Chair: K. Van Dyck.

All Members States were represented.

A.1 European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project: presentation report ESVAC 2010

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) presented the second ESVAC report on the sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in 2010. A total of 19 countries of the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) submitted their 2010 data on sales, at package level, of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products, to the European Medicines Agency according to a standardised protocol and using a common template. The data provided had undergone a quality check and had been examined for outliers, where applicable, by the ESVAC project team and by the country in question. Following approval by the countries to save the data in the ESVAC database, the data were analysed and are summarised in the report.

The report on 'Sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in 19 EU/EEA countries in 2010' (EMA/88728/2012) is available at the internet site of EMA (www.ema.europa.eu).

A.2 Base line Listeria monocytogenes: state of play and request from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Member States were informed about the state of play of the on-going evaluation by EFSA of the data from the Listeria base line survey. EFSA will send out their specific datasets to the Member States by Monday 22 October 2012, together with key summary statistics, in order to have all of their data finally approved before launching the analysis.

A.3 Information by France on filtered milk

Inspections carried out by the official services on the premises of some milk
producers in France found equipment (microfilters and centrifuges) that was designed to alter the quality and composition of milk. The French authorities therefore informed the other Member States and the Commission of the results of the investigations conducted in France. The Commission repeated their position, already confirmed in writing, that this practice is not permitted, and that raw milk would have to comply with the requirements in respect of somatic cell count and total flora laid down in Regulation EC (No) 853/2004. Several Member States notified the Committee of national rules, in particular with regard to national legal bans on such practices, and tightened the controls in place against this practice. Other Member States stated their intention to include verification in their control plan.

B.1 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision for the purposes of Council Decision 2009/470/EC as regards Union financial aid to the EU Reference Laboratory for Residue Testing from 1 January to 31 December 2012

The draft relates to the fixation of the European Union contribution for the activities that the European Union Reference Laboratory (RIKILT) will execute in 2012. No comments were made by the Member States. An indicative vote was taken pending the outcome of the inter service consultation. The final vote is due to be taken at one of the forthcoming Standing Committee meetings.

B.2 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards microbiological criteria for sprouts and the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh poultry meat (see item B.5 of the SCFCAH of 18 July 2012)

In line with the SPS notification, the proposal to introduce microbiological criteria for sprouts was voted, as were the sampling rules for poultry carcasses and fresh poultry meat, (final vote after the technical agreement of 18th July 2012). This proposal is part of the legislative package following last years outbreak of enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC), and lays down food safety criteria, including sampling rules and method of analysis for Shiga toxin producing E. coli (STEC) O157, O26, O111, O103, O145 and O104:H4 in sprouts. The proposal in its final form contains some minor amendments to the text compared to the version of 18 July 2012. Entry into force has been postponed until 1 March 2013.

Vote taken: Qualified majority (272 votes in favour, 10 votes against, 63 abstentions)

B.3 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the traceability requirements set by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council for seeds intended for sprouts production and sprouts (see item B.5 of the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012)
The proposal is part of the legislative package following last year's outbreak of enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC). Following notification of the SPS, a final vote is now scheduled. This Regulation lays down rules on the traceability of batches of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts. The date of application is extended until 1 March 2013.

**Vote taken:** Qualifying majority (318 votes in favour, 27 abstentions)

### B.4 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts (see item B.8 of the SCFCAH of 18 June 2012)

This proposal is part of the legislative package following last year's outbreak of enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC). After notifying the SPS, the final vote was scheduled to be taken at the meeting of this Committee. The Regulation lays down conditions governing the import of sprouts or seeds intended for the production of sprouts imported into the Union, and establishes a model certificate that must accompany the batches imported into the European Union. It was decided in the course of the discussion that a transitional period until 1st July 2013 (not previously defined) would be granted to the exporting Third Countries, thereby enabling the possibility of export in the absence of the certificate provided for in the Regulation governing sprouts and/or seeds intended for the production of sprouts.

**Vote taken:** Qualifying majority (318 votes in favour, 27 abstentions)

### C.1 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving annual and multiannual programmes and the financial contribution from the Union for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2013 and following years

The Commission presented the document, explaining that this was still a draft, which did not provide any figures on the Union's financial contribution, as the Commission was still awaiting additional information from some Member States, and the document was still in the process of inter-service consultation. The main points that were different from last year's Decision were highlighted:

- Programmes for which the eligible Union financial contribution is below EUR 25,000 have not been included in the Decision for reasons related to cost-effectiveness and administrative burden, also taking into account the claims for 2011 and the 2012 re-allocation exercise in the pipeline.

- Programmes submitted after the legal deadline of 30 April 2012 are excluded, as they cannot be approved (Art. 27 of Council Decision 2009/470/EC). (Blue Tongue and Classical Swine Fever - France).
- Introduction of a lump sum for Salmonellosis tests.

- The rate is to be increased (from 50%) to 60% of the cost to be incurred by each Member State for the compensation to be paid to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered.

- The rate is to be increased (from 50%) to 60% of the cost to be incurred by each Member State for carrying out laboratory tests other than those covered by a lump sum.

It was also explained that there would be a further discussion on a draft, which also contained the figures on the financial contribution of the Union, at the meeting of the Standing Committee to be held on 5-6 November, and that the Member States would receive the document well in advance.

Several Member States raised a number of questions, all related to the following issues:

- The draft was incomplete (no financial figures).

- The draft had been received late (on Friday afternoon: the Commission apologised).

- No reason was given as to why certain programmes (below 25,000 EUR) had not been included - see explanation above).

- The lump sum for Salmonella vaccine was very low, and there was no explanation of how it had been calculated; the Commission explained that the calculation was based on the claims of all Member States during the past three years).

M.1 Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Presentation of the state-of-play of the Standard Operating Procedures of the RASFF, is to be discussed at working group level planned on 27 November 2012 and later at the Standing Committee meeting in December 2012.

Killing of bovines at farm level

At the request of Luxembourg, the Commission clarified that the slaughter at the farm (shooting) of bovine animals, other than bison, is not allowed by the EU legislation. Slaughter at the farm is only permitted for poultry and farmed game. Some Members States requested a review of such provisions. The Commission confirmed its non-favourable position to such review. The Commission also reminded Members States the obligation to notify any national legislation on that subject.

Review of the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) monitoring
Following a request from Belgium, Member States were informed that the recently adopted European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) opinion will be the basis for a future draft Commission Decision.