Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All the Member States were represented.

1. **Break out session in the presence of COCERAL/COGECA**
   **COCERAL/COGECA Guide on Good Hygiene Practices (JHR)**

   The purpose of the presentation given by the representatives of COCERAL/COGECA was to present to the Member States and to the Commission a Guide on Good Hygiene Practices. The aims of the Guide are, on the one hand, to create a common tool for all operators involved in the collection, storage, trading and transport of cereals, oilseeds, pulses and their co-products and, on the other hand, to help operators to comply with and maintain a high standard in respect of EU hygiene requirements.

   The Guide comprises two main sections. The first section contains practical recommendations for operators on collection, storage, trading and transport, as these activities can be carried out (jointly/separately) by the same company or by different sub-contractors. The second section gives an extensive description of the application of the H.A.C.C.P. system.

   The drafting of the Guide went through many different stages. The consultation process with the Commission, which started in 2006, was followed by the setting up of internal working groups of technical experts and by consultations with members of COCERAL and COGECA and other stakeholders.

   A meeting of the working group on the Guide is due to be held on 16 October 2009. The representatives of COCERAL and COGECA had asked the Member States and delegates taking part in the Working Group to send in their comments in advance of the meeting.

2. **Annual Report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of TSE in the EU in 2008 (MP)**

   The Commission official gave a detailed explanation of the main points of the Report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of TSE in the Community in 2008. The aim of the exercise was to publish the report before the end of 2009. In order to achieve that aim, Member States were requested to forward the document to national experts for analysis, opinion and comments by mid-October 2009.
EFSA requests for information and possible endorsement (KDS):

3. **Request for additional typing and analysis in the framework of the MRSA baseline survey**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) asked the Commission to discuss with Member States the possibility of additional typing and analysis as part of the MRSA baseline survey in breeding pigs. According to the recent raw results of the survey, 18 isolates of MRSA Spa-types t127 or t008 have been isolated in holdings with breeding pigs in four participating countries. These Spa-types belong to the sequence types ST1 and ST8 respectively, and may be of particular interest from a public health point of view.

The experts of the EFSA Working Group on the analysis of the MRSA EU-wide baseline survey recently agreed that it would be very useful to test 18 ST1 and ST8 isolates from the survey for PVL, because these results would give a good indication as to whether these strains might already have been observed in Europe or might possibly belong to the US community-acquired group of MRSA strains, depending on whether they were PVL-positive or negative. In addition, the number of isolates that need testing is quite small.

The EFSA believes that testing the 18 isolates for PVL genes and reporting the corresponding results would provide scientific added value to the MRSA baseline survey results. Those PVL testing results are to be presented in the EFSA report on the analysis of the MRSA survey results. Provided there is acceptance by the Member States, the Community Reference Laboratory, Antibiotic Resistance (CRL-AR) has offered to test the 18 isolates, if necessary, at no cost. Indeed, the test for PVL may already have been performed by the participating countries concerned and all that may be required is to collect the additional test results from them. However, if testing had not been carried out, the countries in question would be asked to send the relevant isolates to CRL-AR.

The Chair requested the representatives of all Member States to discuss the issue with their national experts and to submit their comments to the Commission by 26 September.

4. **Request for using 2008 CSR monitoring data on Salmonella in laying hen flocks and for using 2004-2005 Baseline survey (BS) data on Salmonella in laying hens holdings, by a WG set up by the BIOHAZ Panel**

This agenda item concerned a request from EFSA to make use of the data from the EU baseline survey on the prevalence of Salmonella in laying hen holdings, carried out between October 2004 and September 2005, as well as the EU 2008 harmonised monitoring data on Salmonella in laying hen flocks.

SCFCAH delegates were asked whether or not they agreed with the request. Most delegates expressed their support for the idea. However, some Member States raised issues of data confidentiality and comparability.

In order to clarify the issue and to reply to all of the questions, representatives of EFSA are to be invited to the meeting of the working group or of the Standing Committee.

