1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning interim measures taken by France as regards the introduction onto its territory of milk and milk products coming from a holding where a classical scrapie case is confirmed (SANCO/4860/2009 rev. 1)

Commission presented the draft Commission Decision concerning interim measures taken by France as regards the introduction onto its territory of milk and milk products coming from a holding where a classical scrapie case is confirmed (SANCO/4860/2009 rev. 1). The purpose of the proposal was to suspend France to apply its measures prohibiting the introduction onto its territory of milk and milk products for food purposes from holdings where a case of classical scrapie has been confirmed, until the Court of First Instance has rendered its final judgement in the case T-257/07, France v. Commission.

Different Member states intervened by stating that scrapie was not a zoonosis and that if there would be a real major public health risk, the real impact of the measures of FR would be very limited since not all flocks are identified. One Member State felt that the scientific evidence should be further examined, which was the reason for its abstention. One Member State expressed a clear support for the proposal, but would like to improve the legislation concerning the animal health aspect in order to gain better understanding of the channelling of milk for feed purposes.

FR expressed its opposition to the proposal. FR stressed that it wants to reduce the overexposure of scrapie to the consumers and does not consider its actions excessive based on the scientific opinions of EFSA and AFSSA. FR indicated that there would not be a recall of the products already on the market. However, FR was satisfied that the proposal was tied to the judgement of the Court of First Instance in the case T-257/07, France v. Commission.

Commission answered that the issue of channelling of milk for feed purposes can be put to the agenda of the next TSE-working group meeting to further discussion. Commission explained that these two cases are much linked since in both cases there is the issue at stake whether scrapie is a zoonosis or not. No further comments were made.
Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 270 votes, abstentions: 43 votes, against: 29 votes)

After the vote FR read its written declaration, which will be given to the Commission.

2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Appendix B of Annex VII to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania as regards certain establishments in the meat, poultry meat, fish and milk and milk products sectors in Romania. (Doc. SANCO/4933/2009)

Under agenda point 2, 3 and 4, three decisions were presented for a vote related to the management of the list of establishments in transition. For Bulgaria and Romania delisting of establishments in transition which have finished their upgrading process or have ceased their activities. In addition, for Bulgaria in the milk sector, possibility for certain establishments which have finished their upgrading process to receive without separation compliant and non-compliant raw milk.

Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 301 votes, abstentions: 29 votes, absent: 15 votes)


Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 301 votes, abstentions: 29 votes, absent: 15 votes)

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending the Appendix to Annex VI to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania as regards certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/5047/2009) (JG)

Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 301 votes, abstentions: 29 votes, absent: 15 votes)