Chair: A. Laddomada.

On 4 June all Member States were present. On 5 June 26 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent but represented by Greece. Lithuania was partly absent but represented by Latvia.

Croatia attended the meeting as an observer.

A representative from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) attended the meeting during the presentation of items A.1 and A.2.

A.1 Presentation from EFSA and exchange of views on the report on Schmallenberg virus.

A representative from EFSA presented the report on Schmallenberg virus: "Analysis of the epidemiological data and assessment of Impact". The data provided by all Member States was used as a basis for this analysis. Data presented showed a clear decline in the number of malformed SBV-positive newborn animals after February 2012 and allow to conclude that the impact on the 2012-2013 calving season should be low in the regions already affected by this virus. It was noted that the analysis was using conservative models to avoid underestimating the possible consequences of this infection. With respect to the onset of the infection in the EU, EFSA suggested that June 2011 could be a possible date, while it was still impossible to determine the origin of the virus.

A.2 Update and exchange of views on the Schmallenberg virus situation.

The Commission welcomed the EFSA report and presented the outcomes of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) General session 2012 which were extremely supportive of the EU approach to the Schmallenberg virus (SBV). It was clarified that the notifications to the OIE by the affected Member States would stop as agreed in the OIE meeting. The importance for the EU to continue in its transparency policy was stressed and, therefore, Member States were encouraged to continue providing data to EFSA enabling the issuance of future
updates by them. It was announced that in the following days the Chief Veterinary Officers would prepare a new statement on the SBV situation, especially vis-à-vis the relations with third countries.

**A.3 Information from Italy on the African swine fever situation in Sardinia.**

The Italian representative informed on the evolution of the African swine fever situation (ASF). Three new outbreaks were reported in Sardinia since the last presentation of the situation at this Committee on 7-8 May 2012 (see item A.4 of the agenda of that meeting).

The Commission's representative highlighted again that the ASF situation in Sardinia is representing a real concern for the Commission and requested Italy to review substantially the control programme in place increasing the efforts to eradicate the disease. The current situation represents a real threat for the EU and further measures may be implemented to avoid further spreading of the infection.

**A.4 Information from the UK (Jersey) and Italy on the bluetongue situation.**

The British representative informed the Committee of the results of the vaccination programme and surveillance programme of Jersey (Channel Islands). No outbreaks were ever reported on the island and Jersey will lift the restricted zone for bluetongue serotypes 1 and 8 due to the favourable situation.

Italy presented the bluetongue situation in the regions Piemonte, Liguria, Umbria and Lazio with the aim to lift the bluetongue restricted zones. The Commission's representative pointed out that this information had not been sent to the Commission yet and needs to be studied carefully. As a first reaction however, it could be concluded from the presentation that the restrictions for the regions Umbria and Lazio cannot be lifted as the minimum period of two full vector seasons have not yet passed.

**A.5 Information from Italy on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.**

The Italian delegate gave a presentation on the epidemiological situation as regards low pathogenic avian influenza in Italy from 1 January to 31 May 2012. Three outbreaks were detected during that period; two of the subtype H5 in a laying hen holding in Campania Region and a rural poultry holding in Emilia Romagna and in the latter region one of the H7 subtype in a rural poultry holding. All poultry on affected farms were culled and restricted zones with movement restrictions established.

**A.6 Sharing of data of avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds carried out in Member States. (Doc. SANCO/7174/2011 - Rev.2)**
The issue has also been discussed during the previous meeting of this Committee on 7-8 May 2012 under Miscellaneous. The Commission is seeking agreement from Member States to share their avian influenza surveillance data in wild birds with EFSA or a selected expert group for further epidemiological analysis. In addition, EFSA has put forward a request for data on surveillance in both, poultry and wild birds, for the FLURISK project on the development of a risk assessment methodological framework for potentially pandemic influenza strains. The Commission renewed its request to Member States to take a final position on this issue.

A.7 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 Union 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 2011. (Doc.SANCO/7061/2012; SANCO/7062/2012; SANCO/10574/2004 - Rev.18)

The Commission's representative reminded some Member States to communicate the missing information so that document SANCO/7061/2012 could be finalised. The document is the draft 2011 Annual report 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/7062/2012 was distributed by the Commission. The document includes information on the results of screening for Brucella melitensis carried out during 2011 in the Member States or regions thereof officially free of brucellosis (B. melitensis).

Document SANCO/10574/2004 – Rev.18 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.

A.8 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 2011.

The Commission's representative reminded three Member States to communicate their reports to the Commission.
A.9  Information from Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Portugal and the UK on the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis eradication programmes 2011.

In Spain the situation is improved a lot and the programme 2011 has been implemented as foreseen.

In Cyprus the implementation of the programme is very satisfactory and the situation is very good (no cases in the last 3 years) and Cyprus is requesting the officially free status in 2012.

In Portugal the programme 2011 has not been fully implemented but some improvement has been noted especially in the Azore islands. Portugal has to improve and fully implement the 2012 programme.

The Italian and the UK presentations were postponed.

A.10  Information from Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Portugal on the results of the implementation of the ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes 2011.

