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

   The Danish representative made a presentation. There have been no outbreaks of bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV8) since November 2008. The current restricted zone for BTV8 shall now be a "lower risk area" for this serotype and the Danish are continuing their monthly surveillance and plan their submission of an application for declaration of freedom of bluetongue by the end of 2010.

   The Cypriot representative made a presentation on the seroconversion of sentinel animals in the district of Paphos, in the western part of the island. None of the seroconverted animals showed clinical signs. Samples were sent to the Union's reference laboratory in Pirbright for virus confirmation and typing. The results are still pending, but it seems likely that it concerns bluetongue virus serotype 16, as this particular serotype has been circulating in Cyprus for years.

   Portugal made a presentation on five outbreaks of bluetongue virus serotype 1 (BTV1) in sheep, which were detected as a result of clinical suspicions and one outbreak of the same serotype in cattle (detected through slaughterhouse monitoring). As regards vaccination, there is a high level of coverage for bluetongue virus serotype 4 in the southern part of the country (up to 89%). Vaccination against BTV1 and BTV8 is also still taking place in the whole territory of Portugal.

   Sweden presented information as regards the recovery of its status of freedom and informed that additional information, as requested by the Commission, will be provided soon.

   The Commission's representative clarified that a declaration of freedom can be made after two consecutive disease seasons without proof of bluetongue virus circulation by means of surveillance. This should not be interpreted as 24 calendar months after the last outbreak. To demonstrate the absence of virus circulation in one season, the sampling should take place late enough in the year, at a moment when there is surely no vector activity anymore and when it is more likely to detect previous virus circulation or seroconversion.
2. Information from the Commission on reports received from the Member States, Norway and Switzerland in accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC on the details of the occurrence of diseases listed in Annex E (I) thereof and of any other diseases covered by the additional guarantees provided for by Community legislation and of monitoring or eradication programme (not covered by Decision 2008/940/EC) in the territory of the Member States, Norway and Switzerland in 2009. (Doc. SANCO/7020/2010-Rev. 2)


Certain information is still missing from some Member States as regards some diseases. Member States should check the data and inform the Commission in case of any mistakes.

3. Information from the Commission on reports received from the Member States in accordance with article 8 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC and articles 73(3) and 79(4) of Council Directive 2003/85/EC on national stocks of FMD antigens and vaccines and FMD real-time alert exercises carried out in Member States in 2009.

In the framework of Article 8 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC and according to Articles 73(3) and 79(4) of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, Member States shall provide the Commission with the information on their national stock of FMD antigens and vaccines and real-time exercises carried out in the preceding year. This information is still missing from Malta.

4. Information and exchange of views on a working document on animal health conditions for birds participating in EU bird exhibitions. (Doc. SANCO/7126/2010)

The Commission representative reported that the Association for poultry, bird, rabbit and cavia breeds has signalled to the Commission difficulties when organising exhibitions with participation of birds from several Member States, as different animal health conditions are required by the various Member States' authorities. The animal health requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC apply to trade in and movements of birds from one Member State to another, but the requirements for the organisation and veterinary conditions for participation and entry to shows with EU wide participation lay within the responsibility of the Member States. The Commission deems that gathering of birds originating from several Member States under the harmonised conditions of Directive 92/65/EC provides sufficient guarantees to assemble birds on exhibitions and moreover to disperse them after the event to their home Member States or to a different Member State. However, taking into account the potentially different epidemiological situation in the various hosting Member States, it is advisable that also the birds moving to the exhibition from a holding within the hosting Member State, and thus not legally subject to the provisions of Directive 92/65/EC, meet the conditions laid down in Article 7 of that Directive. The
Commission intends therefore to provide some general guidance on the subject, as outlined in the presented document. Member States are requested to provide comments to the Commission.

5. Applications and declarations from Member States to achieve a health status with regard to the diseases listed in Directive 2006/88/EC.

- Declaration from France of a VHS and 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

The Commission informed about a declaration from France declaring a compartment free of VHS/IHN. Both declarations are available on the above mentioned link. Poland informed that they had sent 11 declarations for VHS/IHN free compartments to the Commission. The Commission informed that they would be assessed and included in the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee.

6. Information from Bulgaria, Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia on the results of the implementation of the Classical swine fever and African swine fever (only Italy) co-financed control and monitoring programmes 2009.

