President: Eric Poudelet

All the Member States were present.


Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 (the zoonoses control Regulation) lays down restrictions on the placing on the market of table eggs from 13 December 2009 on. However, a baseline study on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in laying hens carried out in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/665/EC, demonstrated a high prevalence of *Salmonella* in flocks of laying hens in several Member States. Additionally, very limited information is available on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in flocks of layers in third countries. In view of the outcome of the baseline study, the purpose of the current draft proposal is to introduce trade restrictions immediately from flocks of layers incriminated of having caused a Salmonella outbreak in humans. Furthermore it bring forwards the date from which trade restrictions apply to eggs from all flocks with an unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or from flocks infected by *Salmonella Enteritidis* or *Salmonella Typhimurium*, to 1 January 2009.

Provisions on marking of eggs and the import certificate for eggs should also be amended to guarantee the correct implementation of the restriction and equivalent guarantees of third countries.

Some Member States stressed the cross contamination risk if eggs have to go through a packing station for labelling and would rather have them moved directly to the processing plant. The Commission will change the wording to specify the 2 options for marking: either a B on the egg to be done in the packing station, or a spot to be put at the production site.

The vote on this proposal is postponed to the May meeting of the SCFCAH, Biological Safety section.


This proposal aims at laying down detailed rules on monitoring of antimicrobial resistance for *Salmonella* in fowl (Gallus gallus), turkey and pigs in order to obtain comparable data from Member States to be able to assess trends and sources of...
antimicrobial resistance in the Community. The collection of isolates of *Salmonella* spp and the analysis thereof have to be performed by the competent authority or under its supervision in accordance with the annexed technical specifications.

**Vote:** in favour at unanimity


Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne agents, lays down conditions for third countries with regard to the control of *Salmonella*. Admission to or retention on the list of third countries from which Member States are authorised to import the relevant animals and hatching eggs, is subject to the submission and approval by the Commission of a *Salmonella* control programme in the third country, equivalent to the control programme in the Member States. In addition, equivalent guarantees to Community provisions and testing for *Salmonella* in the flock of origin should be certified at import of live fowl (*Gallus gallus*) and their hatching eggs.

Commission Decision 2006/696/EC lays down health conditions and a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs may be imported into and transit through the Community, and provides the applicable veterinary certification conditions.

The purpose of the current draft Decision is to amend Decision 2006/696/EC taking into account the requirements in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

**Technical vote:** in favour at unanimity

4. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Community towards a baseline survey on the prevalence of *Campylobacter* in broilers and their antimicrobial resistance and on the prevalence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses to be carried out in the Member States (SANCO/3969/2006) (SD/KDS) (see point 10 of the 20 March 2007 SCFCAH)**

The Commission informed the committee that this proposal will be discussed at the next zoonoses working group meeting on 8 May 2007.

The vote was postponed to the 24 May SCFCAH meeting.

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 (the zoonoses control Regulation) requires the setting of Community targets for the reduction of salmonella at the level of primary production in certain species.

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 broilers based on the information obtained during a baseline study in accordance with Decision 2005/636/EC concerning a financial contribution by the Community towards a baseline study on the prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. in broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* to be carried out in the Member States. In addition, it lays down a testing scheme to verify the progress on the achievement of the target.

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

Vote: in favour at unanimity


The Commission informed the committee that this proposal will be discussed at the next zoonoses working group meeting on 8 May 2007.

The vote was postponed to the 24 May SCFCAH meeting.

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission decision prohibiting the placing on the market of products derived from bovine animals born or reared within the United Kingdom before 1 August 1996 for any purpose and exempting such animals from certain control and eradication measures laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and repealing Commission Decision 2005/598/EC (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) 999/2001) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (SANCO/654/2007 Rev. 3) (MP) (see point 13 of the 20 March 2007 SCFCAH)

Owing to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk, Decision 2005/598/EC of 2 August 2005 prohibits the placing on the market, for any purpose, of products derived from bovine animals born or reared within the United Kingdom before 1 August 1996. However, hides prepared for use for leather production can be placed on the market provided they do not derive from bovine animals belonging to the cohort of an animal in which BSE was confirmed.

Before August 1996, the identification system for cattle in United Kingdom was insufficient to allow reliable tracing of animals and accurate identification of cohorts of BSE-positive cases. Consequently, all cattle born before August 1996 in the United
Kingdom are considered to be cohort animals and their hides cannot be used for any purpose.

