President: Eric Poudelet: points 2, 3 & 4
Paul Van Geldorp: points 1 & 5

All the Member States were present.

1. **Draft working document - Import of gelatine capsules for food supplements or medicinal products from third countries (Document SANCO/10638/2005 Rev. 4) (LT)**

   This working document aims at providing guidance to the Member States’ competent authorities as regards the import of empty gelatine capsules and food supplements in gelatine capsules containing ingredients of bovine origin. It was presented at working groups on 29 November 2005 and 12 January 2006 where it received broad support. The Commission proposes to harmonise import procedures applied in each Member States in an area for which no specific rules exist, while seeking to ensure a high level of consumer protection and to minimise trade distortion. This harmonised procedure is based on the provisions of the EC legislation on pharmaceutical products and of the General Food Law and is meant to be transposed into the national legislation of the MS.

   At the request of France, the Commission agreed to have this point discussed at the first coming import experts’ group. The Commission will transmit the working document to the MS permanent representations asking for immediate implementation.


   This draft intends to approve the national scrapie control programme of Austria and to grant derogation to Austria, as well as to Denmark, Finland and Sweden, from the requirement to establish a breeding programme for TSE resistance in sheep. It lays
down guarantees as regards trade to other Member States from these 4 Member States as well as official movement restrictions.

Vote: unanimously in favour.


Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lists Community reference laboratories (CRL) which should contribute to a high level of quality and uniformity of analytical results. The Commission launched in July 2005 a call for selection and designation of new CRL’s. The results of the evaluation of the applications were notified to the competent authorities concerned. The successful candidates should therefore be designated as new CRL’s and Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 updated accordingly.

At the request of some Member States the Commission amended the proposal so as to specify the location of the laboratories from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission designated as Community reference laboratories in certain fields and also distributed a list of all the applicants to the call.

Vote: unanimously in favour.


In view of the UK’s compliance with the 2 preliminary conditions for the lifting of the embargo on the trade of live bovine animals, beef and beef products, i.e. an incidence of less than 200 BSE cases per million adult bovine animals and a positive outcome from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) inspection, it is appropriate to amend Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 so as to lift the BSE related restrictions on the trade of bovine animals and their products.

The Commission presented the main changes to the proposal brought by the legal service following the interservice consultation. Many Member States expressed their support to the proposal. The French delegate maintained his doubts on the retroactive nature of the measure and on the legal aspect. In particular he was concerned that no setting in conformity of formerly forbidden products had been put in place. The Spanish delegate shared the position of France on the issue of retroactivity. The German delegate thought another inspection would be most useful to take a final position. He will report to his authorities on the Commission’s suggestion of an official declaration guaranteeing to carry out a FVO mission within one year after adoption.

The vote is foreseen at the meeting of the SCFCAH of 7-8 March 2006.
5. Miscellaneous

- **Translation of the guidance documents on food hygiene and HACCP**

  The Commission took note of the unanimous request of the Member States to provide for a translation in ALL official EU languages of the guidance documents on food hygiene and HACCP (documents SANCO 1513/2005, 1514/2005 and 1955/2005). These documents contain essential information and will be consulted intensively not only by the competent authorities in the Member States and in third countries, but also by food business operators in all Member States, in particular in small businesses. It is necessary that these operators are able to read that essential information in their own language. With regard to the CD ROM on food hygiene, the delegations agreed to verify their language versions so as to make corrections to the translation of technical terms where necessary, and to communicate their remarks as soon as possible (and in any case not later than 3 weeks after reception) to the Commission.

- **Import controls of fishery products from Indonesia (PVG/TB) (Document SANCO/10497/2005 Rev. 3) (see point 13 of 22-23 November 2005 SCFCAH)**

  The Commission distributed to the MS the translations of a corrected draft decision which had been voted in November 2005, as well as copy of a note dated 22 February 2006 sent to all the Member States explaining the reason for the amendment brought to the previously voted version. MS can send their comments within 5 working days, after which the Commission will proceed with the adoption of the decision.