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

   **Sweden** presented the results of their bluetongue monitoring programme in 2008-2010. As of 3 December 2010, the restriction zone for BTV-8 shall be lifted and Sweden regains the free status for bluetongue disease.

   **Denmark** is processing the final samples from their bluetongue monitoring programme of 2010 and wishes to declare freedom of bluetongue virus serotype 8 as from the first of January 2011.

   **Cyprus** presented the situation as regards the three outbreaks of bluetongue virus serotype 16.

   **Spain** gave an update on the bluetongue situation. Bluetongue virus serotype 1 is circulating locally. In Andalusia, four outbreaks of bluetongue virus serotype 4 have been detected in the far south of Spain, province Cádiz. There is no further information as regards the source of the outbreak of bluetongue virus serotype 8, which was detected after a clinical suspicion in an ovine holding and confirmed in November 2010, also in Cádiz.

   **Norway** presented their results of the bluetongue monitoring programme in 2008-2010. In early 2008, Norway detected bluetongue virus serotype 8 in the south of their territory. No vaccination has taken place. Norway wishes to lift their restricted zone for BTV-8 and regain their free status for bluetongue as soon as the last samples of this year's monitoring are processed and all negative.

2. **Information from Germany and Italy on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

   The German representative gave a presentation on an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N2 that was confirmed on 11 November 2010 in a mixed poultry holding located in Kobande, Kreis Parchim, in the Land of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania. All 19,385 poultry (ducks, geese, laying hens,
turkeys, guinea fowl) present on the holding have been culled and a 1-km restricted zone was established around the outbreak. 14 backyard holdings are located within that zone. Epidemiological investigations identified 104 contact holdings which are all situated within Germany and have tested negative so far. In the frame of routine surveillance for avian influenza in Mecklenburg Western Pomerania 1,095 samples have been taken from wild birds and 328 samples in poultry holdings during the first semester of 2010. In January and February 2010 low pathogenic avian influenza of H7N7 subtype was detected on one occasion in wild birds and twice the H5 subtype. Low pathogenic avian influenza of the H6N2 subtype was found in one poultry holding, but no H5/H7 subtypes were detected in poultry or zoo birds.

The Italian representative gave a presentation updating on the situation for low pathogenic avian influenza. The presence of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7 was confirmed on 30 September in a mixed poultry holding in the commune of Volongo, province Cremona, Lombardy Region. The 1,040 poultry present on the holding including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, capons and guinea fowl have been killed on 1 October 2010 and cleaning and disinfection of the holding has been carried out. A one kilometre restriction zone has been established around the infected holding. Epidemiological inquiries revealed connections, due to trade in live animals, with other premises in the regions of Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna. These contact holdings all tested negative. In the whole territory of Lombardy serological and virological tests in commercial holdings have been carried out and birds’ movements from these farms have been prohibited until negative laboratory results were available. Fairs, markets, shows or other gatherings of birds were prohibited as well. Preliminary results of sequence analysis revealed a high homology with H7N3 low pathogenic avian influenza Italian strains isolated from 2007 to 2009.

The most recent detection concerns the confirmation on 18 November 2010 of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5 in a mixed hobby farm in the commune of Gatteo, province Forli, Region Emilia Romagna. Around 3,500 birds are present in the farm including mainly ornamental birds, chickens, geese, quails, turkeys, ostriches, mallards, peacocks and swans. The holding was placed under official surveillance. Some of the birds were culled, while for about 2,800 birds that were recognised as endangered species a derogation from killing according to the Directive 2005/94/EC on control measures for avian influenza was granted. These birds are subjected to further surveillance, laboratory testing and are not allowed to leave the holding. The Committee was further informed about the implementation of additional measures for rural holdings which include biosecurity measures and control of movements.

3. **Information and exchange of views on a working document on animal health conditions for birds participating in EU bird exhibitions. (Doc. SANCO/7126/2010 - Rev.1)**

The Commission representative thanked the delegates for providing comments on Document SANCO/7126/2010 which outlines animal health conditions that could be applied to birds participating in international exhibitions in the EU. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that provisions differ between Member States and allegedly pose problems to organisers of such exhibitions. The Commission holds the view that gathering of birds originating from several Member States under the harmonised conditions of Directive 92/65/EC provide 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/EEC, meet the conditions laid down in Article 7 of Directive 92/65/EEC.

