SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2002

1. CONTAMINATION OF THE FEED AND FOOD CHAIN BY MPA:

The main purpose of the meeting was to finalise the EU response to the questionnaire sent to the competent authorities of the Member States on 8 August 2002 by the USDA-FSIS, on the contamination of feed with medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA).

The Member States had been invited to send their contribution in advance and the Commission presented a draft consolidated version for discussion and agreement.

Following further comments and contributions, it was agreed that the Commission would finalise the response for transmission to the US authorities by 13 September.

The Committee also heard up-dated reports on the situation from NL, BE and IRL. In the light of this information, it was agreed that the situation was under control and that no further special meeting of the Standing Committee was necessary; any follow-up would be handled within the framework of its regular meetings.

2. FOOD OF CHINESE ORIGIN CONTAMINATED WITH BANNED SUBSTANCES

Upon request of the Commission, NL explained that all consignments of food from Chinese origin contaminated at less than 5 ppb furazolidon, which had arrived before the date of implementation of the ban on Chinese products, were sent back to China. Furazolidon, like chloramphenicol, is a substance banned for use in food producing animals, because residues of the substance at whatever limit in food of animal origin constitutes a hazard to the health of the consumer (Art. 5 of Regulation (EC) 2377/90). The Commission explained that this action of the NL authorities is not in line with Community legislation and the common position adopted both at political and technical level. The Commission will examine the appropriate follow-up.

3. UP-DATE ON COMMUNITY MEASURES RELATING TO IMPORTS

At the request of DE, the Commission provided an up-date concerning Community measures relating to imports from Thailand and Brazil with respect to contamination of animal products by nitrofurans. The Commission reported on the guarantees presented by Thailand during a bilateral meeting held on 5-6 September 2002, in particular the use by Thailand of improved analytical methods to carry out a 100% pre-export testing. The situation of Brazil is different, in so far as only furaltadone has been detected in poultry. This compound has now recently been banned in Brazil. The Commission intends to propose appropriate follow-up at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.