1. Bluetongue situation in the Member States.

The British representative presented the results of the bluetongue monitoring programme in Great Britain since 2009. In June 2010, the UK demarcated England, Scotland and Wales as 'lower risk area' for bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV8), in conformity with Article 7(2a) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007. Now, as of 5 July 2011, UK lifts the whole restricted zone for BTV8 and declares the whole of UK free from bluetongue. As a consequence, vaccination against this serotype or any other bluetongue virus serotypes is no longer permitted.

The Danish representative asked about the progress as regards the amendment to the Bluetongue Directive (Council Directive 2000/75/EC), which would allow bluetongue vaccination outside restricted zones. The Commission representative replied that there was no news concerning the adoption by the Council and the European Parliament.

The Dutch representative presented an update of their bluetongue monitoring programme which indicates an absence of circulation of BTV8 since 2009. The Netherlands concluded that they meet the minimum requirements as laid down in the Regulation to lift the restricted zone for BTV8. However, they will not declare themselves free yet because they still wish to perform vaccination against this serotype and because of the implications it would have on the trade of animals between neighbouring countries that are currently still restricted.

The Commission's representative reminded the Committee that according to Article 4 and Annex I of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007, all Member States should perform active laboratory based surveillance for bluetongue, regardless if (part of) their territory falls under bluetongue restrictions.

The Belgian representative presented an update of their bluetongue monitoring programme which indicates the absence of circulation of BTV8 since 2009. Although the conditions to demarcate the whole territory of Belgium as a 'lower risk area' are fulfilled, Belgium will not implement this. The restricted zone for BTV8 remains
unchanged and the intention is to declare Belgium free of BTV8 towards the end of the year.

The Commission's representative thanked the representatives of the Netherlands and Belgium for their comprehensive presentations which showed the necessary data and maps, illustrating their monitoring strategies and outcomes. The Commission representative pointed out that a coordinated regional approach taking into account the similar epidemiology of the disease for the lifting of restricted zones is indeed the logical and preferred way forward. The disease evolution is very similar in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany and an individual approach would have a negative implication on the trade between these countries.

2. Information from Lithuania on the classical swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs.

The Lithuanian representative updated on the classical swine fever (CSF) epidemiological situation in Lithuania.

On June 1st 2011 an outbreak of CSF was confirmed in a pig holding keeping 15,919 animals in the County of Kaunas, Jonava district. Since then, in the same district, 3 new outbreaks were confirmed, the last one on July 3rd. The virus isolated in the first outbreak belongs to the genotype 2.1 and it has 100% homology with the CSF virus identified in Lithuania in 2009.

The first three outbreaks belonged to the same ownership and they were epidemiologically linked, whilst the last one was not connected to the previous ones.

In accordance with the provisions foreseen in Council Directive 2001/89/EC all the animals of the outbreaks have been stamped out and controls are ongoing in the area under restriction, as well as in the whole of Lithuania, in pigs and in wild boars.

Standstill for pig movements have been implemented all over the territory of Lithuania.

3. Information from Germany and France on the classical swine fever situation in wild boar.

The German representative updated on the CSF situation in wild boar in North Rhine-Westfalia and Rhineland-Palatinate.

The last cases that were reported in Germany in 2009, were on 29 July in North Rhine-Westfalia and on 18 April in Rhineland-Palatinate. Intensive monitoring activities have been carried out in the affected areas in 2010 and 2011 and no further cases were detected. Vaccination is still implemented in wild boar.

The overall epidemiological situation is considered favourable.

The French representative updated on the CSF situation in wild boar in France. The last CSF case was reported in wild boar in 2007. Surveillance activities have been carried out in pigs and wild boar in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and no further CSF
outbreak was detected. Vaccination in wild boar ceased in Autumn 2010 while surveillance activities are still ongoing in the area considered at risk.

The epidemiological situation is considered favourable.

4. **Information from Germany, Italy and the Netherlands on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.**

   The Dutch representative gave a presentation on two outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N7 in poultry holdings located in Creil, Flevoland. The first outbreak was detected in a laying hen farm through the early warning system. Screening investigations in holdings located within the 3-km restricted zone established around the first outbreak, identified a second outbreak in a fattening turkey holding. All poultry present on the two concerned holdings were killed. The restrictions will remain in place until 19 July 2011.

