Presidents: Alberto Laddomada, Eric Poudelet.
All the Member States were present. Italy, Malta and Lithuania were partly absent but represented.

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

   The Greek representative made a [presentation](#) on the disease situation in the country providing an overview of the evolution of the disease in the last two years. In 2009 serotypes 1 and 16 circulated in Greece while in 2010 only serotype 16 was detected. Surveillance is ongoing.

   The Cypriot representative presented the [results of the surveillance in 2010](#). Serotype 16 has been detected in several areas of the territory under the official control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

   Outbreaks have been mostly detected by surveillance in place. Bluetongue infection is not showing clinical disease in none of these two Member States.

2. **Information from Belgium on bovine brucellosis situation.**

   The Belgium representative gave a [presentation](#) on an outbreak of bovine brucellosis that was confirmed on 30 November 2010 in a mixed herd (breeding and fattening) in the village Haccourt, municipality Oupeye, Province of Liège. All bovine animals present in the herd were slaughtered on 28 December 2010. Cleaning and disinfection is ongoing. Epidemiological investigations identified 137 contact holdings situated within Belgium and 4 holdings located in the Netherlands. So far 104 herds already tested. In 1 herd there were only calves under 1 year of age. Testing is ongoing as well as bacteriological tests on seropositive animals in 32 herds.

   The Dutch representative reported to the Committee that within the measures taken by the Netherlands, followed by the information received from Belgium authorities, in the 4 identified contact holdings located in the Netherlands all animals over 12 months were tested for bovine brucellosis with negative results.
2A. Information from France on the Newcastle disease situation.

The French representative made a presentation on the disease outbreaks in pigeon holdings in the Département Côtes d'Armor and Département Morbihan.

2B. Information from Bulgaria on the situation of foot-and-mouth disease in wild boar.

The Bulgarian representative presented the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in the region of Burgas, explaining that following the detection of acute FMD in a wild boar, an FMD outbreak was also declared in the village of Kosti at the border with Turkey. The veterinary services of Bulgaria have implemented measures in the framework of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, and in particular started to stamp out the outbreak. Controls carried out in a number of neighbouring villages have not revealed spread of the disease.

2C. Information from Italy on the withdrawal of the suspension measures for swine vesicular disease on the provinces of Latina and Frosinone.

The Italian representative made a presentation on swine vesicular disease (SVD) in the provinces of Frosinone and Latina (Lazio region). After the outbreaks of 2009 and 2010, eradication and surveillance activities have been accomplished according to the provisions of the relevant legislation (Council Directive 92/119/EEC, Commission Decision 2005/779/EC) with favourable results. The two provinces can now be considered as free from SVD.

Taking into consideration the proximity of the two provinces to Campania (region affected by SVD), the structure of the pig-market in the area and the history of previous outbreaks, the Commission has recommended to Italy to be particularly vigilant in this area in order to avoid the re-occurrence of the disease.

2D. Information from the Commission and exchange of views on the African swine fever situation in Russia.

The Commission's representative informed the Committee about the African swine fever situation in the St. Petersburg region.

3. Establishment of a TRACES steering group.

According to what was proposed in the meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers of 30/11/2010, the topic related to the implementation of a steering group for TRACES was presented to this Committee to select the Member States that will be part of that group and to officially launch it. According to the initial requests and to the information sent to the Commission, the applications of 10 Member States were accepted. Italy, Germany, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands,
Austria, Greece, Finland and Slovenia will be part of the group. The members of the group will be renewed every 18 or 24 months.

Denmark supported again the creation of such a group and the Netherlands expressed its doubt about the usefulness of such a group. So, the Danish proposal to analyse the interest of such a group at the end of a two year period was taken into consideration. The first meeting of that group should take place in March.

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

- **Declaration from United Kingdom of koi herpes virus (KHV) 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:
  

The Commission informed about 2 declarations from the UK declaring 2 compartments free of Koi Herpes Virus (KHV).

5. **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.2)**

Postponed.

5A. **Information to the Member States on the budgetary execution of the 2009 programmes.**

Document ARES (2011) 4888 was presented for information to the Member States. It contains an overview of the financial transactions (initial commitment, additional commitment for the administration of bluetongue vaccines, the reallocation and the payments) for the 2009 eradication/surveillance programmes. It was explained that payments in italic are provisional awaiting the finalisation of the ex ante audits.

5B. **Information by Germany on the state of play concerning the recent case of dioxin contamination.**

The German authorities provided an update on the dioxin contamination incident (see the relevant presentation).