Classical Swine Fever (CSF):

The Bulgarian, German, French, Italian, Hungarian, Luxembourg's, Romanian, Slovene and Slovak representatives presented the results of the implementation of the programmes. These were satisfactory in Luxembourg, France and Germany.

In Bulgaria the vaccination for 2009 was performed as planned. Although the planned number of virological samples in domestic pigs was not reached, there were no outbreaks in domestic pigs and the situation in the country seems well under control.

In 2009 Hungary started surveillance also in domestic pigs and took the planned number of samples in wild boar. Hungary refuses to start vaccination of wild boar despite the 15 positive cases detected. A number of tests in wild boar is satisfactory. The emergency plan has been prepared in order to be able to start vaccination in case the disease spreads.

In Slovakia the implementation of the 2009 surveillance programme in wild boar is satisfactory; however more should be done regarding the testing in domestic pigs and this is part of the activities implemented in 2010 that were also presented. No cases of CSF in wild boar were detected, neither outbreaks in domestic pigs in 2009. Vaccination was performed as planned. Slovakia requested for a re-evaluation of the CSF situation and for withdrawal of regionalisation (part I of Annex to the Commission Decision 2008/855/EC). Slovakia considers that fulfils the criteria for CSF free area (October 2010).
In Slovenia the targets of testing wild boar have been nearly reached. No cases or outbreaks occurred. The main objective of the programme has been fulfilled. No positive results were detected in domestic pigs and in wild boar.

In Romania only domestic pigs in non-professional holdings were vaccinated. Vaccination of wild boars has been partly performed in 33 counties. Surveillance has also been performed both in domestic pigs and in wild boars. The targets for virological tests in domestic pigs and wild boars were not achieved. However the situation improved, there were no outbreaks in wild boars and domestic pigs in 2009 and the situation in the country seem now favourable.

African Swine Fever (ASF):

The Italian representative made a presentation. The situation has improved in relation to the past. The disease is mainly linked to backyard holdings. The 2009 programme has been implemented as planned. 3 outbreaks have been occurred in domestic pigs in the province of Nuoro (high risk zone). 2 serological positives have been detected in wild boar.

7. Information from Italy on the results of the implementation of the Swine vesicular disease co-financed eradication programme 2009.

The Italian representative presented the results that were quite satisfactory.

8. Information from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Portugal on the results of the implementation of the enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) co-financed eradication programmes 2009.

The Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish and Portuguese representatives presented the results that were quite satisfactory. Some improvements have been seen in all the concerned Member States.

9. Information from the Commission on a draft protocol for the importation of sheep and goat semen from (a FMD-free Member State of the European Union) to the United States of America.

The Commission presented a draft protocol for the importation of sheep and goat semen from (a FMD-free Member State of the European Union) to the United States of America, and requested Member states to provide their comments until 15 November 2010, in order to finalise it and present for the discussion during the upcoming Technical Working Group on animal health issues with the United States.

10. Information from the Commission on the recognition of the fully operational Latvian Bovine database.
The Commission informed on the adoption of Commission Decision 2010/692/EU, recognising the fully operational character of the Latvian database for bovine animals.

11. Information from the Commission on the appointment of a new EU reference laboratory on bee health.

The Commission announced that the French laboratory ANSES – Sophia Antipolis has scored the highest number of points in the evaluation of the applications received in relation to the call for selection of an EU reference laboratory for bee health. Therefore, the Commission will present soon an appointing Decision to this Committee in order to designate that laboratory as the EU reference laboratory for bee health.


The Commission reported on the implementation of Council Directive 1999/74/EC and on the importance of the data submitted by the Member States in the frame of Commission Decision 2006/778/EC to monitor the level of enforcement. Data submitted today is still incomplete. Reference was made to the letter sent on the 9th of November to the Chief Veterinary Officers requesting complete data and national action plans to monitor the transition from conventional cages to enriched and alternative systems.

Replying to a question on the reason for the early Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) inspections on the ban on conventional cages to the Member States, the Commission's representative clarified that these missions at the moment are technical assistance visits aimed at following up previous findings as well as at looking at the preparedness of the Member States and assisting them in the transition, in order to avoid important internal market distortions.

Poland stated its intention to request a transitional period of 5-7 years for a number of requirements on enriched cages (height of the cage, equipment with perches, nests and litter, minimum aisle width of 90 cm between tiers of cages and a space of at least 35 cm between floor of the building and bottom tier of the cage). The Commission reiterated the position expressed at the Agricultural Council on 22 February 2010 and supported by all other Member States.

13. 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.

