine fever. So far only Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg had access to the database. In the future all Member States will be included. In particular Member States
with CSF problems in wild boar are encouraged to use the database. Access to the other Member States will be granted by the end of 2010.

7. **Presentation by the Commission and exchange of views on guidelines on control and eradication of classical swine fever in wild boar. (Doc. SANCO/7032/2010)**

The Commission's representative presented the document which has as an objective to provide guidance to the Member States as regards different options for controlling classical swine fever in wild boar, including vaccination of wild boar and hunting measures. The guidelines are based on a) the requirements of Articles 15 and 16 of Directive 2001/89/EC, b) the Chapter IV, (H) of the Annex of Commission Decision 2002/106 and c) the EFSA Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) on a request from the Commission on "Control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever in wild boar". The Commission took note of the comments made by the Member States. These will be taken into account for the preparation of a new version of the document which will then be presented in the next meeting of this Committee.

8. **Exchange of views on a policy paper on vaccine and/or diagnostic banks for major animal diseases: strategic planning options for emergency situations or major crisis. (Doc. SANCO/7070/2010)**

The Commission's representative presented the document which is a summary of the "Policy paper on vaccine and/or diagnostic banks for major animal diseases: strategic planning options for emergency situations or major crisis". The purpose of the paper is a) to identify the infectious diseases for which vaccine or antigen banks should be available in the EU in the near future, b) to identify the conditions under which vaccination against certain infectious diseases is recommended, c) to recommend vaccination strategies under emergency situations, d) the use of vaccines as part of DIVA-strategies, e) to estimate of the size and costs of envisaged vaccine stocks, f) to identify the need for diagnostic banks and g) to provide recommendations for improving EU legislation on use of vaccines in emergency or endemic situations.

The Commission informed that the policy paper will be further discussed in another forum and based on the comments made/to be made by the Member States, a questionnaire will be prepared to be discussed with the Chief Veterinary Officers.


According to Council Directive 2006/88/EC the aquatic animal health placing on the market and import restrictions are limited to species susceptible to the listed aquatic
diseases or which may act as vectors for those diseases. A list of susceptible species is laid down in Annex IV to Directive 2006/88/EC.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published an opinion on the list of species being susceptible to the listed aquatic diseases.

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), a disease mainly affecting ornamental fish, is listed as an exotic disease in Directive 2006/88/EC. The current list of susceptible species to that disease contains seven fish genera, covering a high number of species. The EFSA opinion suggests that for many of these species susceptibility to EUS cannot be demonstrated. Uncertainty as regards the range of susceptible species was one of the reasons why a transitional provision was included in Article 20 to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008 stating that the EUS related import requirements shall not apply for a transitional period until 31 December 2010 for fish intended for closed ornamental facilities.

To avoid any unwanted disruption of trade of species not being susceptible to EUS, but being listed as such, the list of susceptible species as regards EUS should be amended in line with the EFSA opinion. A draft to this effect will be presented to the Member States at the next possible occasion.

As regards the other listed diseases, the Commission would propose that the necessity to add or remove species from the list is further discussed with Member States' experts in a working group before any amendments are made in Annex IV to Directive 2006/88/EC. Member States wishing to participate to that working group should inform the Commission.

10. **Exchange of information and views on the status of *Bonamia exitiosa* in the EU.**

The Commission requested the Member States that had outbreaks of *Bonamia exitiosa* to report on the situation in their countries.

The French representative informed that the disease was detected in France in 2007 in a pond which had a link to the sea, in 2008 on the Mediterranean coast, in 2009 in Corsica and in 2010 on Vendée in the Atlantic coast (this outbreak is related to the one in the Mediterranean coast). The disease has been eradicated in all infected areas. Then tests were performed on other coasts and the disease was detected in a pond which is closed; the pond was cleaned. In 2010, 880 samples from crustaceans were tested and only 1 was found positive. The results were communicated to the Commission and will be forwarded to the Member States.

The Spanish representative informed that the disease situation in Spain remains unchanged and the disease has not been eradicated.

