President: Willem Daelman

All the Member States were present, except Malta


In July 2004, a working group of experts was held in relation to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC with a view to clarify some of its aspects and to formulate recommendations/guidelines on its implementation. These guidelines were endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health on 16 November 2004 (SANCO/2004/2726). The guidelines were updated to include further necessary clarification and validated by the Berlin Community Reference Laboratory on behalf of the four CRLs for residues. It is available on the internet (http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/guidelines_2002-657.pdf).


The Commission presented a register of national guidelines for feed and food directed at food business organisations and aiming at giving advice on the diversity and flexibility of Guides to Good Hygiene Practices, especially in small businesses. This document is meant to evolve and to be updated taking into account information from food business organisations and from competent authorities. (http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/hygienelegislation/good_practice_en.htm)

The Commission agreed to the French suggestion that the register be sent first to Member States for them to verify the accuracy of the data. France will furthermore send a letter requesting that the EFSA be involved in the approval of national guides.

This proposal establishes a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of salmonella serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus* at the level of primary production. The EFSA was consulted on this issue. Comparable data on the prevalence of the concerned salmonella serotypes have been collected in accordance with the baseline study on the prevalence of salmonella in laying flocks of *Gallus gallus*. For a transitional period of 3 years this target covers *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium*. The progress on the achievement of the target is verified through repeated sampling of flocks. The annexed testing scheme will be reviewed taking into account the experience gained during the first year of the control programme. The proposal also includes provisions for the use of alternative analysis methods and storage salmonella strains. The MS were requested to send their comments and position by end of May, before the vote at a SCFCAH meeting to be organised on 6 June 2006.


At the request of the Commission the European Food Safety Authority issued 2 opinions on 21 October 2004 on the use of antimicrobials and on the use of vaccines for the control of salmonella in poultry. In light of these opinions, antimicrobials should not be used as a specific method to control salmonella in poultry in the framework of national control programmes, subject to derogation. Live salmonella vaccines should not be used unless specific conditions are met; vaccination programmes against *Salmonella enteritidis* reducing the shedding and contamination of eggs should be applied in countries with a high prevalence.

The Dutch delegation asked whether financial compensation would be considered in case of culling. The Commission advised to address the request in writing.

The vote on this proposal will be taken at a SCFCAH meeting to be organised on 6 June 2006.


Further to the 2 TSE cases in sheep in France and 1 in Cyprus, the Commission has decided to investigate the presence of TSE in sheep. In line with the opinions of the Scientific Steering Committee and of the EFSA (link), the results of an increased monitoring of TSE in sheep are essential to improve the Community eradication programmes. The extended monitoring will enable to determine the likely prevalence of BSE in sheep as soon as possible and the geographical distribution of the disease.
Cyprus where the level of TSEs in the ovine and caprine population is high, it can be limited to non infected flocks.

In reply to the concern of some Member States on levels of sampling, the Commission made the following declaration: ‘The proposal to increase the number of TSE tests to be carried out in ovine animals is intended to assess the prevalence of BSE in sheep. The Commission declares that this measure will be limited in duration to a six month period following the adoption and coming into force of the proposal, after which the surveillance requirements for ovine and caprine animals will be reviewed. The Commission has taken note of the concern of some Member States that the achievement of the minimum sample sizes may present difficulties.’

The Hungarian delegation disagreed with the figures on the number of TSE tests considering them unachievable. The Netherlands and Sweden had reservations on the necessity of the measure.

The French delegation expressed financial concerns incurred by the intensive actions taken following the 2 TSE cases. The Commission took ‘note of the French programme surveillance programme in sheep, which will allow, in addition to the reinforced Community programme, to collect better epidemiological information, following the 2 suspect cases under on-going investigation by the CRL. The Commission is ready to continue to discuss the technical and financial modalities of this national programme, without taking commitment today on an increased financial participation.’

Vote: in favour by qualified majority, 30 votes abstaining, 12 votes against; Malta absent and not represented.