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


Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 on implementing rules for Council Directive 2000/75/EC as regards the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue has been complemented with Article 9a which temporarily provides for an alternative to the exemption conditions of the exit ban from bluetongue restricted zones. The period allowed expires on 1 January 2011.

For the sake of harmonized implementation, Member States have requested for specific criteria for the 'vector proof establishment' which is an important requirement for a number of the conditions set out in Annex III of that Regulation and aims at the protection of animals against attacks by vectors.

Pending the development of above mentioned criteria, the transitional measures of Article 9(a) shall be prolonged for six months, until 30 June 2010.

Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 should therefore be amended accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

15. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regards the veterinary certification requirements for enzootic bovine leukosis and the entry for Botswana concerning regionalisation for meat. (Doc. SANCO/7131/2010-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:

**Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regards the veterinary certification requirements for enzootic bovine leukosis, testing procedures for bovine brucellosis and the entry for Botswana concerning regionalisation for meat.**

The previous version of this draft was presented at the meeting of this Committee held on 7-8 September 2010 (see the agenda of that meeting under Miscellaneous, Issues raised by the Commission).

The Commission presented a new version of the draft and Member States were asked to send any comments by email.

**Vote: postponed.**

Directive 2009/158/EC sets out requirements for disease surveillance programmes to be carried out in poultry establishments, as well as model veterinary certificates for poultry and hatching eggs originating from these establishments for trade within the Union. Scientific progress has been made in diagnostic techniques for Mycoplasma and modifications to the nomenclature of Salmonella in line with the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Furthermore experiences with operation standards laid down in the Directive have shown that it would be appropriate to adapt them to current industry practices in particular with respect to the laying behaviour of different poultry species and the practises of disinfection of hatching eggs before dispatch to other Member States and Third countries. In addition, in some instances vaccination is used to control Salmonella infections in poultry which should be taken into account for sampling and testing. The veterinary health certificates for trade within the Union of live poultry and hatching eggs should also be amended to refer now to turkeys in relation to the public health requirements for testing for Salmonella and to update some obsolete references. For that purpose Annexes II, III and IV should be amended.

Vote: postponed.

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 175/2010 by prolonging the application of measures to control increased mortality in Pacific oysters (Crassostrea gigas). (Doc. SANCO/7101/2010 – 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 amending Regulation (EU) No 175/2010 by prolonging the period of application of measures to control increased mortality in Pacific oysters (Crassostrea gigas). (Doc. SANCO/7101/2010 – Rev.2)

Regulation (EC) No 175/2010 was adopted to contain the spreading of a disease potentially caused by a virus infection in Pacific oysters (Crassostrea gigas). As it was unclear whether the virus infection really caused the death of the Pacific oysters these measures were adopted on a temporary basis until 31 December 2010. The proposed draft Regulation extends the period of application for another 4 months to allow for the evaluation of the measures taking into account a European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion on the issue and the results of surveillance undertaken by some concerned Member States in 2010.

Vote: unanimous in favour.
18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex I and II to Decision 2010/221/EU as regards approved national measures of Hungary and United Kingdom for limiting the impact of Spring Viraemia of Carp. (Doc. SANCO/7103/2010 – Rev.1)

Commission Decision 2010/221/EU allow certain Member States to apply placing on the market and import restrictions as regards aquaculture animals to prevent the introduction of certain diseases, including Spring viraemia of carp (SVC), provided the Member States either have demonstrated that they are free of the disease in question or have established an eradication programme to obtain such freedom.

United Kingdom has since 2004 had a programme in place for the eradication of SVC in Great Britain. This programme has been successfully completed and Great Britain is to be regarded free of SVC. Hungary has through targeted surveillance demonstrated that the territory is to be regarded free of SVC. Consequently, Great Britain and Hungary should therefore be listed in Annex I to Decision 2010/221/EU as free of SVC and eligible to apply the placing on the market and import restrictions laid down in that Decision.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the exclusion of the departments of Pyrenees Atlantiques and Landes in the list of Member States or regions free of Aujeszky’s disease and where vaccination is prohibited and their inclusion in the list of Member States or regions where an approved national control programme for that disease is in place. (Doc. SANCO/7198/2010)

Annex I to Decision 2008/185/EC lists Member States or regions thereof which are free of Aujeszky's disease and where vaccination is prohibited. Annex II to that Decision lists Member States or regions thereof where approved national control programmes for the eradication of Aujeszky's disease are in place.