On 12 March 2007, the United Kingdom presented to the Commission and Member States a protocol for the exclusive use in leather production of hides deriving from bovine animals born or reared before 1 August 1996 in the United Kingdom. This protocol, entirely under official supervision, requires strict channelling of hides from abattoirs to tannery, and meets the conditions recommended for cohort hides processing in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion adopted on 18 May 2006 by preventing any by-products derived from these hides from entering the feed or food chain.

Taking into account the above guarantees, the United-Kingdom should therefore be allowed to use cattle cohort hides deriving from bovine animals born or reared in the United-kingdom before 1 August 1996 for leather production. For legal reasons, Decision 2005/598/EC should be repealed and replaced by a new one whose provisions, except for those related to hides, are identical.

Vote: in favour at unanimity


This proposal replies to the need to reappraise TSE surveillance and eradication measures in small ruminants. The amendments to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 include:

- Introduction of specific definitions for TSE in small ruminants, classical scrapie cases and atypical scrapie cases;
- Review of TSE surveillance in small ruminants: number of TSE tests to be carried out;
- Review of TSE eradication measures in small ruminants: measures to be implemented in scrapie affected flocks;
- Introduction of harmonised requirements for breeding programmes for TSE resistance in sheep;
- Review of actions to be taken following a BSE test in bovine animals at slaughterhouse level.

Each delegation expressed its view on the proposal. Some Member States expressed their reservations on the alternative methods of eradication and requested to take the precautionary approach. The French delegation made following statement:

"La délégation française souligne les incertitudes scientifiques, exprimées tant par l'AESA que l'AFSSA, quant à l'innocuité pour l'homme de certaines souches d'EST autres que l'ESB et à la fiabilité des tests permettant de discriminer l'ESB de la tremblante.

Elle estime que ces incertitudes justifient une approche de précaution, raison pour laquelle elle ne peut accepter la proposition de la Commission qui prévoit la possibilité d'autoriser la consommation de produits issus d'ovins génétiquement sensibles ou de caprins provenant de troupeaux où un cas de tremblante classique a été détecté."
The Commission stressed the fact that the draft proposal is balanced and the use of the precautionary principle is not applicable as there's no scientific evidence of an increased risk. Further to discussions the date of 1 January 2008 for the implementation of the monitoring of ovine and caprine animals was advanced to 1 July 2007.

Vote: in favour at the qualified majority (256 votes in favour, 85 votes against, 4 votes abstaining)

9. Information on the "New Approach" proposals of DG ENTR setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products (WD)

The Commission explained that two proposals from DG Enterprise on market surveillance exclude for the time being from their scope the areas of General Food Law and of Official feed and food controls. However this position is being discussed in Council working groups. The Commission requested that the delegations ensure proper coordination with their colleagues of the relevant departments in their country in order to maintain the exclusion position.

10. Miscellaneous

- The 25 April 2007 was devoted to a visit to deboning demonstration at the 'Ter Groene Poorte' school in Bruges (TC)
  The Commission committed itself during the transitional period to assess the relevance of these criteria. In 2006 this issue was on the agenda of several different working groups on the hygiene legislation. The results of a survey aiming at summarising the practice and controls carried out on this issue were presented and discussed with all the Member States. On this occasion, further defining the types of raw materials to be used for the preparation of minced meat was identified as a possible option to achieve a harmonised level of consumer protection.
  The demonstration is part of this assessment exercise and aims at allowing the Commission and the Member States to collect further information on the boning practices in use in different Member States when preparing raw materials for minced meat.

- The Netherlands inquired on the state of play of imports of fishery products from Indonesia. Despite the improvements made further of the Food and Veterinary Office inspections the Commission wishes to maintain measures until the action plan provided by Indonesia has undergone evaluation and is properly implemented. (TB)
• The Netherlands raised the issue of the use of **certificates for fishery products from Canada** which are applicable from 1 May 2007. The Commission will issue an information note to the third countries concerned to clarify the specific import conditions and transitional provisions applicable for Canada, New Zealand, Greenland and the United States (GM)

• Belgium inquired on the current situation concerning **antibiotics in milk**. Further to the action of the Commission against a dairy establishment in the United Kingdom, the Commission launched a wide consultation of all stakeholders. Meetings have already taken place with European dairy associations and different producers of rapid tests kits for antibiotics. (TC).