1. Presentation of the draft annual report on TSE monitoring in Member States in 2010

A powerpoint presentation summarised the draft report on TSE monitoring in Member States in 2010. Regarding BSE in cattle, the number of animals tested in 2010 remained stable compared to 2009. 45 cases were detected in nine Member States, down from 67 in 2009. All 45 BSE cases were detected by active monitoring. 2010 was the first year in which no clinical suspicion (passive monitoring) led to the confirmation of a BSE case. The average age of cases continued to increase in healthy slaughtered cattle (from 134.9 months in 2009 to 162.5 in 2010), and decreased slightly for the first time (from 166.3 months in 2009 to 151.7 in 2010) in at-risk cattle. The youngest case detected in 2010 was a 66-month-old animal. Regarding TSE in small ruminants, the level of testing was similar in 2010 and 2009. BSE was ruled out after discriminatory testing of all the TSE positive cases detected in 2010. 1112 TSE cases were detected in sheep, including 148 cases of atypical scrapie, and 435 in goats, including 12 cases of atypical scrapie. The prevalence of scrapie remains highly variable among the Member States, with Cyprus and Greece experiencing by far the highest rate in the EU. There was no evident trend in the prevalence rate since 2002 on the EU scale. The proportion of atypical cases seems, however, to be increasing significantly. Genotyping in sheep confirmed once again in 2010 the high resistance to classical scrapie of NSP1 and NSP2 groups. The Member States' representatives had no significant comment to make on the presentation.

2. Exchange of views on a guidance text on viable parasites in fishery products

This guidance text was designed to supplement the amendment to the legislative regarding the treatment for killing viable parasites in fishery products intended for human consumption; it had got a favourable vote in the Standing Committee of 12 July 2011. Member States' comments at the meeting would be considered when preparing an updated version to be distributed for additional comments before the next meeting of the Committee.
3. Romanian request for extension of transitional measures for milk quality

The Romanian Delegation set out the situation in the milk sector in Romania. Great improvements had been made, but the Romanian Delegation was asking for two more years (to end 2013) for the derogation for certain hygiene requirements for raw milk (total plate count, total bacterial count) to enable small farms to be in compliance with the EU rules.

4. Information from Greece on a draft Ministerial Decision on the approval of minimum requirements for low-capacity slaughterhouses situated in regions that are subject to special geographic constraints: official notification in accordance with Article 10(5) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Article 17(5) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. The draft is also available in the Technical Regulations Information System (Directive 98/34/EC) under the notification number 2011/0485/GR

The Greek delegation informed the Member States of the above draft Ministerial Decision. Some MS asked for additional clarification on the practical implementation of the proposal.

4A. Presentation of the EU guide on cheese as a raw material

The objectives of the guide were explained to the Member States. A restricted Working Group would be set up to evaluate the guide.

4B. Discussion and possible endorsement of an EU guide for the hygienic manufacture of Processed Cheese

The objectives of the guide were explained to the Member States. A restricted Working Group would be set up to re-evaluate the guide. Member States complained that the guide had been evaluated some months ago and that there had been no further communication on this from Assifonte.

4C. Presentation by the Bulgarian delegation of progress made in the milk sector

The Bulgarian Delegation set out the situation in the milk sector in Bulgaria. Great improvements had been made, but the Bulgarian Delegation asked for two more years (to end 2013) for the derogation for certain hygiene requirements for raw milk (total plate count, total bacterial count) to enable small farms to be in compliance with the EU rules.
5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the use of recycled hot water to remove microbiological surface contamination from carcases (Doc. SANCO/11145/2011) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 3 (2)) (see item 10 of the SCoFCAH of 12 July 2011)

The Commission presented a draft proposal authorising the use of recycled hot water for decontamination of carcases. Following an exchange of views, it was considered that further discussions are necessary.

Vote postponed.

6. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 as regards sampling of flocks of origin of eggs intended for Finland and Sweden (Doc. SANCO/11956/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 8.3(a)) (see item 4 of the SCoFCAH of 15 September 2011)

The Commission presented the draft proposal. Its purpose was to simply the testing procedures in flocks of laying hens, the eggs from which are intended for Sweden or Finland. In addition a new ISO standard had been introduced for analysing faecal samples.

Vote: Favourable opinion by unanimity.


The Commission explained that the draft Regulation has been adapted to the Lisbon Treaty. No further changes had been made to this draft, which gave special guarantees to Denmark on Salmonella in table eggs. Four Member States indicated objections to this proposal.

Vote postponed.

8. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Doc. SANCO/10842/2011 rev.7) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, Article 4(1)) (see item 8 of the SCoFCAH of 17 May 2011)
The Commission set out a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a target for controlling Salmonella in flocks of broilers. Its purpose was to confirm the EU target set for controlling Salmonella in flocks of broilers as introduced on a transitional basis in 2009 for the two serotypes most relevant for public health (S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium), after taking into account the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Member States. Member States voted in favour of the proposal.

Vote: Qualified majority in favour (333 votes for, 12 votes against).

8A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2011/402/EU on emergency measures applicable to fenugreek seeds and certain seeds and beans imported from Egypt (Doc. SANCO/12454/2011) (subject to the examination procedure; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Article 53(1)(b)(i) and Article 53(1)(b)(iii))

The Commission set out a draft Commission Implementing Decision to extend the import ban on certain seeds and beans from Egypt possibly used for sprouting. This extension was due to an assessment of the proposed risk mitigation measures to tackle the shortcoming identified in a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) inspection and is now set to run until the end of March 2012.

Vote: Favourable opinion by unanimity.

9. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as regards prohibitions concerning animal feeding of processed animal protein derived from non-ruminant animals (Doc. SANCO/10843/2011 rev.4) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Article 23, §1) (see item 10 of the SCoFCAH of 14 April 2011)

The Commission explained the state of play of the text proposing the reintroduction of non-ruminant processed animal protein (PAP) into the feed chain for non-ruminants. A lot of Member States commented, some of them expressing reservations on the derogations provided for in the proposal regarding the control aspects, while others expressed their support for the proposal. The need for validated methods for identifying species was a key element for most Member States. The Commission explained and endorsed the importance of validated species specific tests (ongoing) and the need for certain derogations to allow the wider use of this proposal, lifting the total feed ban. The discussions would continue at working group level on a revised version, taking into account the comments received.
10. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the use of lactic acid to remove microbiological surface contamination from bovine carcasses, cuts and trimmings (Doc. SANCO/11970/2011) (subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Article 3 (2))

The draft proposal was presented and a first exchange of view followed. Some Member States supported the proposal, while others expressed strong reservations. Some Member States asked for the inclusion of labelling provisions; some requested a limitation on the use of lactic acid as a decontaminant at slaughterhouse level, excluding cuts and trimmings from the scope. The Commission concluded that discussions would continue at working group level.

Other business

The Commission had launched a call for experts to evaluate an EU guide on Good Hygiene practices in food at primary production. It was proposed to combine the evaluation with a similar guide on feed.