   The German representative gave a presentation updating on the situation as regards low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N7 following confirmation of the virus on 27 May 2011 in a broiler breeder holding with annexed hatchery located in the village of Rietberg, Kreis Gütersloh, North Rhine-Westphalia. Further 18 outbreaks have been confirmed in the Länder North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Saxony. Consignments were also sent to Denmark, Austria and France. Investigations in the holdings of destination have so far either proven negative or are pending. Contacts via persons and vehicles, common disposal of poultry carcasses, close vicinity of holdings and links via trade in poultry have been identified as means of virus spread.

   The Italian representative gave a presentation on three positive findings for avian influenza of the H7 subtype between mid May and mid June 2011 detected in a meat turkey holding in the Umbria region, in a small rural chicken holding in the region of Basilicata and a laying hen holding in the Campania Region. All poultry present on the affected holdings have been culled and been disposed of.

5. **Information from Bulgaria on foot-and-mouth disease situation and presentation of the plan for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in wild animals in Bulgaria.**

   Bulgaria presented an update on the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in the south-east of the country. No new outbreaks were reported since 7 April 2011. Post-outbreak surveillance continued and has so far yielded negative results.

   Bulgaria also presented the main elements of their plan for the eradication of FMD in wildlife and informed about the first results of the surveillance carried out in the risk area. The results obtained to date indicate that the area in which the eradication plan is being implemented was designed large enough to enclose the positive findings in roe deer and in wild boar, which have been detected in close proximity to the border with Turkey.
6. **Information from Italy on the dourine situation.**

In May 2011, Italy reported a case of dourine (Trypanosoma equiperdum) in a stallion in Sicily, Italy, which was tested within the framework of a national programme for the health monitoring of stud stallions. In the context, also a mare was detected which had not only seroconverted but also displayed clinical signs consistent with dourine.

The Italian representative **presented** the outcome of the epidemiological investigations carried out following the detection of dourine, including tracing back and forward, and the first results of an ongoing surveillance that also screens archive samples collected in the framework of surveillance for West Nile Fever and Equine Infectious Anaemia.

Member States acknowledged the efforts made by Italy and they did not request the adoption by the Commission of specific additional measures affecting trade.

7. **Information from Belgium on the Aujeszky's disease situation.**

At present Belgium is listed in annex II to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC. Belgium has submitted to the Commission the request to obtain Aujeszky's disease free status and to be listed in annex I to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC. The Belgian representative **reported** on the results of eradication activities carried out in Belgium since 1993 to date. The last cases of Aujeszky's disease in pigs were recorded in 2008 and the vaccination campaign was interrupted at the end of 2009.

A high seroprevalence for the disease has been recorded in wild boar and measures have to be taken in order to avoid contact with pigs.

The overall epidemiological situation was considered favourable for Belgium to apply for Aujeszky's disease free status and be listed in Annex I to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC.

The Commission presented its view to the Member States on the possible need to review one sentence on vaccination in the "Guidance to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC regarding additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs related to Aujeszky’s disease and criteria for listing a Member State or a region thereof as free from Aujeszky’s disease or as having an approved disease control programme". In order to avoid misinterpretation the wording will be reviewed at the next meeting of this Committee.

8. **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.6)**

The Commission's representative presented Rev. 6 of the working document with the last amendments based on comments received from Member States. The sector had also given its consent. The content of the document was agreed by the Member States.
9. **Information on vaccination of other captive birds kept in zoos and approved bodies, institutes or centres in the Member States against avian influenza according to Commission Decision 2007/598/EC. (Doc. SANCO/7070/2011 - Rev.2)**

The Commission's representative presented an updated summary document on preventive vaccination against avian influenza of birds kept in premises as listed above carried out in Member States during 2010. Still 3 Member States had not sent their report. The Commission's representative indicated that it was the intention to present a draft proposal for an amendment to the current provisions for vaccination of zoo birds.


This document refers to a recent amendment to a veterinary certificate for day-old chicks for trade within the Union as laid down in Annex IV of Directive 2009/158/EC. The inclusion of a separate column for 'Identification' in the details of the consignment poses a problem when the quantities and packages have to be detailed for each parent flock. The Commission asked Member States to consult their sector, if they experience similar problems with completing these data.

11. **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 2010. (Docs. SANCO/7060/2011-Rev.2; SANCO/7061/2011-Rev. 1; SANCO/10574/2004-Rev. 16)**

The Commission's representative reminded two Member States and Norway to communicate the missing information so that document SANCO/7060/2011-Rev. 2 could be finalised. The document is the draft annual report for 2010 providing details of the occurrence of diseases listed in Annex E (I) to Directive 64/432/EEC and of any other diseases covered by the additional guarantees provided for by Union legislation and of monitoring or eradication programme (not covered by Decision 2008/940/EC) in the territory of the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

Document SANCO/7061/2011 - Rev. 1 was distributed by the Commission. The document includes information on the results of screening for *Brucella melitensis* carried out during 2010 in the Member States or regions thereof officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*).