11. **Information from the UK on the eradication programme as regards infectious salmon anaemia approved by Commission Decision 2009/975/EU.**

The UK is free from infectious salmon anaemia (ISA). However, there was an outbreak in the South West Shetland Islands in Scotland in 2009. The UK established an eradication programme which was approved by Commission Decision 2009/975/EU. It is now concluded that ISA was contained within the Shetland Islands and has been eradicated. The purpose of the submission of this information by the UK is to draw up an approved sampling, surveillance and eradication programme for ISA, involving a surveillance programme to demonstrate negative results for ISA, in order to re-establish its ISA free status.

Member States should send any comments to the Commission and the UK by email.

12. Information from the Commission and exchange of views as regards the setting up of an EU Reference Laboratory for bee health.

The Commission's representative informed that there is an interservice group within the Commission involving various Directorate Generals, aiming to ensure better coordination and synergies on actions to be taken at EU level in the bees sector. The Unit responsible for phytopharmaceuticals at the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) is also involved as pesticides cause mortality to bees. The work of this group is ongoing and one action has already been decided; to have good scientific data and to strengthen surveillance on bee mortalities. The Commission has consulted the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which conducted a study on bee mortality in Europe. The outcome of this EFSA study highlights that surveillance on bee mortality in the EU is weak and that data from different Member States are not comparable. Therefore, the surveillance should be based on a common approach. For this reason, the first step has been to appoint a reference laboratory on EU level in order to create a better coordination at technical level between Member States. The Commission would like to establish guidance on how to carry out surveillance and in a longer term to ensure surveillance at EU level. The intention is to establish the EU reference laboratory for bee health by 2011 in order to start harmonised surveillance in the second half of 2011 in some Member States taking part to a surveillance pilot project to be co-financed by the Commission. Interested Member States should inform the Commission. The Commission will launch an open call for tender and then will prepare a draft decision for the appointment of the laboratory and a financial decision to finance the new EU reference laboratory. Both draft decisions will be presented for vote at this Committee.

Member States widely supported the Commission's intention to establish an EU reference laboratory to deal with the better coordination of Member States' surveillance on bee health.

13. Information from Denmark on the introduction of a national system for group movement of pigs for slaughter in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(2) of Directive 2008/71/EC.

The Danish representative made a presentation on the introduction of a national system for group movement of pigs without identification marks to slaughterhouses. The Commission's representative requested Denmark to also make a presentation on this issue at the Veterinary Week conference on traceability to be held on 14 June. Member
States welcomed the approach presented by Denmark as a proportionate solution for integrated pig production systems.

14. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union and in third countries.**

No item raised.

15. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2008/855/EC as regards animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in feral pigs. (Doc.SANCO/7028/2010 – Rev.1)**

A previous version of this draft Decision was presented at the previous meeting of this Committee held on 12-13 April 2010 (see item 20 of that agenda). The Commission's representative explained that this new version was prepared taking into account the comments made by the Member States since.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

16. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds to be carried out in the Member States. (Doc. SANCO/7042/2010 – Rev. 1)**

The previous version of this draft Decision was presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April 2010 (see item 19 of the agenda of that meeting); the Annexes of this draft Decision were also presented by the Commission during the previous meeting of this Committee of 2-3 March 2010 (see item 18 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission took note of Member States' comments which were taken into account for the preparation of revision 1 of the draft Decision. The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version and replied to questions raised by the Member States.

**Vote: qualified majority by 323 votes in favour, 22 votes abstained.**

17. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision determining the specimen health certificates for intra-Union trade in semen, ova and embryos of the equine, ovine and caprine species and in ova and embryos of the porcine species. (Doc. SANCO/7013/2010 - 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 model health certificates for trade within the Union in semen, ova and embryos of the equine, ovine and caprine species and in ova and embryos animals of the porcine species.

The previous version of this draft Decision was presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April 2010 (see item 21 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version and replied to the questions raised by the Member States. Revision 2 was prepared by the Commission to address additional comments of some Member States and was distributed during the meeting.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on animal health and certification requirements for imports of semen, ova and embryos of the equine species into the European Union. (Doc. SANCO/7017/2010 – 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 on imports into the Union of semen, ova and embryos of animals of the equine species as regards lists of semen collection and storage centres and embryo collection and production teams and certification requirements.