Comments have so far been received from 14 Member States and 2 EEA countries. Those range from proposing legally bindings rules to no agreement on any kind of harmonisation in this field. The Commission representative informed that all comments are being included in Document SANCO/7126/2010 Rev.1, which will be sent to Member States. Member States that have not yet taken a position on this matter, were invited to do so.

3A. Information from Spain on the authorisation of the use of decoy birds for hunting.

The Spanish delegate updated on the derogations that have been granted for some areas in the regions of Valencia and Andalusia for the use of decoy birds during hunting in areas that have been identified by the competent authority as being at an increased risk for the introduction of avian influenza to birds or poultry. This follows the authorisation of the use of decoy birds in the Region of Catalunya earlier this year. Commission Decision 2005/734/EC lays down biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 from birds living in the wild to poultry and other captive birds and provides for an early detection system in areas at particular risk. Member States may grant a derogation from the prohibition of the use of birds of the orders Anseriformes and Charadriiformes as decoy birds, provided they implement systems for identification, traceability, surveillance, biosecurity, recording and reporting.

4. Presentation by EFSA on the scientific opinion on the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza and its potential implications for animal health.

Postponed.

5. Information from Poland on the rabies situation developments in the Krakow region.

Poland informed the Committee on an outbreak of rabies in the Malopolskie region, an area where rabies cases where not reported for years. Since August 2010, 60 cases were detected, the majority in foxes aged less than 18 months. The rabies strain responsible seems new to Poland, however, the way it was introduced to the area remains unknown. Poland has implemented an additional oral vaccination campaign in the affected area to bring the situation under control.
6. **Information from the Commission on the state of play as regards increased mortalities in Pacific oysters/OsHV-1.**

The Commission gave a brief summary of the Member States' working group on increased mortalities in oysters. At that working group meeting the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented their opinion on the issue and the EU Reference Laboratory for mollusc diseases presented their work on Pacific oysters and OsHV-1 in particular. At the same meeting it was agreed that it was necessary, through EU approved measures, to prevent the spread of the OsHV-1 μvar to areas of Europe that are presumed to be free of the virus. It was also agreed that it was premature to consider listing the virus as a disease under Directive 2006/88/EC and that the most appropriate legal basis for further trade restrictive measures would be Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC. A limited working group would be convened on 14 December by means of an audio conference to discuss the further details of such a regulatory regime.

Several Member States took the floor and confirmed that they agreed with the approach described by the Commission.

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

- **Declaration from Poland of VHS and IHN free compartments 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 10 declarations from Poland declaring 9 compartments free of VHS/IHN and 1 compartment free of IHN.

8. **Information from France on the Aujeszky's disease situation in Landes and Pyrenees Atlantiques.**

The French representative made a presentation on the Aujeszky's disease (AD) situation after the eradication of the disease in the departments of Pyrénées Atlantiques and Landes. Exhaustive surveillance based on samples taken from all holdings located within a 5km radius from the outbreaks, and holdings identified as risk holdings during the epidemiological investigations, show that the situation is under control and both departments can be considered as free from AD. It is therefore not necessary to amend Annexes I and II to Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the AD status of certain departments in France.

The Commission then highlighted that at the Committee meeting of 19-10 November 2010, a text on Aujeszky's disease in France was unanimously supported and the procedure for its adoption has started. However, given the positive evolution of the situation, the Commission proposed that the procedure is blocked and that no
amendments are introduced in Decision 2008/185/EC. The Committee fully supported the proposal of the Commission.

9. **Information from the Commission on the multi-stakeholders meeting on laying hens to be held on 19 January 2011, Brussels.**

The Commission informed the Committee on the multi-stakeholders meeting on the implementation of Council Directive 1999/74/EC that the Commission is organising on 19 January 2011. The meeting is aimed at discussing with competent authorities from Member States and concerned stakeholders the state of play on the implementation of the Directive and at collecting experiences and practical solutions to ensure the timely phasing out of conventional cages.