The German authorities were informed on 22 December 2010 by a compound feed manufacturer of a level of dioxins found in compound feed following an own control, not compliant with EU legislation. The non-compliance was due to the use of contaminated feed fat in the production of feed. The feed fat intended for feed was
mixed with fatty acids, intended for technical purposes, which were delivered at the feed fat company on 11 November 2010. These fatty acids were contaminated with dioxins. The German authorities informed on 27 December 2010 the Commission through the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) of this contamination incident.

The batch of fatty acids for technical purposes originated from a biodiesel company in Germany via a trader in the Netherlands. On 3 January 2011 it was found that in total 7 batches of fatty acids were delivered since 11 November 2010 from the biodiesel company to the feed fat producer. The source of the contamination is still unclear and the German competent authorities are undertaking investigations.

By way of strict precaution, all feed fat produced at the feed fat company as of 12 November 2010 was considered to be potentially contaminated. Such potentially contaminated feed fat amounting to 2256 tonnes has been delivered to 25 compound feed manufacturers in Germany. There were no deliveries of potentially contaminated feed fat outside Germany.

In addition 100,000 – 200,000 tons of compound feed, containing 2 – 10 % of the potentially contaminated feed fat, has been delivered to laying hen, fattening poultry (broilers and turkey), pig, dairy cattle, bovine, rabbit and goose farms, all over Germany.

All farms which have received the compound feed containing the potentially contaminated feed fat have been blocked on 3 January 2011. There were initially 4,760 potentially affected farms in Germany. As of 11 January 2011, this number has dropped to 558 farms further to investigations confirming conformity of the feed or the food of animal origin.

Several delegations indicated to be satisfied with the information provided and the way the German authorities are managing the incident. The German delegation guaranteed that based on the currently available information no contaminated feed fat, feed and food of animal origin has been traded to other Member States or exported to third countries.

The Commission indicated to be satisfied with the management by the German authorities of the incident and that there are no grounds to impose restrictive measures on feed and food from Germany for safety reasons.

The Commission representative indicated that daily, via the RASFF, an updated comprehensive report on the contamination incident is transmitted to the Member States and that daily updated information on the incident can be found on http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/contaminants/dioxin_germany_en.htm

The Belgian delegation presented the measures put in place in Belgium following dioxin and PCB contamination incidents that occurred in Belgium in 1999 and 2006 (see the relevant presentation). In particular the control programme that the Belgian authorities has put in place in co-operation with the feed manufacturing sector, in order to control intensively the presence of dioxins and PCBs in critical feed materials, including animal fats and critical additives was explained in details as well as the impact of the measure.

The Commission representative indicated that the Commission is considering putting in place at EU level a reinforced dioxin monitoring system in the feed chain, in
particular as regards oils and fats, and that the experiences gained with the Belgian monitoring system might be useful in that context.

6. Information from the Commission on the latest developments on the new Comitology Regime.

A Commission representative provided a presentation of the new comitology procedures, following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009.

The Treaty of Lisbon substantially modifies the framework of powers conferred upon the Commission by the legislator. The new Treaty makes a clear distinction between the powers delegated to the Commission to adopt non-legisitative acts of general application to supplement or amend certain non-essential elements of a legislative act (delegated acts) on the one hand and the powers conferred on the Commission to adopt implementing acts on the other hand. The main aspects of the procedures that will apply to these two types of acts have been outlined. Particular emphasis has been given to the impeding adoption and entry into force (in the course of the 1st trimester of 2011) of a Regulation laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Implementing Regulation).

7. 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.


The Committee endorsed unanimously the measures adopted last week by the European Commission (Decision 2001/8/EU) in order to contain the outbreak. According to that Decision, the dispatch of live susceptible animals (e.g. pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, etc.) and their semen ova and embryos from both the high and low risk areas is prohibited. The dispatch from the high risk area of products derived from susceptible animals is also prohibited. There are no restrictions for the products of susceptible animals coming from the low risk areas.

The Commission's original Decision defined the high risk area (the province of Burgas) and low risk areas (the surrounding provinces of Yambol, Sliven, Shumen and Varna). The present Decision extends the list of low risk areas by adding the regions of Haskovo and Kardjali.

This Decision will remain in force until March 31, and the Commission will review it, in the light of the evolution of the disease situation.

