President: Koen Van Dyck.
Cyprus, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Greece and Malta were absent and not represented. Finland was absent but represented by Belgium. All other Member States were present.

1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annexes II and IV to Council Directive 2009/158/EC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs. (Doc. SANCO/7115/2010 - Rev.5)

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 current industry practices in particular with respect to the laying behaviour of different poultry species and the practise 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.

Austria had requested to introduce some additional information in the veterinary certificates in relation to vaccination against Salmonella. With the exception of France this issue had not been raised before. The Commission replied that it should be considered best practise between trading partners to be provided this information.

Vote: qualified majority by 275 votes in favour, 70 votes absent.
2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/7131/2010-Rev. 3) (MZ/PB)

Previous versions of this draft were 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) and on 9-10 November (see point 15 of the agenda of that meeting). Revision 3 on which Member States were asked to provide an official opinion during this meeting was presented at the meeting of this Committee held on 1 December 2010 (see point 15 of the agenda of that meeting).

Vote: qualified majority by 275 votes in favour, 70 votes absent.