SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 02 JULY 2013
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)

Chair: Mr. A. Laddomada.

All Member States were present. Greece was partly absent and represented by Cyprus. Hungary was partly absent and represented by Slovakia.

A.1 Information from Romania on the situation as regards classical swine fever and progress towards eradication.

The Romanian representative made a comprehensive presentation on the classical swine fever (CSF) situation in Romania and on the actions undertaken to eradicate the disease. The Commission's representative indicated that if the improvement of the situation is confirmed, Romania could be listed in a different part of the Annex to Decision 2008/855/EC that should be reviewed in the second half of 2013.

A.2 Information from Spain, Ireland, Portugal and UK on the results of the implementation of the tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2012.

Member States presented the state of play of implementation of their eradication programmes for bovine tuberculosis (Spain, Ireland, Portugal, UK).

The Commission noted, according to the data provided, the apparent stagnation of results of the tuberculosis programme in Ireland. The evolution of tuberculosis in the UK is still a major concern for the Commission taking into account the epidemiological data provided.

A.3 Declaration from Spain of a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) free compartment in Valenciana community.

The declaration was submitted on 6 June 2013. It concerns the compartment Valenciana de Acuicultura SA, C/Marjal S/N (Playa de Puzol), in Valencia region. The ground for granting free status is that there are not susceptible species in that compartment. Currently they grow eels Anguilla Anguilla.

The declaration shall take effect 60 days after the date of today's meeting if there will be no comments from the Member States.
A.4 Declaration from France of an infection haemopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) free compartment, pond Moulin de Pierre in Mont-sur-Monnet.

The French authorities submitted to the Commission a statement of freedom from IHN and VHS compartment, pond Moulin de Pierre in Mon-Sur-Monnet. The programme was set up to model A (over 2 years) in accordance with Decision 2001/183/EC of 22 February 2001 laying down sampling plans and diagnostic methods for the detection and confirmation of certain fish diseases.

The declaration shall take effect 60 days after the date of today's meeting if there will be no comments from the Member States.

A.5 Declaration from Germany of an infection haemopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) free compartment in der Schweinfe, Gemünden (Wohra).

The declaration has been submitted on 17 June 2013 by the German Competent authority. It concerns fish breeding compartment in "Brutanlage der Fa. Fischzucht Auetal, Jan Müller, In der Schweinfe, 35285 Gemünden (Wohra). This is a hatchery for rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout spawn. The sampling programme from the compartment shows no presence of diseases (VHS, IHN) in accordance with Directive 2006/88/EC.

The declaration shall take effect 60 days after the date of today's meeting if there will be no comments from the Member States.

The Commission reminded the Member States that, based on Article 50(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC, the declarations submitted to this Committee are accessible only to the Commission and the Member States, so when the Member States submit declarations, they are required to submit also the user name and passwords to the link where the declaration can be found.

A.6 Information from Finland on freedom from Varroasis in bees in the Åland Islands.

The Finnish representative made a presentation of the varroa situation in the Åland Islands and in particular on their freedom from varroa. The presentation explained clearly on what basis Finland claimed for freedom of varroa of these Islands, including monitoring, controls and introduction of live bees. The presentation also included information on the measures currently in place from a legal point of view.


Non-compliant Member States were asked to update figures presented in a table during the meeting. Few changes in the data were reported.

A.8 Information on the Newcastle disease situation in Cyprus.
The Cypriot representative reported on the detection of four Newcastle disease outbreaks in commercial broiler holdings between 11 and 23 June 2013. The poultry was killed and safely disposed of. The poultry had been preventively vaccinated against the disease. Investigations are on-going to possibly better understand why the poultry was not sufficiently protected against the disease.

A.9 Information from Greece on the results of the implementation of the sheep and goats brucellosis eradication programme in 2012.

The Greek representative presented the state of play of implementation of the eradication programme of ovine and caprine brucellosis in 2012.

The Commission expressed strong concerns as regards the implementation of the programme in that Member State.

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 approving certain amended programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses for the year 2013 and amending Decision 2012/761/EU as regards the financial contribution from the Union to certain Member States for programmes approved by that Decision.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision approving amended co-financed veterinary programmes submitted by Member States. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) programmes needed to be amended as since February 2013, certain Member States were authorised to abolish testing of healthy slaughtered bovines. As regards rabies, Poland amended its programme to include oral vaccination in bordering areas of Belarus, while Greece amended the programme to specify the areas of its territory to be covered by oral vaccination following the discovery of rabies cases. Finally, Spain has submitted an amended bluetongue programme in order to include compulsory vaccination against serotype 1 in certain areas following the detection of outbreaks.

For certain of those programmes an adjustment of the allocated amount was required due to the introduced amendments. For this reason the draft Implementing Decision modifies Decision 2012/761/EU as regards the amounts allocated to certain programmes.

Vote taken: unanimous in favour.

This draft Implementing Regulation was presented and discussed at the previous meeting of this Committee on 14 June (see item A.10 of the agenda of that meeting). The Commission’s representative reminded that Member States are expected to send their comments on the draft, no later than on 14 August 2013. Member States provided comments during the meeting which were noted by the Commission.

There was a request by a Member State for the report summarising the replies from Member States concerning the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

The chairman informed that the working group (suggested by a Member State and supported by other Member States on 14 June) on revision of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 will be organised in early September this year. Some Member States declared their participation to the working group. The intention is to present this draft for vote during the meeting of this Committee in September 2013.

C.2 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex E to Directive 91/68/EEC as regards the updating of the model of health certificates relating to scrapie.


Member States were informed that this draft will be presented for vote at the next meeting of this Committee, section Biological Safety, on 10 July 2013.

C.3 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation recognising the freedom from varroasis in certain parts of the EU, establishing additional guarantees for intra EU trade in live bees and establishing certification requirements.

The Commission's representative presented a draft Implementing Regulation recognising the freedom of varroa in the Åland Islands. The draft Regulation provides for a prohibition of introduction of capped brood and hatched live bees in the territory of the Åland Islands, mirroring the measures already in place in Finland at national level.

It also provides for additional certification for bees introduced from third countries in order to avoid their introduction into the free regions.

M.1 Follow up information from Sweden on detection of an unknown parasite in rainbow trout in Sweden.

The Swedish representative made a presentation of the current situation with regard to the new parasitic disease called sarcocystis parasite. It concluded that:
• sarcocystis parasites have never been described in fish before. The introduction by import cannot be excluded yet because the parasite has been in Swedish waters for a longer period;

• suspicion that the parasite has spread to many other farms and to wild populations;

• mainly mild symptoms in new cases and no reported increased mortality in wild populations, varying mortality and clinical symptoms might depend on biological and non-biological factors;

• it is not reasonable or practically possible to eradicate the parasite from Sweden;

• suggestion to be classified as a production disease and not listed in Part II of Annex IV to Directive 2006/88/EC.

The Commission proposed to set up an ad hoc fish expert working group to discuss the issue on 5 July 2013 and produce a report, which will be presented at the meeting of this Committee, section Biological Safety, on 10 July 2013. Sweden intends to release national measures on the 3rd of July and will suspend the movements of live fish and its products from Sweden to other Member States of the species from the family Salmonidae intended for farming, relaying areas, put and take fisheries, open and closed facilities and restocking, until the conclusions of the fish expert working group meeting are presented on 10 July 2013.

M.2 State of play on the bees' surveillance programmes.

The Commission's representative explained to Member States that it has been impossible to have a draft financing Decision for the studies on honeybee mortality for vote in July.

The intention of the Commission is to propose a draft in September. Such Decision would be applicable from 1 July 2013 in order to include actions done before the adoption of the document.