Document SANCO/10574/2004 – Rev.16 was distributed by the Commission. This document includes the list of Member States (or regions) officially free of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis, IBR, *Brucella melitensis*
and Aujeszky's disease or where approved Aujeszky's disease and IBR control programmes are in place.

12. **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.**

The Commission's representative reminded one Member State to communicate their reports to the Commission and requested certain Member States to forward the missing information concerning main findings of the exercises carried out in 2010.

13. **Information from Ireland, Spain and Italy on the results of the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis co-financed eradication programmes 2010.**

The Irish, Spanish and Italian representatives made a presentation of the results of the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis co-financed eradication programmes for 2010.

In Ireland, the results are quite satisfactory as 2010 is the second year of implementation of the programme.

In Spain, the trend of the disease is quite satisfactory; however still to improve in certain autonomous regions.

In Italy, the general situation is quite satisfactory and the trend is positive. There are still implementation problems in Sicily region although the results are not so bad.

14. **Information from Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Portugal on the results of the implementation of the enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) co-financed eradication programmes 2010.**

The Estonian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish and Portuguese representatives presented the results of the implementation of the programme. The results were quite satisfactory. Most of those Member States are close to the eradication of the disease.

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

- Declaration from Italy and France 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 declarations from Italy and France of compartments thereof free of VHS and IHN.

15A. 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 and zones in accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC
- Declaration from UK of a KHV free compartment

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 Poland of compartments and zones thereof free of VHS and IHN, and about a declaration from the UK of a compartment free of KHV.

16. Information from the Commission and exchange of views on the first meeting of the EU reference laboratory for bee health with the national laboratories of the Member States and conference on bee mortality held in Brussels on 6-7 June 2011.

The Commission briefly informed the Committee about the latest bee health initiatives in particular about the kick-off meeting for bee health reference laboratories (RLs) and Conference on bee health of 6 and 7 June. It was also explained that over summer two separate documents will be sent to the Member States with specific deadlines to answer by: one questionnaire on laboratory capacity from the EU Reference Laboratory (RL) to the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and another one on a pilot surveillance programme from the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) to the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs). A state of play and chronology document was also distributed specifying, among others, planned time line for future actions (upon a request this document was also sent later to the Member States in electronic format).

16A. Information from the Commission and exchange of views on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1739/2005 (laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States)

The Commission informed that the European Circus Association during a meeting with DG SANCO in June 2011 had complained that the local competent authorities would not react on calls from the circuses when they want to move to another Member State.
Member States were requested to check the tasks of the local veterinary officers based on Regulation (EC) No 1739/2005 and give a feedback.

16B. Information from the Commission on a Commission Implementing Decision recognizing the fully operational character of the Lithuanian database for bovine animals.

The Commission informed that Union rules on the identification and registration of bovine animals are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament allows the Commission for the recognition of the fully operational character of the database for bovine animals in EU Member States. Based on Article 6.3 first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, Lithuania has presented a request to the Commission for the recognition of the fully operational character of the database that forms part of the identification and registration of bovine animals. A mission of the Commission services took place from 28 till 30 March 2011 in order to evaluate the computerised system on the basis of written information submitted by the Lithuanian authorities. Following that mission, the Lithuanian authorities have taken measures in order to improve the reliability of the database, as requested by the Commission services and submitted to the Commission the appropriate information concerning the compatibility of the database with the provisions of Art. 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000. In view of the situation in Lithuania, it is appropriate to recognise the fully operational character of the database for bovine animals. On this basis, the Commission will proceed with the adoption of a Commission Implementing Decision which will be notified and published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

16C. Information from the UK on a SVC outbreak.

The United Kingdom informed about an outbreak of Spring Vireamia of Carp (SVC) in England. The outbreak was in a fishery containing three ponds. None of the ponds are connected to the surrounding water courses. All ponds will be emptied and disinfected. The detection was of the European strain of SVC. According to the records of the fishery, it had not been restocked in 20 years. The epidemiological investigation has so far been inconclusive as regards the potential sources of the virus. The Commission welcomed the information and informed that Decision 2010/221/EU approving the UK measures concerning SVC would in due course need to be updated.