In Spain the implementation of the programme is satisfactory and the overall situation has been improved a lot.

In Cyprus the programme has been implemented as foreseen but there are still areas where the situation is not satisfactory; more efforts have to be put in place to get rid of the disease.

In Portugal the situation has not been improved in spite of the implementation of the programme; vaccination should be reinforced.

The Greek and Italian presentations were postponed.

A.11  Information from Romania on the functioning of the dispatch of pigmeat to other Member States under Decision 2008/855/EC.

The Romanian delegate made a presentation explaining the functioning of the channelling system for the dispatch of fresh pigmeat and meat preparations and meat products from Romania to other Member States explaining that the meat coming from EU Member States outside Annex III does not add any risk to the channelling system therefore there would not be any need for separation of those two categories of meat as it is required now in EU rules. Romania asked for a review of the rules.

A.12  Applications and declarations from Member States to achieve a health status with regard to the aquatic diseases in accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.
The Commission presented the following declarations from Member States regarding the achievement of a health status with regard to the diseases listed in Directive 2006/88/EC: from Poland and Italy of a VHS and IHN free zone each and from Slovenia, of a VHS and IHN free compartment.

A.13 State of play of the impact assessment on animal cloning for food production in the EU: IPM (Interactive Policy Making) public consultation.

The Commission's representative informed the Member States about the state of play of the Impact Assessment of animal cloning for food production. Specifically Member States were reminded to provide the questionnaire about the current situation on animal cloning for food production in their countries (11 Member States did not reply yet: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Spain).

In addition, the Commission asked the Member States to fulfil also the IPM (Interactive Policy Making) public consultation and also disseminate it through their regional and local authorities. Belgium asked for additional time.


Member States were asked to confirm or correct data presented in a table during the meeting. Several Member States presented new data, whereas others gave an overview of actions currently being undertaken to achieve compliance. The number of holdings with non-compliant cages and the number of hens kept in such cages has been further reduced.

Certain Member States were again reminded to send the name of a contact person or persons on the laying hens issue to the Commission as soon as possible, at the latest within the week.


The Commission's representative presented the state of play of the current and future implementation regarding group housing of sows.

Member States were asked to confirm and update their data in view of the Council of Ministers of agriculture on 18 June 2012.

In total, 16 Member States estimate that they will fully comply with group housing of sows by 1 January 2013.

The Commission thanked the 13 Member States who replied to its request for information regarding the transposition of the Directive 2008/120/EC and reminded those who have not replied yet to send this information. The initial
The request of the Commission was sent on 6 March 2012.

The Commission distributed an interpretation letter regarding the total length of the sides of pens for group housing of sows (Article 3(4) of Directive 2008/120/EC).

A.16  **Information by the Commission and exchange of views on national disease contingency plans and regionalisation.**

The Commission provided some background information on the regionalization policy for animal diseases in the EU. It also explained that a reflection should be carried out together with the Member States on how to better present it to third countries, in order to ensure its full acceptance at international level. The Commission announced that it wished to further discuss this issue with the Chief Veterinary Officers.

A.17  **Information from Ireland on their surveillance programme concerning Koi herpes virus (KHV).**

Ireland reported on their surveillance programme concerning Koi herpes virus (KHV), which has been running for two years. They have so far had only negative results in the testing of the programme. However, in some areas they had difficulties in catching enough fish to sample. Therefore, Ireland intends to continue the programme for another year before hopefully being able to declare freedom of KHV.

B.1  **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.**

No item raised.

B.2  **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the financial contribution by the Union to the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat avian influenza in Germany in November 2010. (Doc. SANCO/10442/2012)**

The purpose of this Implementing Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Germany towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2010.

**Vote taken:** unanimous in favour.
**B.3** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the financial contribution by the Union to the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat avian influenza in Poland in 2007. (Doc. SANCO/10921/2012)

The purpose of this Implementing Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Poland towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2007.

*Vote taken:* unanimous in favour.

**B.4** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as regards semen and embryos of certain animals of susceptible species intended for intra-Community trade or export to a third country and certification requirements in relation to bluetongue. (Doc. SANCO/7075/2012)

The Commission representative explained that the draft Implementing Regulation addresses a possible animal health risk that occurs after a bluetongue restricted zone is lifted by a Member State, and consequently no more health guarantees for bluetongue are required on health certificates. The Regulation introduces a clearer reference to the health guarantees as regards bluetongue on the health certificates for semen, ova and embryos of the susceptible species, as these products can be stored and used for a long period of time.

*Vote postponed*


Document SANCO/7066/2012 was presented and discussed at the meeting of this Committee of 7-8 May (see item C.1 of that agenda). Revision 3 was prepared to take into account Member States' comments. Member States asked for further discussion at a working group on animal by-products. The Commission agreed to call for such a working group meeting.

*Vote postponed*
M.1  **Equine infectious anaemia in Belgium.**

The Belgian representative made a *presentation* on the equine infectious anaemia in Belgium.

M.2  **Bovine brucellosis situation in Belgium and France.**

The [Belgian](#) and [French](#) representatives made a presentation on the bovine brucellosis situation in their countries.