Chronic Wasting Disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy affecting cervids which is widespread in North America and has never been reported in the EU. The European Food Safety Authority recommended in its opinion of 3 June 2004 a targeted surveillance in European cervids in order to detect the presence of TSE (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/501_en.html). Therefore each Member State should carry out a survey in the cervid population in its territory, starting autumn 2006 and ending at the end of the 2007 hunting season. The Commission clarified the conditions of a possible financial support (50€ per deer sampled). The procedure to follow is via Council Decision 90/424/EEC: submission of an annual sampling plan for yearly funding, containing relevant information about costs. A letter will be sent out listing what information is needed in this regard. A draft financial decision can be prepared afterwards. The vote on this proposal is postponed to the July SCFCAH pending the adoption of the ongoing co-decision procedure amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 which will introduce the legal basis for a monitoring programme in cervids.
7. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Commission towards a baseline survey on the prevalence of Salmonella in slaughter pigs to be carried out in the Member States (SANCO/40162/2006 Rev. 1) (Legal basis: Council Decision 90/424/EEC) (SI/KDS)

On 16 March 2006 the European Food Safety Authority issued an opinion related to ‘Risk assessment and mitigation options of Salmonella in pig production’ where it proposed technical specifications for a baseline study on the prevalence of salmonella in fattening pigs in the EU. (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/1430_en.html) The survey should span over a suitable period in order to take into account possible seasonal variations: one year, starting 1 October 2006. This will enable the setting of a Community target for reducing the prevalence of salmonella in herds of slaughter pigs by the end of 2007. A financial contribution will be granted under certain conditions, amounting to 20 € per test for bacteriological detection of Salmonella spp. and 30 € for serotyping of the relevant isolates.

The vote is foreseen at the 19-20 June SCFCAH.

8. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Commission towards a baseline survey on the prevalence of Salmonella in turkeys to be carried out in the Member States (SANCO/40161/2006 Rev. 1) (Legal basis: Council Decision 90/424/EEC) (SI/KDS)

This proposal determines the conditions of a Community financial contribution for a special survey to be carried out to monitor the prevalence of salmonella in turkeys over a period of one year, starting 1 October 2006. The availability of comparable data will then enable the setting of a Community target reducing the prevalence of salmonella in flocks of turkeys in the Member States by the end of 2007. A financial contribution will be granted under certain conditions, amounting to 20 € per test for bacteriological detection of Salmonella spp. and 30 € for serotyping of the relevant isolates.

The vote is foreseen at the 19-20 June SCFCAH.

9. Miscellaneous

- **The Netherlands are faced with the misuse of veterinary stamps.** A Dutch company has discovered that its name and authorisation number were used fraudulently by Chinese meat processing company for imports to African country. The Dutch delegate asked whether other Member States had to face the same kind of problem.

- **The German delegate pointed out translation mistakes in the German version of Regulation (EC) No 657/2006, which have great impact.**

  The Commission informed the committee that corrigenda will be made for the German version as well as for other language versions. These will be finalised and published over the next few weeks in the Official Journal of the EU.
• **Commission Decision 236/2006/EC concerning heavy metal in shrimps.**
  The German and Dutch delegates requested clarification on the provisions for import of fisheries from Indonesia. The Commission service responsible for the file will be informed of the German request and provide the necessary information.

• **Training on HACCP**
  The Commission stressed the fact that only few Member States have enrolled to attend the training on Hazard Analyses and Critical Control Point to start early June 2006 in Birmingham. MS were urged to send their applications as soon as possible. ([http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/haccp_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/haccp_en.htm))

• **Guidelines for the development of Community guides to good practice for hygiene or for the application of the HACCP principles**
  These guidelines provide a uniform procedure for the establishment of national guidelines. Feed hygiene is added to the scope of the document since the same procedure applies as for foodstuffs. The EU feed and food business sectors should take the initiative to develop such guides to support effective application of the new EC hygiene regulations. They are not legally binding but should be used on a voluntary basis as an aid to compliance with obligations under the hygiene regulations.

• Italy is encountering difficulties with regard to the **microbiological criteria**, which do not consider certain situations in raw meat. The Commission referred to a Working group on microbiology to be held in June where this issue can be discussed.