SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
(Section Animal health and welfare)
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 03 DECEMBER 2003

President: Mr. Eric Poudelet for point 18, Mr. Bernard Van Goethem for the other points. All the Member States were present.

1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING:

Classical swine fever in the wild boar

Belgium

The Belgian delegation circulated a report giving an overview of the results of the surveillance for classical swine fever in wild boar covering the period 01/01/2003-15/11/2003. In the infected area and the observation areas, 1399 wild boar have been sampled, of which 39 have been found serologically positive. All the animals sampled had negative virology. Outside the areas mentioned before, 187 wild boar were sampled. None of the animals was found positive, nor serologically nor virologically.

Belgium informed the Commission that certain restrictive measures could be released, if this positive trend continues.

France

The French delegate informed the Committee that the complete results of the intensive sampling were pending. Based on the results available to date, there were no further developments to report.

Germany

No new cases since the last report. The trend continues to be positive

Luxembourg

No new cases since the last report. The trend continues to be positive.

Slovakia

The Slovak delegation distributed and presented a report giving an overview of the pig industry in Slovakia and of the geographical distribution of samples investigated for CSF. The representative also provided information on the occurrence of CSF in wild boar during January-August 2003.

After this general overview, Slovakia reported on two outbreaks of classical swine fever in domestic pigs which occurred in the area with occurrence of the disease in wild boar. Immediately after confirmation, the Slovak authorities have established a 3-km protection zone and a 10-km surveillance zone around the outbreak sites, in accordance with Community legislation. The Slovak delegate also presented the
preliminary results of the epidemiological enquiry. A third outbreak of CSF was confirmed on 30.11.2003. This new outbreak was situated just outside the surveillance zones established around the previous outbreaks.

The Commission made clear that the CSF outbreaks in Slovakia were cause for concern because of their late detection. The Commission’s representative also observed that the epidemiological link had not yet been established, although the wild boar appeared to be the most likely source of disease. He also urged the Slovak delegation to extinguish the outbreaks as quickly as possible and made the following suggestions and recommendations in this respect:

- extend the movement ban to an area exceeding the 10-km surveillance zone;
- rigorous implementation of Community legislation;
- adoption of a more comprehensive policy for the control of disease in the wild boar.

The Commission clarified that given that no import of pigs or pork is allowed from the areas concerned by the disease into the EU, no urgent measures were necessary.

Germany supported the Commission’s recommendations and offered to help Slovakia. The Commission stated that it was also its intention to support Slovakia by sending a Community expert on the spot to provide advice on disease control measures.

2. **INFORMATION ON THE HEALTH SITUATION IN LITHUANIA IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING PIGS (DOC. SANCO/10726/2003) (HLB)**

The information was distributed.

3. **DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION:**

- Application from Germany for approval of the water catchment area of ENZ as approved zones with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) SANCO/10630/2003 - *doc will be distributed at the meeting*

- Application from Italy for approval of the farm Azienda Vincheto de Celarda – Celarda de Feltre (BL) as approved farm in non-approved zone with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) SANCO/10636/2003 - *doc will be distributed at the meeting*

- Application from France for approval of the Zone des etangs de la Dombes with regard to viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) SANCO/10652/2003 - *doc will be distributed at the meeting*
The Member States were requested to send in their comments before 09.01.2004

4. DISTRIBUTION FOR INFORMATION:
   - Report of a mission carried out in Bulgaria from 13 to 17 October 2003 in order to follow-up on the commitments given by the Bulgarian authorities in relation to the up-grading of milk and meat processing establishments and the operation of controls on animal health (follow-up to mission report DG(SANCO)/8655/2002) (DG(SANCO)9093/2003-MR)
   - Report of a mission carried out in Romania from 6 to 10 October 2003 in order to review the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to the up-grading of certain classes of food processing establishments and associated live animal controls (DG(SANCO)9184/2003-MR)

5. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES.
   No items were raised under this point.

   Subsequent to the favourable opinion given to the Regulation presented under point 18, the date of implementation of the two draft Decisions mentioned above and of which the adoption is pending should be amended accordingly. The date was proposed to be deferred until 01.05.2004.
   The deferral of the implementation date of both the proposals was given unanimous support.

7. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2003/467/EC AS REGARDS THE RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN PROVINCES OF ITALY AS OFFICIALLY FREE OF BOVINE
BRUCELLOSIS AND ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS (Doc. SANCO/10626/2003-Rev.1) (H.K)

The Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to declare certain provinces in the region of Lombardia officially free of bovine brucellosis, and certain provinces in the regions of Lombardia and Toscana officially free of enzootic bovine leucosis.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The point was withdrawn from the agenda.


For a good understanding, please see point 35 of the SCFCAH of 09-10 September 2003.