10. **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.4)**

The Commission presented the final version of document SANCO/7020/2010-Rev. 4 and informed that Member States should check the data and inform the Commission in case of any mistakes by 6 December 2010 as after that date the document will be published on the DG SANCO website.

11. **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. The Commission thanked all the Member States for providing all required information.

11A. **Information from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland on the results of the implementation of the rabies co-financed eradication programmes 2009.**

The representatives of Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Bulgaria gave presentations, and the representatives of Finland, Germany and Romania provided information, on the implementation of their
Union co-financed rabies eradication programmes in the year 2009. For Germany and for the Czech Republic, 2009 was the last year of Union co-financing for rabies eradication as the programmes achieved their objective. Slovakia and Austria are also free from the disease but maintain vaccination zones in areas presenting higher risk of re-introduction of the disease. The rabies incidence has continued to drop in most of the other Member States implementing rabies oral vaccination.

For Bulgaria, 2009 was the first year of introduction of oral vaccination. The Commission representative praised Bulgaria for starting to implement its rabies eradication programme in wildlife but stressed the need for a significant improvement to the collection of samples in order to monitor the success of the oral vaccination campaigns.

Romania informed the Committee that the programme was not implemented in 2009 due to tendering problems. The same was the case also in 2010, however, it was recently possible to award a contract for the 4 coming years. It is therefore expected that Romania will commence oral vaccination activities in spring 2011. The Commission representative strongly encouraged Romania to commence activities as otherwise there was a danger they could be left behind the other Member States.

12. 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.


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 OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) have been introduced. Furthermore experiences with operation standards laid down in the Directive have shown that it would be appropriate to adapt them to take account of 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.

The Commission representative thanked for further comments and explained the few modifications that were subsequently introduced in the document. The Committee was
further informed that the presentation of the document for vote is foreseen at the meeting of this Committee scheduled for 21 December 2010.

**Vote: postponed.**


Following the completion of a selection procedure, the successful laboratory, ANSES – Sophia Antipolis Laboratory, France, should be designated as the EU reference laboratory for bee health. A number of tasks for the laboratory have been established in the Annex to this draft Regulation.


**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 animal health and veterinary certification requirements for certain domestic bovine animals and regionalisation for Botswana in the list of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of fresh meat. (Doc. SANCO/7131/2010 - Rev. 2)**

The previous version of this draft was presented at the meeting of this Committee held on 9-10 November 2010 (see point 15 of the agenda of that meeting).

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

**Vote: postponed.**


Vote: unanimous in favour.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Member States:

- The Dutch representative made a short presentation on the new status of certain territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands located in the Caribbean and its implication from the veterinary point of view.

- The Italian representative made a presentation on the swine vesicular disease situation in the province of Catania in the Region of Sicily. The disease has been eradicated and the surveillance activities in the province are finalised. Therefore, the whole region of Sicily is now considered free of that disease.

- The Slovenian representative informed the Committee on the detection of Avian Paramyxovirus 1 (pigeon variant) in a racing pigeon which was confirmed on 25 November 2010 by laboratory investigation at the National Veterinary Institute. 6 laying hens and 19 pigeons are kept in the holding. The laying hens tested negative for the virus and the disease control measures foreseen in Article 19(4)(b) which include a ban of movements of the pigeons for at least 60 days, and cleaning and disinfection measures were applied.

- The following document was distributed by Denmark during the meeting:
  - Animal Health in Denmark 2009.

Issues raised by the Commission:

- The Commission presented briefly document SANCO/7214/2010 on the classical swine fever (CSF) in wild boar surveillance database linked to the activity of the EU CSF Reference Laboratory. The database has been updated and upgraded and it is now available to all Member States willing to use it. For that it is necessary to identify the contact persons in the Member States and to exchange some technical information as presented in the annexes to the referred document.

- The following documents were distributed by the Commission during the meeting:
  - Animal Health and Standing Committees, DG SANCO, Unit D1 Activity Report 2009.