

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD ON 22 APRIL 2008 IN BRUSSELS  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)**

Chairmen: Patricia Brunko, Eric Poudelet & Willem Daelman

**1. Presentation by Cyprus on the PrP genotype project in goats**

Item postponed.

**2. Information from ESTAT : Statistics on control and monitoring activities – The controls database**

The project *Food safety statistics* arose from a CEIES seminar end of 2001 and was in line with the priorities set up by the European Commission for 2002, one of which was food safety. EUROSTAT is responsible for the development of the project, in collaboration with the Member States.

Through the *Controls database* it is intended to provide an overview of the official food and feed control and monitoring activities. Its development involved the work of a Task Force set up in 2004 and of a Technical Group set up in 2007.

At its last meeting held on 10-11 December 2007 the Food safety statistics Working Group endorsed the work carried out and encouraged the building of agreed indicators of inspections and sampling for analysis. At the same time, Member States agreed to check and improve the quality of the data as a prerequisite before publishing them.

In order to improve the quality of the inspection data, Eurostat wishes to assist countries in providing inspection results following the agreed common definitions of variables.

In 2008 it plans to continue the work on the development of the Controls database and to focus on improving the quality of the data reported for official food and feed controls. The latter part is to follow a step approach:

- step 1: completion and correction of data stored in the Controls database
- step 2: update of the time series on inspections with 2006 data
- step 3: pilot tests to provide 2007 data according to the agreed definitions of variables.

Steps 1 & 2 are to be completed by June 2008.

The next meeting of the Technical Group on Food and feed control and monitoring activities will be organised on 29-30 September 2008.

The next Working group on Food safety statistics will be held on 15-16 December 2008.

### **3. Report for 2006 on the results of residue monitoring in food of animal origin in the Member States (Directive 96/23/EC)**

The Commission representative presented the main findings outlined in the report, which summarises the results of the national residue monitoring plans during the year 2006 in the Member States and includes for the first time the data obtained in Romania and Bulgaria.

National plans must be drafted and transmitted to the Commission by 31 March of each year, as provided for in Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products. They are targeted to take into account the criteria of sex, age, species, fattening system, all background information and all evidence of misuse or abuse of substances. In addition, suspect samples can be taken as part of residue control.

The number of target samples has decreased in 2006 by 3% whereas the number of non-compliant results has increased. Residues of antimicrobial agents remain problematic which highlights the importance of using broad spectrum antimicrobial screening tests and taking appropriate measures to reduce the prevalence of such residues. The banned substance chloramphenicol has been found in 13 MS in several food commodities. As for malachite green MS are to redouble their efforts to eliminate the use of this non-authorized substance in aquaculture.

MS were reminded to inform the Commission of the follow up actions taken further to the latest report. All missing questionnaires should be sent in by mid-May 2008. The report will then be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Council and published on SANCO website.

### **4. Note from DG Enterprise on clarifications on the application of the cascade provisions for bees and on the use of fumagillin in particular (follow-up of the SCFCAH of 18 September 2007)**

The Commission clarified the application of the cascade provision of Article 11 of Directive 2001/82/EC as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC concerning the use veterinary medicinal products for bees. In the absence of authorised medicines for bees other medicines can be used under specific conditions:

- the substance must be authorised in another specie(s), i.e. included in Annex I, II or III to Regulation EEC No 2377/90 ,
- an adequate withdrawal period must be fixed by the veterinarian prescribing the treatment.

The cascade is allowed for bees but residues must not appear in honey, which must be ensured by the veterinarian by establishing appropriate withdrawal periods.

Further to the FVO mission in Greece on 21-25 January 2008, the Greek authorities asked whether the use of the antibiotic fumagillin was authorised for treating the protozoan parasite *Nosema apis*. The Commission reminded that the substance fumagillin is not listed in Annex I, II or III of Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 and therefore can not be used for the treatment of bees or any other food-producing animal in Europe.

**5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council to update a reference to a European standard (Doc. SANCO/1675/2007) (VJ)**

The purpose of this proposal is to amend Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004<sup>1</sup> so as to take into consideration changes made by the European Committee for Standardisation to European standards for the accreditation of laboratories that may carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls.

**Note: favourable opinion by qualified majority (338 votes)**, Malta and Cyprus were absent and not represented.

**6. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny) (Doc. SANCO/2017/2007 Rev. 8) (KVD)**

This proposal aims at lifting the ban on the use of fishmeal in the feed for young ruminants, which was introduced as part of the emergency BSE control measures because of the difficulties to detect small amounts of ruminant proteins in feed containing fish meal.

The Commission consulted EFSA on the health risks of feeding ruminants with fishmeal in relation to TSE. The opinion of the BIOHAZ Panel adopted on 24 January 2007<sup>2</sup>, concluded that if there is any risk of TSE in fishmeal, this could arise from the mammalian feed being fed to this fish or through fishmeal contaminated by meat and bone meal. Based on the technical assessment of the dietary needs of young ruminants and following an assessment of the control aspects of this derogation, the feeding of young farmed animals of ruminant species with fishmeal could be allowed. Taking into account the control aspects, the use of fishmeal should be limited for production of milk replacers intended for the feeding of young farmed animals of the ruminant species as a supplement to or substitute for post-colostral milk before the complete weaning is complete.

Before the EU ban, fishmeal was used as a protein source for the production of milk replacers for rearing of young ruminants. Currently proteins used for the production of milk replacers are either plant proteins or whey or caseins proteins. The proposed measures could therefore contribute to reduce the economic pressure on EU livestock industry due to recent hike in feed costs.