The Commission explained that Directive 88/407/EEC lays down that as of 1 January 2005, semen of domestic animals of bovine species must be collected, processed and stored according to the new provisions introduced by Directive 2003/43/EC in order to be eligible for intra-Community trade. This means that after this date, Member States shall not be able to authorize intra-Community trade of semen of domestic animals of bovine species in accordance with the provisions formerly in force unless it was collected, processed and stored before 31 December 2003. Hence, the Member States were presented a proposal to provide a new model certificate for trade carried out as of 1 January 2005.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

10. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the second time Decision 2000/807/EC on the notification of animal diseases via the ADNS, to take into account the revised compartmentalisation of the Netherlands (Doc. SANCO/10653/2003-rev.1) (A.B.)

The Member States were presented a draft Decision aiming to reflect the adjusted regionalisation in the Netherlands as regards animal disease eradication in the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) set out in Decision 2000/807/EC.

The Dutch delegation distributed a folder listing the compartments in detail.
Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


In the light of new information received from the third countries concerned, the Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to amend Decision 2000/284/EC to reflect

– the withdrawal of 2 semen collection centres approved for imports of equine semen in Australia;
– the addition of one centre in Slovakia;
– the addition of nine centres and amendments in details of four centres in the U.S.A..

Moreover, the proposal presented took account that Acceding States are scheduled to join the Community as of 1 May 2004.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

12. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON A COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO LONG TERM MEASURES TO CONTROL FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN COUNTRIES ADJACENT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND AMENDING DECISION 2001/300/EC (Doc. SANCO/10613/2003) (AEF)

The point was withdrawn from the agenda.


The Commission explained the draft Decision above provides for additional guarantees which apply to the regionalisation of South Africa for imports of registered horses into the EU. Those additional guarantees prohibit the use of vaccination against African horse sickness (AHS) within the AHS-free zone. Consequently, the vaccination status of registered horses being resident in the free zone for more than 24 months can no longer be certified under current import conditions. In addition it may be necessary to provide for an authorisation of transports of registered horses into the free area that previously either have not been vaccinated or such vaccination was for veterinary reasons not carried out in accordance with the prescription of the manufacturer.
The Member States were proposed a draft Decision aiming to adopt the animal health conditions and veterinary certification to these developments and amending the relevant Decision accordingly.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**


The purpose of the draft Decision was to grant financial assistance for the storage of antigens for the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines in France, Italy and the United Kingdom in 2004.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**


The Commission explained that the development of the integrated veterinary informatics system TRACES requires the standardisation of all the declaration and control documents to allow proper appraisal and analysis of the collected information to improve the sanitary security in the Community. For that purpose, the Member States were presented a draft decision laying down a model document to be used for the declaration and the veterinary control of animals introduced from third countries into the Community.

It appeared from the discussion that the tabled document needed further reflection. The vote was therefore postponed.

The Commission suggested organising a working group for that purpose.


The point was withdrawn from the agenda.

17. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 94/83/EC, ON COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF VETERINARY CONTROLS AT
THE COMMUNITY’S EXTERNAL FRONTIER IN GERMANY (Doc. SANCO/96/2003) (DJ)

The Commission explained that the German authorities have requested an extension of the deadline for the completion of their programme in order to compensate for delays in the building and renovation of infrastructure, and, in this context, the Decision 94/83/EC should therefore be amended to extend the deadline established for the completion of the programme and to allow time for the necessary testing.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The Member States were presented a draft Regulation aiming to extend the transitional period provided by Regulation (EC) No 812/2003 in order for the adoption procedure of new model certificates to be completed. It was proposed to extend the date of implementation until 30 April 2004.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


This point was replaced by point 22e.


The Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to

– add Lithuania, Estonia and Malta to the list of third countries that are, in principle, authorised to import live poultry and hatching eggs including ratites and eggs as laid down in Commission Decision 95/233/EC
Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

21. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON MOVEMENTS OF VACCINATED ANIMALS FROM PROTECTION ZONES IN RELATION TO BLUETONGUE (DOC. SANCO/10759/2003-REV.2) (J.F.)**

**Reports on bluetongue situation**

Spain distributed and presented a report providing epidemiological information on the bluetongue situation in the Balearic Islands. To date, 15 herds are affected, of which the last was confirmed on 25 November 2003. All the outbreaks are situated in the eastern part Minorca. There is no evidence of bluetongue in the rest of the Balearic Islands.

The Community Reference Laboratory informed Spain that preliminary results indicate that the virus is of serotype 4. The experts group advised not to vaccinate until the vector population had decreased significantly due to the weather conditions.


The Italian delegation reported that the situation in Italy had not evolved.
The Commission explained that a symposium on bluetongue organised by the OIE concluded that animals may move from an infected zone to a free zone without posing a risk of virus spread if they have been vaccinated at least one month prior to movement, provided that the vaccine used covers all serotypes present in the region of origin.

The Member States therefore considered a draft Decision to amend conditions for movements of vaccinated animals provided in Decision 2003/828/EC in order to allow such movements without requiring the cessation of the virus circulation in the region of origin or of the vector activity in the region of destination. Nevertheless, as a precaution, the proposal only considered domestic movements from areas where vaccination has been completed according to the programme adopted by the competent authority of the Member State concerned.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

“Codification” is the procedure where the legislation being codified is repealed and replaced by a single act containing all the relevant provisions. It involves the examination of existing provisions and their reworking (deleting obsolete provisions, harmonising terminology and determining the motivation) in a comprehensive and coherent manner without changing their substance. The process reduces the mass of the legislation while maintaining the substance of the legislation.

