Chairmen: K. Van Dyck, A. Laddomada

All the Member States were present.

1. Discussion of and possible consensus on the review of the Guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs (SANCO/1731/2008 Rev. 5)

2. Discussion of and possible consensus on the review of the Guidance document on the implementation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on the hygiene of food of animal origin (SANCO/1732/2008 Rev. 5)

These two guidance documents aim at amending the 2 guidance documents which were published just before the adoption of the hygiene package. They are mainly directed at food businesses and competent authorities and give guidance on the food hygiene requirements and related subjects. The documents were discussed during the SCFCAH meeting of 16 December 2008 and were further commented here. As the interservice consultation within DG SANCO is still ongoing, they will be re-presented at the February SCFCAH meeting for a general consensus.

3. Discussion on the availability of pepsin for the purposes of testing for Trichinella

The Commission asked the Member States to give the state of play on the availability of pepsin in their country. SW, FR, DE, SI, CZ, LT, UK, IRL indicated that stocks are still available but requested the Commission to discuss alternative methods to the use of pepsin for Trichinella testing. UK wished to develop a contingency plan in case of shortage. An in-depth discussion on this issue is planned at working group level on 23 January 2009.

4. Discussion on Czech notification number 2008/433/CZ

The Commission informed the committee of its comments made to the CZ notification, which were supported by MT. The committee was reminded of which

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1 http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/hygienelaw/guide_en.htm

The Commission expressed its wish to continue discussion with CZ in order to convince them that the notification is not in line with EU law. Discussion is planned at working group level on 23 January 2009. If no solution can be found, the Commission will present for vote at the February SCFCAH meeting a proposal addressed to CZ to withdraw the legal act.

4A. Information from France on a notification regarding a request to take emergency measures on milk and milk/dairy products from ovine and caprine animals coming from classical scrapie infected flocks

The Commission provided some background information to the French notification. Further to the EFSA opinion on new scientific elements and in particular the proven transmissibility of classical scrapie through milk from ewe to lamb, new protective measures in relation to milk and milk products coming from classical scrapie infected flocks have been voted at the SCFCAH meeting on 26 November 2008. The draft Regulation will be adopted by the Commission in February 2009.

France informed the committee of the notification. France strongly requested complementary measures to be taken at Community level regarding human health. It would adopt unilateral measures in case such measures could not be reached. No Member State reacted. France confirmed to the Commission that no new scientific data are the basis for this step. The chairman referred to the November SCFCAH meeting stating that the Commission would discuss the issue at working group level but he questioned the urgency to take immediate measures. A working group is scheduled on 20 January 2009. France promised to provide a translation of the notification so it can be transmitted to all the other Member States.

4B. Update from Ireland on Dioxin

The Irish delegate gave the latest update on the dioxin situation and indicated that all information will be communicated through Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The Commission stressed the importance to communicate through the RASFF, on which confidentiality clauses apply.


The purpose of the draft Regulation is to introduce specific requirements for flocks of breeding turkeys if Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium is detected, to avoid transmission of infection in the turkey meat production chain and to review the testing scheme for sampling of Salmonella in breeding hens of Gallus gallus in the light of this experience gained in 2007. Member States that have achieved the target are also allowed to reduce the number of official controls.

The draft proposal was slightly amended further to comments from the committee.
Vote: in favour at unanimity


This draft Decision was presented for vote following discussions in the previous committee on 8 January 2009 - section animal health and welfare where it had not been possible to vote due to internal procedural problems.

Vote: in favour at unanimity

Miscellaneous

- **BSE revised monitoring programme**: the Commission clarified Commission Decision of 28 November 2008\(^2\) authorising as from 1 January 2009 EU-15 Member States to modify the BSE programme, and in particular, related to the testing regime applicable for bovines moving between two Member States listed in the Annex to that Decision. A letter to Chief Veterinary Officers will be sent on the issue.

- **Steam pasteurisation**: the committee was informed that the point will be put on the agenda of the next SCFCAH meeting. Additional comments prior to the meeting are welcomed.

(signed)
Eric Poudelet
Director

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.