The previous version of this draft Decision was presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April 2010 (see item 23 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on imports of semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species into the European Union as regards lists of third countries and of semen collection and storage centres and embryo collection and production teams, and certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/7018/2010 - 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 on imports of semen, ova and embryos of the ovine and caprine species into the Union.

The previous version of this draft Decision was presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April 2010 (see item 22 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version.
Vote: unanimous in favour.

19A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2004/211/EC as regards the entries for Bahrain and Brazil in the list of third countries and parts thereof from which the introduction into the European Union of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species are authorised. (Doc. SANCO/7098/2010 – Rev.1)

Glanders occurs in parts of the territory of Brazil and therefore imports of equidae, their semen, ova and embryos, are only authorised from the disease-free parts of the territory of that third country listed in column 4 of Annex I to Decision 2004/211/EC. The States of Goiás and Minas Gerais are listed in that column.

On 21 April 2010, Brazil notified to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) the confirmation of a case of glanders (Burkholderia mallei) in a horse in Distrito Federal, which is situated between the States of Goiás and Minas Gerais. Since Distrito Federal is no longer free from glanders, column 4 of Annex I to Decision 2004/211/EC should be amended in order to indicate that the introduction into the Union of live equidae, their semen, ova and embryos are no longer authorised from that part of Brazil.

The Commission has received a report about confirmed cases of glanders in Bahrain. The introduction of registered horses and their semen from Bahrain should therefore no longer be authorised.

The purpose of this Decision is to amend Annex I to Decision 2004/211/EC accordingly.

The Commission's representative presented the document, replied to questions raised by Member States and took note of their comments.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


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 on the purchase of foot-and-mouth disease virus antigens and on the disposal and replacement of such antigens in the reserves of the Union and amending Decision 2009/486/EC.

The Commission's representative presented the document and explained that it provides for a new system for keeping operational the EU antigen bank.

Vote: unanimous in favour.
21. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania and repealing Decision 2007/269/EC.** (Doc. SANCO/7016/2010-Rev. 3)

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 on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania.**

The Commission adopted Decision 2007/269/EC on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in Romania. Recent cases of EIA in horses moved from Romania to other Member States and the recently published report of a veterinary inspection mission in Romania relating to the movement of and trade in equidae, indicate that Decision 2007/269/EC is poorly implemented, enforced and monitored.

In view of trade in live equidae, their semen, ova and embryos, the disease situation in Romania presents an animal health risk for equidae in the Union. It is therefore appropriate to adopt protective measures laying down a specific regime for the movement of and trade in equidae and equine semen, ova and embryos, as well as certain equine blood products from Romania in order to safeguard the health and welfare of equidae in the Union.

The disease prevalence is not equally distributed throughout Romania and between various categories of equidae. This situation allows applying less stringent conditions for the movement of certain registered horses for competition and races and should allow defining disease free regions in the future.

As the disease develops over an extended period of time, it is necessary to ensure full traceability of the equidae moved from Romania and to apply post-arrival control measures.

The affected sector is fully aware of the risks posed by the disease situation in Romania. It is therefore appropriate to allow those involved in the movement of equidae from Romania to share responsibility and the cost incurred by public services in relation to such movements.

In the interest of clarity of Union legislations, Decision 2007/269/EC should be repealed and replaced by this Decision.

The Commission's representative presented the draft Decision and replied to questions raised by the Member States.

**Vote: qualified majority by 331 votes in favour, 14 votes abstained.**

22. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision derogating from Decisions 92/260/EEC and 2004/211/EC as regards the temporary admission of certain registered horses participating in the equestrian events of the pre-Olympic test event in 2011, the Olympic Games or the**
Paralympic Games in 2012 in the United Kingdom. (Doc. SANCO/7014/2010 – Rev.1)

The purpose of this Decision is to waive the requirements for equine viral arteritis when male registered horses are temporarily introduced for the equestrian competitions of the pre-Olympic test event in 2011, the Olympic Games or the Paralympics in 2012 in the United Kingdom, on the condition that arrangements have been made for such horses to leave the European Union without delay after the events have finished.