Vote: unanimous in favour.
8. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution by the Union to the Netherlands for studies on Q fever. (Doc. SANCO/7184/2010)**

The Commission presented the draft decision granting a financial contribution to the Netherlands for technical and scientific studies on Q-fever. The legal base for this decision is Articles 22 and 23 of Council Decision 2009/470/EC on expenditure in the veterinary field. The studies will provide new knowledge with regards to the disease dynamics and the effectiveness of possible control measures applicable to domestic ruminants and may lead to new insights that could contribute to possible future development of veterinary legislation in the Union, in particular as regards the possible adoption of harmonised rules on monitoring and reporting of Q-fever. The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the costs incurred is set at EUR 500,000, which shall be paid following the presentation of a final technical and financial report to the Commission on 31 March 2012 at the latest.

The Netherlands briefly presented the studies. The outcomes shall be made available to the Commission and all Member States and presented at this Committee.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

9. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision authorising a laboratory in the Republic of Korea to carry out serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines. (Doc SANCO/7201/2010)**

The purpose of this draft Decision is to add a new laboratory in Korea on the list of laboratories currently authorised to perform serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines in dogs, cats and ferrets.

**Vote: unanimous in favour.**

9A. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on certain measures to prevent the transmission of African swine fever virus from the Russian Federation to the European Union. (Doc. SANCO/7001/2011 – Rev.5)**

The Commission presented the draft Decision to the Committee proposing the introduction of protection measures to prevent the transmission of African Swine Fever (ASF) from Russia to the EU, due to the recent outbreak of the disease in the region of Saint Petersburg. The measures foresee that vehicles transporting pigs and entering the Union from Russia have to be cleansed and disinfected, as the virus causing ASF survives outside the host animal and can be introduced into the Union through vehicles which have transported pigs. The import of pigs and pig meat products from Russia is not permitted.

**Vote: in favour, Italy represented by Luxembourg and Malta by Hungary.**

On 4 January 2011 France informed the Commission about the confirmation of a Newcastle disease outbreak in a holding of meat pigeons in the municipality of Langoat, in the department Côtes d’Armor and the control measures adopted, including the prohibition of the movement and transport of poultry outside the established protection and surveillance zones, as provided for in Directive 92/66/EEC.

France has also submitted to the Commission a request for an exemption from the movement and transport prohibition for the day-old chicks and ready-to-lay pullets coming from holdings located in the protection zone. Day-old chicks and ready-to-lay pullets originating from the holdings situated in the protection zone would remain in France.

It is therefore appropriate to provide for the requested authorisation subject to the condition that France takes strict control and precaution measures in accordance with Directive 92/66/EEC, that guarantee that there is no risk of spread of the disease.

Vote: in favour, Lithuania represented by Luxembourg.

10. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2010/221/EU approving national measures for limiting the impact of Ostreid herpesvirus 1 µvar (OsHV-1 µvar). (Doc. SANCO/7206/2010)

The draft Decision is a template Decision approving surveillance programmes for Member States assuming their territories or parts thereof are free of Ostreid herpesvirus-1 µvar (OsHV-1 µvar).

A guidance document (SANCO/7004/2011) on the sampling and testing regime for a surveillance programme for OsHV-1 µvar was also presented.

Some Member States had suggestions for improvement of the two texts and were invited to present those as soon as possible by e-mail as the intention is to present this draft Decision for vote at the meeting of this Committee to be held in February or March.

11. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008 as regards the placing on the market requirements for consignments of aquaculture animals intended for Member States or compartments with national measures regarding Ostreid herpesvirus 1 µvar (OsHV-1 µvar) approved in accordance with Decision 2010/221/EU. (Doc. SANCO/7105/2010)

The Commission presented the Regulations which lay down the placing on the market requirements for movements into areas with approved surveillance programmes as regards Ostreid herpesvirus-1 µvar (OsHV-1 µvar).
There were no comments on the draft text. The intention is to present this draft Regulation for vote at the meeting of this Committee to be held in February or March.

The Commission also informed about outbreaks of Ostreid herpesvirus-1 in Australia and of an outbreak in New Zealand.

**Miscellaneous**

*Issues raised by the Member States:*

- Romania informed the Commission and the other Member States that it will use the derogation foreseen in Annex V, Chapter I, point 1(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 to allow the receipt of Category 3 animal by-products by a processing plant at the site of a slaughterhouse, from another off-site, approved slaughterhouse.

- The British representative informed that the UK authorities have decided to lift the restrictions on the turkey farm where avian influenza H1 pandemic virus was detected as they consider that this situation does not pose a risk for public health.