The Codification project is intended to last four years beginning in January 2002 and its purpose is to codify the secondary legislation of the EU that the Acceding States have to adopt unamended. The project, partly formulated to reduce the mass of legislation which the Acceding States have to translate, revise and implement, will also benefit the existing Member States.

The Legal Service (Codification Group) will be responsible for the legal examination and reworking of the legal texts proposed for codification, in conjunction with the competent DG.

Codification of Decision 2000/680/EC

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.
DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE PORCINE SPECIES. (Doc. SANCO/10762/2003-REV.1) (HK)

The purpose of the proposal was to include Acceding States in the list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of

– deep-frozen semen of domestic animals of bovine species
– ova and embryos of domestic animals of bovine and porcine species
– semen of domestic animals of porcine species

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

22B. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the Community’s financial assistance to Community reference laboratories under Article 28 of Decision 90/424/EEC. (Doc. SANCO/129/2003) (LVDB)**

Postponed.


In order to bring Decision 2003/812/EC into force at the same time as other legislation laying down lists of countries and certification for animal by-products not intended for human consumption (Regulation (EC) N° 812/2003) it was proposed to postpone its date of application from 1 January 2004 to 1 May 2004.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

22D **Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 98/371/EC as regards the import of fresh meat from certain Acceding Countries (Doc. SANCO/10761/2003-rev.1) (HLB)**

Considering the favourable animal health situation in Cyprus and Malta, the Member States were presented a draft Decision to authorise these countries to import fresh meat from all species referred to in Decision 98/371/EC into the Community. In addition, the general animal health situation in Estonia and Latvia is satisfactory. The draft Decision presented therefore also aimed at authorising the importation of meat from bovines, ovines, caprines and solipeds from these countries into the Community and pig meat from Latvia.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

22E. **Possibly, exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/199/EC**
CONCERNING ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION FOR IMPORTS OF LIVE BOVINE AND PORCINE ANIMALS FROM CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/10757/2003-REV.1) (HLB)

Lithuania, Latvia and the Czech Republic presented information on the animal health situation, in particular concerning pigs. Lithuania and the Czech Republic only reported orally. As regards Latvia, document SANCO/10783/2003 was distributed.

The Commission explained that the animal health situation concerning classical swine fever in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, and certain regions of Slovakia and Slovenia has been assessed and found satisfactory. The Member States were therefore presented a draft Decision aiming to authorise the importation of live pigs from these countries.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

22F. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COUNCIL DECISION 79/542/EEC DRAWING UP A LIST OF THIRD COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE MEMBER STATES AUTHORIZE IMPORTS OF BOVINE ANIMALS, SWINE, EQUIDAE, SHEEP AND GOATS, FRESH MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, IN PARTICULAR TO INCLUDE CERTAIN ACCEDING COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/10776/2003) (HLB)

Considering that a number of Acceding States have requested authorisation to export live animals, fresh meat and meat products to the Community, and in order to harmonise the listing prior to accession, the Member States were presented a draft Decision to extend the scope of authorisations in principle for importations.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

23. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SURVEYS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING 2004 (DOC. SANCO/10737/2003-REV.1) (MP)

The Commission distributed and presented the above proposal for study and observation. The draft Decision provides that Member States should submit for approval to the Commission by 15 February 2004 plans for the implementation of surveys of avian influenza in poultry and wild birds, and fixes the rate of the Community’s financial contribution.

The Commission also distributed the following proposal for study and observation:

Draft Commission Decision amending for the second time Decision 2002/975/EC on introducing vaccination to supplement the measures to control infections with low pathogenic influenza in Italy and on specific movement control measures (Doc. SANCO/10738/2003)

In relation to this proposal, the Commission referred to the report presented by Italy under point 1 of SCFCAH of 04-05 November 2003.
The purpose of the draft Decision is to make some amendments to the Italian vaccination programme, prolong it and modify restrictions applicable to intra-Community trade in table eggs and poultry meat.

The Member States were requested to send in their comments as soon as possible.

24. MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Germany mentioned certain comprehension problems concerning recognition of animals from third countries.

(2) Sweden informed the Committee that Russia has announced that it will modify veterinary certification in relation to enlargement and had requested for a model certificate. The Commission said that the issue would be discussed at the CVO-meeting on 04 December 2003.

(3) The Commission distributed a joint Presidency/Commission draft letter to the OIE proposing certain amendments to the OIE criteria aiming at the simplification of categories for the BSE status of countries.

(4) The Commission invited the Acceding States to take the necessary dispositions to get in line with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 998/2003.

(5) The Commission also distributed the following documents for information and possible comments:

- Procedures on the recognition of the status of official freedom of certain animal disease in Acceding States (Doc. SANCO/10487/2003-rev.1)

- Draft Commission Decision establishing a model health certificate for non-commercial movements from third countries and import of domestic carnivores (Doc. SANCO/10767/2003)

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.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html

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