SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD ON 14 JULY 2010 IN BRUSSELS
(Section: Biological Safety of the Food Chain)

Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All Member States were present.

1. Presentation by the Cypriot authorities on the state of play of the protocol on the
   genetic resistance of goats to scrapie and exchange of views on a possible
   amendment of Regulation (EC) N° 999/2001 as regards the period of 18 months
   mentioned in point 2.3 (f) of Chapter A of Annex VII

The Cypriot authorities as well as a representative of European Union Reference
Laboratory presented the state of play of the ongoing study regarding genetic resistance
in goats in Cyprus.

To link up these presentations the Commission recalled the historical background
regarding the flocks infected by scrapie.

In November 2008 EFSA delivered an opinion highlighting that milk could transmit the
scrapie agent, and this transmission was entirely possible from mother to progeny. On the
basis of this opinion the Commission decided to adopt precautionary measures
concerning milk coming from the flocks affected by scrapie to ensure that the milk from
those flocks could not be used and be included in feed for ruminants. It was also decided
that this milk can not be placed on the Union market for feeding animals. As to use of
this milk for human consumption no measure was taken because scrapie is not considered
to be a zoonosis. In addition a measure was adopted regarding the delay to cull sheep and
goats in flocks or herds used for milk production. In the case of sheep and goats kept for
fattening, the culling in infected flocks may be deferred the animals in infected flocks up
to 5 years. However, for dairy flocks it should be 18 months. This 18-month-period will
soon expire. This is why the Cypriot authorities asked the Commission to look into the
possibility of obtaining an extension to this period and an additional derogation period
during which they could complete the experimental work which is currently ongoing.
A number of questions arise:

1) would this extension to the deadline concern only Cyprus or should it also be
   applicable to the other Member States?
2) would this extension concern only goats or goats and sheep?
3) for which time should the period be extended?

The majority of the Member States was of the opinion that the extension of 2 years
should be accorded only to Cyprus and it should concern only goats. Some Member
States informed that they needed more time to analyse the situation and they asked for the
organisation of the Working Group in September. Three Member States called for a harmonised derogation.

Other business

- Question from Italy regarding trade of raw milk

The Italian delegation referred to a question in writing to the Commission to clarify the rules on intra-community trade of raw milk with a high cell count. The Commission informed Italy that a reply has been sent but, due to the technical nature, agreed to discuss this issue at the next hygiene working group meeting.

Eric Poudelet
Director
(Signed)