Furthermore, the export of processed animal proteins derived from ruminants, and of products containing such processed animal proteins is prohibited. Since the use of ruminant processed animal proteins for the production of petfood is allowed within the European Community, no prohibition should be imposed on the export of petfood to third countries.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2004R0882:20080320:EN:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178620775416.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178620775416.htm)

Some Member States expressed their concerns about the controls aspects: such derogation would lead to an increase in the number of checks for animal feed, which will be implemented with difficulty. The Commission clarified that the effort would be relative since the derogation concerns only milk replacers, which are produced in total by 55 establishments in the EU.

Some Member States considered the proposal premature and stressed the administrative burden it would involve.

The Commission amended the proposal further to the discussion.

**Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (279 votes), 63 abstention votes.** Greece was represented by Austria, Malta was absent and not represented.

**7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella Enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in turkeys (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/390/2008) (KDS)**

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003<sup>3</sup> (the zoonoses control Regulation) requires the setting of Community targets for the reduction of *Salmonella* at the level of primary production in certain species in a step by step approach.

The objective of the reduction of *Salmonella* in turkeys is to reduce its exposure to humans by the consumption of meat.

The aim of the proposed Regulation is to set a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys based on the information obtained during a baseline study in accordance with Decision 2006/662/EC concerning a financial contribution by the Community towards a baseline study on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in turkeys to be carried out in the Member States<sup>4</sup>. In addition, it lays down a testing scheme to verify the progress on the achievement of the target.

**Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (342 votes),** Malta was absent and not represented.

**8. Discussion and possible agreement on a draft working document as regards a guidance document on the minimum requirements for *Salmonella* control programmes to be recognised equivalent to those approved for Sweden and Finland in respect of the food of animal origin concerned (Doc. SANCO/745/2008) (KDS). The document intends to provide guidance on provisions in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.**

This document is directed at Member States who consider a request to be granted special guarantees as regards *Salmonella* at import of certain products of animal origin in accordance with the provision in Article 8(3)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 (OJ L 280, 24.10.2007, p. 5).

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 272, 3.10.2006, p. 22.

the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. It aims at providing guidance on the minimum requirements expected to be addressed by the concerned control programmes to be considered equivalent to those approved for Sweden and Finland.

It was agreed to further discuss on a number of aspects before an agreement could be reached.

**9. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2007/182/EC of 19 March 2007 on a survey for chronic wasting disease in cervids (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/1030/2008) (MP)**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) affecting cervids, which is widespread in North America but which has never been reported to date in the Community.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in its opinion of 6 June 2004<sup>5</sup> recommended that a targeted surveillance of cervids should be undertaken in the Community. Consequently, Commission Decision 2007/182/EC of 19 March 2007 on a survey for chronic wasting disease in cervids was adopted. The measures provided for in this Decision aim at detecting the possible presence of TSEs in cervids in the Community and foresee that Member States (MS) shall complete their survey no later than the end of the 2007 hunting season.

It appears however that some MS did not have sufficient time to achieve their target numbers of samples as required by the survey.

The purpose of this proposal is to prolong the survey for an additional one-year period in order to allow a statistical and robust assessment of the survey data by the EFSA.

This proposal will serve as a legal basis for co-financing in 2009 the CWD tests which are necessary to achieve the survey. It may therefore have indirect financial consequences for the Community budget.

MS were requested to send their application for financial assistance by 30 April 2008.

It is intended to take a vote on this proposal at the extraordinary SCFCAH meeting to be held on 30 April 2008.

**9A. Exchange of views on draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, submitted to the right of scrutiny of European Parliament) (Doc. SANCO/411/2008) (JOV)**

In the framework of the TSE Roadmap of 15 July 2005, and in line with the SANCO work programme 2006-2007 on TSEs of 17 July 2007, the Commission adopted Regulation (EC) No 727/2007<sup>6</sup>.

With the entry into force of this Commission Regulation, Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as thus amended, provides for certain measures to be applied in the event of

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753816\\_1178620777491.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753816_1178620777491.htm)

<sup>6</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:165:0008:0020:EN:PDF>

confirmation of a TSE in a holding of ovine or caprine animals and where the presence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been excluded.

On 17 July 2007, in Case T-257/07, before the Court of First Instance of the European Communities (the Court), France brought an action against the European Commission seeking the annulment of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 727/2007, in particular regarding the measures to be applied to TSE-affected flocks, or alternatively the entire annulment of that Regulation. In its Order of 28 September 2007, as an interim measure, the Court suspended the application of those provisions pending delivery of a final judgment.

The two main premises on which Regulation (EC) No 727/2007 was based were called into question: the absence of scientific data which currently do not enable to consider any TSE agent other than BSE as a zoonotic agent and the possibility to distinguish with molecular and biological tests between BSE and other animal TSE in ovine and caprine animals.

Following the Order from the Court and at the Commission's request, the European Food Safety Authority issued on 13 February 2008 scientific and technical clarification<sup>7</sup> on some facets of the conclusions of its opinion of 8 March 2007<sup>8</sup>.

Therefore, in the light of that Order and the scientific and technical clarification provided by the EFSA, the purpose of this proposal is to clarify and substantiate the provisions concerned, which the Commission considers to be appropriate.

It is intended to present the proposal for vote at the extraordinary SCFCAH meeting scheduled on 30 April 2008.

## Miscellaneous

- Member States were informed that they will be asked to participate in a survey in relation to the application of veterinary fees. They were invited to collaborate as much as possible.

*Signed*  
Eric Poudelet  
Acting Director

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178685986247.htm](http://efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178685986247.htm)

<sup>8</sup> [http://efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178620775196.htm](http://efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178620775196.htm)