4A. **Information on the eradication programmes submitted by Member States for 2010 (VP)**

The Commission's intention was to provide Member States with information about progress in the annual eradication programme approvals that are prepared every year. A preliminary document was distributed to SCFCAH delegates setting out the view of the
Commission with regard to funding for the eradication and monitoring programmes for 2010. The Member States were invited to examine and analyse the text and forward any comments to the Commission. The Decision is due to be put to a vote at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in October.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of Chile, Colombia and Japan (SANCO/6219/2009 Rev.1) (See point 8 of the 15 July 2009 SCFCAH) (subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament, legal basis: Regulation 999/2001, Article 5(2)) (MP)

In May 2009, the OIE\(^1\) adopted Resolution No. XXII - Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members\(^2\). That Resolution acknowledges that Chile has a negligible BSE risk and that Colombia and Japan have a controlled BSE risk. The list of countries or regions set out in the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC was amended accordingly.

The draft proposal was amended slightly, following comments from the Committee.

**Vote:** Unanimously in favour


The following point was scheduled for an exchange of views and a possible opinion in July. However, given that the Legal Service made a number of amendments to the text, it was necessary to discuss the legal basis. Consequently, the vote was postponed until September.

The Commission official presented the final text, including the main changes made since the last meeting of the Standing Committee. The Commission agreed to provide reporting forms to all Member States as soon as possible after the vote.

The Austrian delegate suggested that the date mentioned in Art. 5(2) for deciding on the format of the Data Dictionary should be amended. The Commission agreed to the request to replace December 2009 by either October or November 2009.

Italy suggested that all of the annexes referring to the technical group (list of cheeses, list of additives) should be removed, because they gave rise to confusion. In response, the Commission official pointed out that the annexes had been submitted to the working group for information only and there had never been any intention to add them to the document.

A vote was taken on Revision 9 of the text containing three minor changes to the previous document.

**Vote:** Unanimously in favour

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\(^1\) World Organisation for Animal Health – Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

http://www.oie.int/fr/fr_index.htm

\(^2\) http://www.oie.int/eng/info/old/en_statesb2007.htm

On 5 October 2007, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration forwarded an application to the Commission for special guarantees to be authorised for Denmark concerning salmonella in eggs for the whole Danish territory in accordance with the provisions in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. The application includes a description of the Danish Salmonella Control Programme for eggs. At its meeting of 18 June 2008 the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health reached agreement on a Commission staff working document entitled "Guidance document on the minimum requirements for Salmonella control programmes to be recognised equivalent to those approved for Sweden and Finland in respect of meat and eggs of Gallus gallus". The Danish Salmonella Control Programme for eggs is considered equivalent to that approved for Finland and Sweden and is in line with the Guidance document. The special guarantees should therefore be extended to consignments of eggs intended for Denmark.

The proposal was put to a technical vote on 19 May 2009 and, after receiving a favourable opinion by qualified majority, was sent to SPS consultation. The Committee was due to have an exchange of views on the Regulation and possibly deliver an opinion on it. However, it appeared from the exchange of views that the draft Regulation needed further in-depth discussion. The final vote was postponed.


The purpose of this proposal is to grant Romania a further transitional period of two years for compliance:
- by certain milk processing establishments with structural requirements;
- by certain milk processing establishments which are authorized to process both compliant and non-compliant milk, provided it is carried out on separate production lines;
- for raw milk not in compliance with the relevant hygiene requirements.

Poland pointed out that the annexes mentioned in Article 2 of the Decision were very general and could also refer to undertakings other than milk processing undertakings, which might cause confusion. Taking this remark into consideration, the representatives of Romania suggested that Article 2 should refer clearly to "dairy establishments". The Commission agreed to amend the text accordingly.

Vote: Unanimously in favour

The Commission made reference to the similarities of the Romanian and Bulgarian situations. However, unlike Romania, which had asked to extend the transition period for undertakings not yet compliant with the structural rules in current legislation, Bulgaria had not requested an extension.

Bulgaria guaranteed instead that, by 31 December 2009, all of the Bulgarian establishments working with milk products would be compliant as far as the structural provisions are concerned.