The Commission's representative presented the document and replied to questions raised by the Member States. One Member State requested the vote on this draft to be postponed until the next meeting of this Committee. The Commission agreed.

Vote: postponed.


The previous version of this document was presented and discussed during the meeting of this Committee on 12-13 April 2010 (see item 24 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into revision 3 in comparison to the previous version.

Vote: unanimous in favour.


Revision 3 of this draft Regulation was presented at the last meeting of this Committee held on 12-13 April (see item 18 of the Agenda of that meeting). The Commission's representative explained the changes introduced into this new version following the comments made by the Member States.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

25. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision establishing the Union's financial contribution towards the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat bluetongue in Spain in 2004 and 2005. (Doc. SANCO/10112/2010)

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the Union financial contribution (first instalment) towards the expenditure associated with eradicating bluetongue in Spain in 2004 and 2005.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

26. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning the adoption of a financing decision for the year 2010 for the computerisation of veterinary procedures, the system of notification of animal diseases, for communication measures, studies, evaluations and on a direct grant to the OIE based on Article 168.1 (c) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002. (Doc. SANCO/7069/2010 – Rev.1)

The purpose of this draft Decision is to provide for 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 the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) and the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS).

The Commission's representative presented the document and informed that the intention is to present it for vote at the next meeting of this Committee.

Miscellaneous

- The Norwegian representative made a presentation on the suspension and withdrawal of disease free status for infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) for certain compartments in Norway.

Issues raised by the Member States:

- The Spanish representative made a presentation on the follow-up investigations of an outbreak that had occurred in October 2010 in a laying hen holding located in Castilla la Mancha. The holding consisted of 5 flocks kept under high biosecurity standards. Thorough laboratory, molecular investigations and epidemiological analysis of the outbreak revealed the possible mutation of a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) that had entered two sheds to a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain causing high mortality in unaffected sheds. The restrictions in relation to this outbreak had been lifted by 30 November 2010.

- The Bulgarian representative informed about the follow up of the positive finding for highly pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N1 subtype in a buzzard (buteo buteo) confirmed on 1 April (see item 5A of the agenda of the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April) which was found dead in the province of Varna, close to the black sea coast. All samples taken in poultry and wild birds to detect a possible spread of the infection gave negative results.
The Romanian representative gave an update on the avian influenza H5N1 outbreaks that were confirmed between 15-29 March (see item 5 of the agenda of the meeting of this Committee of 12-13 April). The Ukrainian authorities were also informed as the area placed under restrictions was adjacent to Ukraine. The results of samples taken in holdings located in the zones under restrictions proved negative and the restriction measures were therefore withdrawn on 17 and on 22 April respectively.

Issues raised by the Commission:

• Statement by the Commission of 4 May 2010 on the online submission of surveillance results for AI:

"For the reporting of results of avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds during 2009 Member States were twice requested via the national contact points to either confirm the correctness of the data submitted through the Commission’s online reporting system or to notify inconsistencies to the Commission the latest by 30 April.

Please note that the data present in the EU data base on that date will be used for the final analysis in the Annual Report. Additional submissions or changes in the numbers of poultry holdings or wild birds sampled are not admissible.

However, this does not concern the very few Member States with which the Commission is still in contact to resolve the last outstanding issues."

• Document SANCO/10508/2004 version 25 was distributed by the Commission during the meeting, with title "Veterinary services contact points trade problems".

• The Commission's representative reminded the Member States that the deadline for submitting the reports on certain notifiable diseases of bovine animals and swine, under Council Directive 64/332/EEC is the 31st of May 2010. The results of the screening for Brucella melitensis for those Member States or regions thereof recognised officially free from that disease, should also be submitted within that deadline. In addition, within the framework of Article 8 of Directive 64/332/EEC and Articles 73(3) and 79(4) of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, Member States should provide information about the real time exercises on foot-and-mouth disease as well as relevant information on the national vaccines and antigen stocks. The Commission will remind the Member States on their obligations officially.

• The Commission's representative provided information on the foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease situation in Korea and Japan. According to official information provided by those two third countries, the FMD outbreaks link to import of heat-treated straw from China. The Commission will communicate to the Member States any development on the situation.