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


This document supersedes the one voted at the meeting of this Committee on 21 June 2011 (see item 1 on the agenda of that meeting). The text of the draft Decision has
been updated to reflect the changes made by the Lithuanian authorities in the protection and surveillance zones following the last outbreak of classical swine fever notified on 3 July 2011 and the date of application of the restrictions.

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.


The main purpose of this draft Implementing Decision is to provide the financial resources for the Commission to support the actions of the Union on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs. These actions will involve budgetary expenditure in the veterinary field for the year 2011.

The financial resources will be used in 2011 and 2012 to develop Union actions aiming at helping pig producers to stop surgical castration of pigs by 1 January 2018. One of the key actions will be to develop European Union harmonised reference methods for the detection of boar taint.

A large-scale consumer acceptance study on pig meat and products obtained from non-surgically castrated pigs will be conducted. In this regard, one Member State highlighted that the Commission did not set aside a large enough budget to finance such a study.

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.


A case of foot-and-mouth disease in wild boar and a total of 11 outbreaks of that disease in livestock were confirmed in the region of Burgas in Bulgaria between 5 January and 7 April 2011. As a consequence, Bulgaria has taken measures in the framework of Council Directive 2003/85/EC on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, including those relating to the protection of domestic animals from the disease in wild animals.

In accordance with Article 85(4) of Directive 2003/85/EC, Bulgaria submitted to the Commission for approval a plan for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in wildlife in parts of the regions of Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo, the regions bordering Turkish Thrace. The plan describes the measures taken to eradicate the disease in the area defined as infected and the measures applied on the holdings in that area.
The plan submitted by Bulgaria on 4 April 2011, within 90 days from the first case, has been examined by the Commission and found to comply with Part B Annex XVIII to Directive 2003/85/EC. Accordingly, the plan should be approved.

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.


The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into revision 4 of the document in comparison to the previous version which was presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee of 31 May 2011 (see item 9 of the agenda of that meeting).

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.


The Commission's representative presented the changes introduced into revision 3 of the document in comparison to the previous version which was presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee of 31 May 2011 (see item 10 of the agenda of that meeting).

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.

22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 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. (Legal base: Article 8, the first subparagraph of Article 8(1) and Article 8(4) of Council Directive 2002/99/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure) (Doc. SANCO/7052/2011)

Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 provides that consignments of fresh meat intended for human consumption are to be imported into the Union only if they come from the third countries, territories or parts thereof listed in Part 1 of Annex II to that
Regulation for which there is a model veterinary certificate corresponding to the consignment concerned listed in that Part.

Four parts of the territory of Botswana are listed in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regions from which imports of fresh de-boned and matured meat from ungulates into the Union are authorised. Those regions consist of a number of veterinary disease control zones.

On 11 May 2011, Botswana notified the Commission of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. The outbreaks occurred in the veterinary disease control zone 6, which forms part of one of the four parts of the territory of Botswana from which imports of fresh de-boned and matured meat from ungulates into the Union are authorised.

Due to the risk of introduction of foot-and-mouth disease through imports into the Union of fresh meat from species susceptible to that disease, and considering the guarantees given by Botswana allowing for regionalisation of the country, the authorisation of Botswana to export fresh de-boned and matured meat from ungulates into the Union from the affected part of its territory should be suspended as from 11 May 2011, the date of confirmation of the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.

Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: qualified majority by 341 votes in favour, 4 votes absent and not represented.


The financial assistance to the EU reference laboratories (EURLs) is provided in accordance with Article 31 of the Council Decision 2009/470/EC on expenditure in the veterinary field.

The eligibility criteria for the expenditure of the EURLs receiving financial assistance and the procedures for the submission of expenditure and the conduct of audits are set out in Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006.

Following an internal audit on procedures, a simplification of the procedure implementing the partnership has been recommended.

Since a number of changes are to be made, in the interest of clarity, Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006 should be repealed and replaced by this Regulation.

Therefore, the aim of this Regulation is to adapt the procedure: no more framework partnership agreement, no more specific agreement, but only a financing decision. Nevertheless, it is necessary to maintain the definition of the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commission and EURLs.
This Regulation shall apply to all EU reference laboratories whose framework partnership agreements come to an end in 2011 and for EU reference laboratories whose framework partnership agreements are terminated by mutual agreement. For EU laboratories whose framework partnership agreements are not terminated, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006 remains applicable.

The Commission's representative presented the draft Implementing Decision. Member States were informed that the document will be presented for vote at the meeting of this Committee on 12 July, section Biological Safety.

Miscellaneous

Issues raised by the Commission:

- Member States were reminded to send the information on personal import consignments as obliged by Regulation (EC) No 206/2009 for the year 2010.