**Vote**: Unanimously in favour

10. Possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on importation of semen of the domestic animals of the porcine species into the Community as regards lists of third countries and of semen collection centres, and certification requirements. (Doc. SANCO/5647/2009) (MZ)

The draft had been discussed under point 27 at the SCFCAH (Section: Animal health and welfare) on 8 September 2009. The Commission presented a new revised version taking into account all the comments received from AT, DK, FI, UK and the US. As a result, further modifications were made to the previous draft:

1) for the sake of clarity "Explanatory notes for certification" were moved from Part 2 of Annex I (List of third countries) to Part 2 of Annex II (after the model health certificate) to keep the list of third countries separate from the certification requirements. Points 1 and 2 of Article 1 were adopted accordingly;
2) some minor linguistic changes were incorporated into the text of the model health certificate;
3) text missing from the current model certificate was added after point II. 6.5;
4) semen collection centre No. 97KY001 was deleted from the list of approved porcine semen collection centres at the request of the United States, made on 14 September 2009.

**Vote**: Unanimously in favour


The purpose of this proposal is to amend Annexes I and II to Commission Decision 2006/766/EC. Greenland should be listed in Annex I given that Community controls indicated that the conditions applicable to bivalve mollusc, echinoderms and marine gastropods in Greenland are equivalent to those provided for in the relevant Community legislation. The following countries should be added to Annex II: Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Eritrea and Solomon Islands and Togo.

The proposal will be put to the vote at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in October.

The purpose of this Regulation is to modify certain implementing measures for live bivalve molluscs in the light of new scientific evidence, in particular as regards detection methods for marine biotoxins.

Miscellaneous

13. Investigation and description of an outbreak of trichinosis in Lithuania

The State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania provided the Commission and all of the Member States with information on the outbreak of trichinosis in May-June 2009. 107 cases of the outbreak were recorded and 21 people were at risk of falling ill. The first patient became ill on 20 May, and the last on 26 June. The outbreak affected the families of four hunters from Ukmergė District and their relatives in the other parts of the country.

According to the final diagnosis, a total of 107 cases of trichinosis were registered, 14 of which (13.08%) were confirmed cases (diagnosis confirmed by clinical tests). The remaining 93 cases (86.91%) were probable. Fifty-five patients (51.4%) were hospitalized, and the other 52 people (48.6%) were treated in an outpatient clinic. No lethal cases of trichinosis were recorded. On 10 June 2009 the SFVS received a message from the State Public Health Service under the Ministry of Health about a human case of trichinosis, and immediately launched an investigation into the case, during which it was established that the person concerned had eaten sausage made from wild boar meat.

During the investigation of trichinellosis it was established that:
- The sausage contaminated with trichinellosis had been made from wild boar meat by a member of the hunting club "Leno" V.S.
- The hunter had shot a boar and delivered the carcass to the JSC "Alekniskio" meat plant to make sausages for personal consumption. About 40 kilograms of cold smoked sausages were produced.
- Samples of the sausages were sent to be examined at the NFVRAI laboratory, which detected trichinae larvae on 11 June 2009.
- Further investigation revealed that, on the day of the hunt, the same hunting club had shot another wild boar, the meat from which was delivered for processing to the same UAB Alekniskio meat plant. Samples taken for laboratory analysis also revealed trichinae larvae.

SFVS inspectors carried out an inspection at UAB Alekniskis, and the Prosecutor's Office was also called in to identify those who were responsible for disseminating trichinosis. The case is under investigation.
14. Accreditation of *Trichinella* laboratories

Germany raised two issues with the Commission services regarding the proposed time frame. The first question concerned the accreditation of *Trichinella* laboratories: there had been a discussion about the accreditation procedure for these laboratories in the WG meeting of 6 July 2009, -at which the Commission services drew attention to the new accreditation Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 with a view to the possibly simplifying the procedure. The Commission services had announced that they would convene a special meeting of the working group after the summer break to discuss this issue further. Germany asked the Commission services to bring the Committee up to date on the state of play of this WG meeting. Secondly, concerning the new MRL Regulation (EC) No 470/2009, which entered into force in July 2009, Germany asked when, pursuant to Articles 18 and 19 of that Regulation, the Commission services intended to put forward a proposal for setting Reference Points of Action, as these RPoA would be very important for the implementation of food legislation, as regards both inspections at national level and imports from third countries.

15. Maduramicin in eggs and in feed

Slovenia took the floor in order to draw attention to the lack of harmonisation of the legislation concerning the food and feed sector with regard to maduramicin.