Following the occurrence of a series of outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease in the departments of Pyrenees Atlantiques and Landes, these two departments should be de-listed from Annex I and included in the list set out in Annex II of Decision 2008/185/EC. That Decision should therefore be amended accordingly.

France expressed concerns on the procedural timing necessary for the Decision to be reviewed when the disease free status is eventually regained. The possible role of wildlife in the epidemiology of the disease in that region was discussed as well.

It was proposed by the Commission and accepted by Member States that this draft Decision being presented for a vote at the meeting of the Biological Safety section of this Committee on 17 November 2010.

Vote: postponed.
20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2004/211/EC as regards the entries for Brazil, Kuwait and Syria 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/7191/2010 – Rev.1)

The Commission introduced the draft Decision for which on the date of this meeting the inter-service consultation had not been concluded. It was proposed by the Commission and accepted by Member States that this draft Decision being presented for a vote at the meeting of the Biological Safety section of this Committee on 17 November 2010. No problems with the suspension on imports of equidae from Kuwait and Syria due to the occurrence of glanders in Kuwait and the unknown glanders status of Syria were signalled. Member States indicated their agreement with the reinstatement of the export status of a region in Brazil which was more than 6 months ago suspended due to a glanders case.

Vote: postponed.


This draft Regulation was presented at the previous meetings of this Committee, section Biological Safety, held on 22 June (see item 6 of the agenda of that meeting) and on 20 October 2010 (see item 8 of the agenda of that meeting). Then, some Member States requested the Commission to allow them for some more time before presenting the draft for a technical vote in order to discuss the text with their experts. The Commission informed that the technical vote would be taken during this meeting. Revision 2 was prepared taking into account the request of two Member States for a clarification on the origin of the raw materials. Then it was communicated to the Member States' experts dealing with biological safety issues and animal health and welfare issues. The same version was submitted at this Committee for a technical vote. It will be presented for a formal opinion in a future meeting of this Committee, section Biological Safety, during the first semester of 2011.

Germany made the following statement:

"Erklärung der deutschen Delegation zu TOP 21 (SANCO/10492/2010 Rev. 2)
2. Sie hält zum gegenwärtigen Zeitpunkt allerdings eine technische Abstimmung/Stellungnahme des Ausschusses für verfrüht und wird sie nicht für den Vorschlag aussprechen, weil sie weiteren Beratungsbedarf im hygienerechtlichen Bereich für erforderlich hält."
3. Um zu einem positiven Schlussvotum gelangen zu können, wird die Kommission gebeten, weitere Beratungen zum Inhalt auf bi- oder multilateraler Ebene zu führen."

"Statement by the German delegation concerning POINT 21 (SANCO/10492/2010 Rev. 2)
1. The German delegation welcomes in principle the Commission's proposal to harmonise import requirements for composite products taking account of aspects of hygiene and epizootic diseases legislation.
2. However, it considers it too early for the committee to hold a technical vote or issue an opinion at this stage and will not support the proposal, because it considers that further discussion is necessary in the area of hygiene legislation.
3. In order to arrive at a positive final vote, the Commission is asked to hold further bilateral or multilateral consultations on the content."

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

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Member States:

- **Denmark** gave a [presentation](#) on their [programme for the eradication of Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia](#) (VHS).

- **Ireland** reported about [difficulties for Russian exporters of horses to Ireland to submit samples for health testing to Ireland](#) and requested information on possible laboratories in Russia. Commission Decision 93/197/EEC on import conditions for equidae from third countries requires that equidae dispatched from third countries assigned to sanitary Group B and from Turkey to be tested in a laboratory recognised by the Member State of destination. The Commission reminded the Member States about the practice of past years to circulate and regularly update the list of recognised laboratories in those third countries and provided the Irish delegation with a hard copy of the last consolidated list indicating a single Russian laboratory recognised by several Member States.

- **Portugal** [reported](#) about the occurrence of West Nile Virus Infection in horses in an area near Lisbon and the surveillance measures implemented in that Member State.

Issues raised by the Commission:

- The Commission representative distributed document [SANCO/7158/2010 "Draft EC comments on the Import Health Standards proposed for the importation of turkey meat and turkey meat products into New Zealand"](#). New Zealand has carried out an
exhaustive risk analysis and identified 6 pathogens that require risk management measures at import into that country: highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Avian Paramyxovirus 2-3, Salmonella arizonae, Turkey Corona Virus, Turkey Viral Hepatitis. Member States are requested to provide comments to the Commission.