MT, PL, SL, SK were not present and represented.

1. **Information on two cases of fraud by re-labelling of meat and other foodstuffs in Bavaria, Germany.**

DE presented the 3 cases (in Gröbenzell, Munich and Metten) (1 additional case has been added in the meantime) of trade of various unfit food for human consumption. They gave an overview of the situation, presented the food involved, the origin, the RASFF notifications and measures taken. These measures include an important improvement of the Communication and coordination between the local, regional and central competent authorities, and a range of measures to reinforce controls on the spot.

Remarks from the Member States mostly concerned the lack of information they have received (LU), what they should do with these products (ex FR) and the media pressure they had to face (CZ). Testing of the goods in these Member States revealed that consignments were not necessarily unfit for human consumption.

The Commission underlined that the re-labelling and the placing on the market of goods unfit for human consumption were the main problems in these cases. The Commission further reminded the Member States of its request to visit cold stores with a view to detect irregularities and fraud, and to report the results of these visits to the Commission.

The Commission announced that it will further reflect on measures that could possibly be taken to avoid similar problems or to detect them at an early stage. These may include amending of existing legislation or the taking of implementing measures.

2. **State of play approval of national residue monitoring plans in food of animal origin for 2006 (Council Directive 96/23/EC):** The national residue monitoring plans 2006 from the following Member States are ready to be approved: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Sweden, The Netherlands and UK.

The Commission presented the above mentioned subject. Other national residue monitoring plans should be discussed during a working group on 5 October 2006.
3. **Information on proposed reimbursements to certain Member States in the framework of the 2005 TSE Monitoring and Eradication programmes.**

Point 3 of the agenda was more an announcement than a specific point which has been discussed to the last Standing Committee meeting. This was only information on the financial process. The table was not mentioning all the Member States.

4. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Decision regarding a dairy establishment in the UK.**

The UK delegation informed the group that they agreed to review their position as regards antibiotic control in milk. However, they requested that further information on rapid tests from the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) be provided to support this change and to prepare their discussions with the UK dairy industry.

In order to ensure a uniform implementation in this area, the Commission presented an interpretive document on the strategies for the control of antibiotic residues in bulk milk. This document is based on information provided by the CRL and the opinions expressed by the Member States in the recent discussions on that issue. It is stated in the document that in case of a positive reaction to a rapid screening test for antibiotic residues, only 2 decisions may be taken: either to carry out a second test to identify and quantify the antibiotic concerned or to dispose of the milk as category 2 animal by-product.

The Commission agrees to consider the need for further discussion with the Member States, laboratories and stakeholders on strategies for the control of antibiotic residues in milk in order to ensure full compliance with Community legislation and in particular EU maximal residue limits.

5. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving certain national programmes for the control of salmonella in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus** (Doc. SANCO/2541/2006)

The vote took place without any comments from any Member States. Vote: qualified majority (280 in favour, 41 abstentions).

5 a. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision on safeguard measures applying to fishery products imported from Brazil and intended for human consumption** (Doc SANCO/10556/2006)

The Commission distributed the above mentioned decision and presented the text. The Commission proposed Member States to check all consignments of fishery products (of the fish species having high level of histidine) to test a possible contamination with histamine.

The Commission explained, in the light of a fair treatment of all the 3rd country, that this proposal is in line with the decision adopted in March as regards the histamine control checks for fishery imported from Indonesia, but having some formal differences introduced by the Legal Service.
Member States reacted to the presented Decision. DE complained the text was only just distributed and that did have time to analyse it. NL, BE, FR, DE and UK did not agree with the systematic check at imports because it is not up to the importing countries to control the sanitary conditions of the imported product but to the country of origin to guarantee that the exported products meet the EC conditions. Under some Member States request, the Commission decided to postpone the vote that will take place on Friday 29 September during the SCOFCAH on Animal Health and Animal Welfare.

5b. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Imports of fishery products from Brazil: Delisting of some Brazilian processing establishments and vessels

An inspection mission carried out in Brazil in June 2006, has revealed that the establishments 349, 1929, 2087, 3174 and the factory vessel 3864 were partially or not in conformity with EU requirements.

These premises are on the list of establishments from which imports of fishery products are authorized. On the basis of the inspection mission findings the Commission has asked the Brazilian authorities to immediately suspend the issuing of health certificates for fishery products to be exported to the EC from the above mentioned premises and to delete them from the list. The Commission has also asked the Brazilian authorities to provide audit reports of all establishments and vessels that are approved for exports to the EC, and therefore included in the Community list.

The Brazilian authorities have only suspended the issuing of certificates for fishery products from those establishments/vessels intended to be exported to the EC but they have not deleted them from the list.

Furthermore the Brazilian authorities have recently informed the Commission that establishment 3174 will be deleted, that the suspension of certificates for the vessel 3864 is maintained, and that the suspension of the issuing of certificates for establishments 349, 2087, 1929 is withdrawn, but no audit report was submitted as requested.

In the light of the above facts, the Member States agreed that the Commission proceeds with the delisting of establishments 349, 1929, 2087, and factory vessel 3864, in accordance with Art 12.4 (c) of Reg. 854/2004, in addition to the deletion of establishment 3174 requested by the Brazilian authorities.

The Commission has informed the Brazilian authorities accordingly.


The Commission, following the July Working Group, proposes to bring forward the prohibition for the placing on the market of table eggs from infected flocks from
1.1.2010 to 1.2.2008. The Commission believes that the date of 1.2.2008 is justified in order to allow the industry time to adapt to the measure in view of its possible economic consequences. Most of the Member States indicated that they can support the proposal. However, GR, IT, CZ and PT cannot accept anticipation of the date of 1.1.2010. FR said that it would like the measure to apply as from 1.1.2007. UK and NL are against the measure because of the possible impact on the trade in table eggs.

The Commission announced that it will reflect about the further development of the proposal and that a number of technical details still needed to be sorted out and needed further internal discussion. (in particular on the SPS requirements raised by FR and NL).

7. **Miscellaneous/Divers**

**Brazilian products**

DE and SE wanted to have the residue issues in particular and the issues related to sanitary conditions of the imported product in general in the agenda of the Public health section of the SCOFCAH instead of the Animal Health Section. They were quite disappointed this point was not on the agenda and most of the Member States expressed the wish to have some clarity on the Brazilian product issue.

The President ask the attention of the Member States to the fact that illegal imports of eggs are occurring in some Member States and reminded that imports of this commodity are not authorized because there is not Residue Monitoring Plan approved for eggs.

**Baby Spinach in Island – Esrechia coli 0157H7 – from USA**

The Commission informed the Committee that the USA Food and Drug Administration had found baby Spinach from a USA Biological farm to be contaminated with E. Coli O157. After consumption, 109 consumers were affected with apparently one fatal case according to FDA. They made the recommendation to cook this product. Iceland had imported a consignment of 1.2 tonnes from the US, and has informed the Commission through the RASFF. The product was also distributed in Canada and Mexico but the rest of the production has been taken out from the market.

**Announcement of the development by the sectors concerned of guides to good practice on egg products and whole sale markets.**

The Commission announced that it will send these guides for comments to the Member States. If necessary, working groups will be organise to examine these guides.