1. Information from the Commission on a submission by the US Department of Agriculture of a dossier for the evaluation and approval of the use of lactic acid for the decontamination of beef carcasses, cuts and trimmings

The Commission provided an update on the state of play with evaluation of the dossier submitted by the US Department of Agriculture on approval of the use of lactic acid for the decontamination of beef carcasses, cuts and trimmings.

2. State of play in the dairy sector in Bulgaria and Romania

The Bulgarian and Romanian representatives reported on the situation in the dairy sector in their countries. The EU legislation grants both countries the possibility to derogate from certain sanitary requirements for raw milk and from certain structural requirements in dairy establishments (Romania). The derogation for both countries will expire in December 2011.

3. Exchange of views on a draft report from the Commission on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2008

The Commission presented its report on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2008 and provided information on the state of play with the reports for 2009 and 2010.

4. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the 2009 EU summary report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the EU summary report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks in 2009. Its main findings were:

- Salmonellosis cases in humans were decreasing, probably due to successful controls in poultry populations.
- No major changes had been observed in Campylobacter in humans, food and animals.
- Listeriosis in humans had increased, which was a cause for concern in the EU.
- Tuberculosis and Brucellosis were decreasing in animal populations.
• Trichinella and Echinococcus were still causing concern in some Member States.
• Q fever was present in ruminants in most Member States.

The EFSA announced that the report would be published on 21 March together with a press release.

The Commission announced that it wished to issue a press release on the same day stressing the progress made on Salmonellosis.

5. Presentation by the Netherlands delegation on a pilot project on risk-based application of tasks of official veterinarians and official auxiliaries in small and medium-sized slaughterhouses for poultry and lagomorphs in the Netherlands

The Netherlands delegation presented a pilot project on risk-based application of tasks of official veterinarians and official auxiliaries in small and medium-sized slaughterhouses for poultry and lagomorphs. The main points were:

• investigate the effect on food safety of poultry and rabbit meat (Salmonella in particular), by shifting tasks from the official veterinarians to the official auxiliaries;
• special focus on use of food chain information;
• meat from the pilot project will be put on the market after a final check by the official auxiliaries;
• the pilot project will take a year and cover 14 slaughterhouses which account for 5% of the total annual production.

Some Member States asked for explanations which were generally given satisfactorily by the Netherlands delegation. The Netherlands had officially notified this pilot project on 1 March 2011. Consequently, the period for written questions will expire on 1 June 2011.

5A. Information from Romanian authorities on national operating procedures for low-capacity slaughterhouses

Romania’s representative gave a detailed presentation of the purpose and scope of the draft national operating procedures for small-capacity slaughterhouses in Romania. The draft national measures will now be officially notified to the Commission and the Member States.


The changes introduced in revision 9 of the draft proposal in response to comments received from the Commission Legal Service were presented. They were mainly technical or intended to clarify the proposal and did not change the content. Points raised by Member States will be clarified by the Commission. Revision 10, including a number of corrections, will be presented for a final vote after finalising the SPS
consultation. Denmark has lodged a parliamentary scrutiny reservation for the time being.

Technical vote.

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Decision 2007/275/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1162/2009 as regards health conditions and certification requirements for imports of food containing a combination of processed products of animal and plant origin (doc. SANCO/10492/2010) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 9) (See item 8 of the meeting of the SCFCAH on 20 October 2010)

The purpose of this proposal is to fix public health rules for the import of composite products already covered by Commission Decision 2007/275/EC. Revision 4 of the draft, incorporating changes proposed by Finland, was presented. The changes were mainly technical or intended to clarify the proposal and did not change the content. Points raised by Member States were clarified by the Commission.

Vote: Qualified majority in favour (316 in favour, 29 abstention).

Declaration by Germany — see Annex I.


The Commission presented the draft Regulation. The amendments aim to replace the references to OIE lists of diseases which no longer exist by references to diseases covered by Union legislation without changing the content of the current provisions. The draft also aims to allow the official veterinarians to impose requirements for poultry meat from flocks infected with Salmonella when taking decisions concerning the meat. Member States made some comments on the draft Regulation.

Vote: Qualified majority in favour (338 in favour, 7 abstention).

Declaration by Slovak Republic — see Annex II.


The draft Regulation was presented for discussion. It concerns parasites in fishery products that are intended to be eaten raw or almost raw and that could pose a health hazard to consumers. In general, the Member States supported the approach proposed. Details of the document will be discussed further, together with a possible guidance text relating to viable parasites in fishery products.
**Other business**

Slovenia raised the issue of trade in and traceability of pigmeat not tested for Trichinella but derived from free herds or regions at negligible risk.

The Commission replied that this pigmeat complies with the EU requirements and can therefore be placed on the market without additional requirements. Third countries may require testing despite this status. The Commission is co-chairing a CODEX working group on parasites with the aim of gaining international acceptance of pigmeat without testing for Trichinella if the meat is derived from free herds or from regions at negligible risk.
Erklärung der deutschen Delegation zu TOP 7 (SANCO/10492/2010 Rev. 4)


Annex II

Explanation of the position of the Slovak Republic to the document (SANCO/12837/2010 rev.4)


1. Proposal to include the words „at least“

Annex, paragraph 2(e)
... “Derives from animals affected by at least animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in the Union legislation listed in Annex I to Council Directive 2002/99/EC...”

Annex, paragraph 3(e)
... “In the case of an outbreak of at least animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Union legislation.”

Slovakian position: Regards the omission the words „at least“. In the case if we will find a disease not specified in the EU legislation (for example exotic diseases) it can create complications in taking measures in connection with the animals.

2. paragraph 2, point 4 and current wording in revision.4

“When the official veterinarian, while carrying out ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection or any other inspection activity, suspects the presence of an infectious agent of animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Union legislation, the official veterinarian must immediately notify as appropriate the competent authority and both must take all necessary measures and precautions to prevent the possible spread of the infectious agent in accordance with applicable Union legislation.”

Slovakian position: SK does not agree with the deletion of the word „immediately“ and its replacement with the words "as appropriate". This new wording creates a situation in which the official veterinarian is not required to notify the disease to the competent authority and make this obligation as optional. It is not satisfactory to avoid of spread of the disease. Notification of the disease to the competent authority must be the obligation of the official veterinarian.

We are also not sure whether this wording is consistent with other valid legislation in the animal health area., for example (Council Directive 2003/85 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease; Article 3, para. 1c): “veterinary practitioners, official veterinarians, senior staff of veterinary or other official or private laboratories and any person with a occupational relation to animals of susceptible species or products derived from such animals shall be obliged to notify without delay to the competent authority any knowledge of the presence or suspected presence of foot-and-mouth disease”);(Council Directive 2001/89, on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever, Article 14, par.1: “Where there is a suspicion of the presence of classical swine fever in a slaughterhouse or means of transport, Member States shall ensure that the competent authority immediately sets in motion official means of investigation to confirm or rule out the presence of the said disease in accordance with the procedures laid down in the diagnostic manual.”