The meeting was called as a consequence of the contamination with waste material of feed and food produced in particular in Belgium and The Netherlands. The waste material originated from Ireland and contained hormones that are amongst others used in contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy.

The Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland reported the results of their investigations. Specific attention was given to the identification the chains of distribution that have led to this contamination of feed and food in order to circumscribe the problem.

There is evidence that the source of contamination is a glucose syrup manufactured by the Belgian company Bioland. There are further indications that a specialist Irish waste disposal firm supplied Bioland with the waste material.

Information available at this time also points out that the contaminated syrup has been recently distributed to several feed mills in The Netherlands and, during a period between 9 - 24 months ago, to several food firms in Belgium and Germany, in particular soft drink manufacturers.

Investigations are ongoing and further test results are expected in the next days.

**Conclusions of the meeting:**

All **Member States** were asked to

- verify if further feed and food companies on their territory had bought products from Bioland;
- all Member States will continue to trace potentially affected feed and food block establishments concerned and test possibly affected products.
- communicate all respective findings though the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF);
- verify disposal chains of the pharmaceutical companies on their territory.

**The Netherlands** have been asked to

- make sure that they block all farms and feed producers potentially involved in the incident and to circulate immediately a full list of all relevant farms and feed mills;
- continue to report on an on-going basis;
- distribute a list of all feed mills and farms involved to all Member States via the RASFF;
- provide a detailed table of all results of tests carried out in the course of the investigation via the RASFF.

**Belgium** was asked to continue to report on its investigations in the current clear and precise manner.

**Ireland** should continue to investigate the disposal chain of the relevant waste disposal company and to inform all Member States on the results of these investigations.

The **European Commission** will put the issue on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health of 16 July 2002.