



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SANCO D1 – D(07) 412740

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 11 AND 12 SEPTEMBER 2007
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

Presidents: Alberto Laddomada and Alf-Eckbert Fuessel.

All the Member States were present, Poland was absent for some points (32, 34A and 37) but represented by Austria.

1. Foot-and-mouth disease situation in the United Kingdom.

Part I

On 11 September 2007, the **British** representative made a presentation on the issue. Foot and Mouth Disease confirmed in cattle near Guildford in Surrey on 3 August. On 6.8.2007 a second outbreak was confirmed approximately 1 km away from the previous. A protection zone of 3 km and a surveillance zone of 10 km have been established around the premises. Furthermore, a restricted zone was established to implement a ban on animal movements throughout Great Britain. Export of at risk live animals and animal products banned.

In the two herds in contact with the holding of the first outbreak 18 cattle, 8 sheep, 2 goats and 9 pigs were culled. In a neighbouring herd to the holding of the second outbreak 16 cattle, 3 sheep, 2 goats and 342 pigs were culled on suspicion.

Immediate action was taken to investigate the possible link. All possible routes of spread were investigated – movements of animals, people, vehicles etc. Investigations indicate that release was most likely due to escape of live virus from the drainage system that connects a commercial vaccine production plant situated near Pirbright site, to the sodium hydroxide treatment tanks of the Pirbright site.

Clinical and serological surveillance within the surveillance zone is now complete with no evidence of infection. Surveillance outside the surveillance zone also confirms negative result. The probability that live virus is present in the external environment on the Pirbright site or elsewhere, and could be transmitted to susceptible stock, is very low. The export ban has been lifted on 25 August 2007 for animals outside the surveillance zone. Movement of animals originating from surveillance zone is still restricted. The surveillance zone was lifted on 8 September 2007.

From the presentation and the subsequent discussion it was concluded that the British authorities have taken appropriate steps to limit the spread of the disease. The Commission reminded all Member States to keep very high biosecurity standards in their approved laboratories thus avoiding similar situation with the one in Pirbright.

Part II

In the afternoon of 12/9/2007 the UK representative informed the Committee about a substantiated clinical suspicion of FMD in cattle on premises outside the previously installed surveillance zone in the county of Surrey, north of Pirbright. The preliminary clinical diagnosis was supported by positive results in antigen pen-site tests. Immediate culling of the herd has been organised. Epidemiological investigations are being conducted and are ongoing, focusing on movements of animals, people, vehicles and equipment.

2. Highly pathogenic avian influenza situation in Germany.

The **German** representative made a [presentation](#) on the further development of the situation with regard to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of H5N1 subtype in Germany. In relation to the outbreak in Wachenroth of 25 August 2007 in a duck fattening unit with 170.000 fattening ducks several contact holdings had been identified:

The holdings in Hofing (180.000 ducks) and Trumling (28.000 ducks) situated in the Landkreis of Schwandorf) were clinically investigated with negative results on 28 August. A 3 km stand still zone was established and further serological and virological laboratory investigations were performed and HPAI H5N1 virus presence was then confirmed on 5 September in the holding in Hofing. Killing of poultry present on both holdings (same ownership and therefore same epidemiological unit) took place from 7-10 September. The cause for virus introduction is still unknown and investigations are ongoing. During examination of other contact holdings to Wachenroth in Simbach (LK Dingolfing) and Orfenburg (LK Rottal-Inn) avian influenza virus of H5 subtype was detected, which was then identified as low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). Birds on both holdings will be killed in the next days.

During the meeting the following document was distributed to Member States' representatives: "[Study on the efficiency of an inactivated influenza vaccine against HPAI \(H5\) in poultry according to CD 2006/705/EC - intermediate report](#)".

3. Low pathogenic avian influenza in Italy.

A [report](#) on Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Italy (Document SANCO/10384/2007) was distributed during the meeting and the Italian representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. Since the end of May 2007, 13 low pathogenicity avian influenza outbreaks have occurred in Italy. On 22 August, an H7N3 LPAI virus was isolated in a meat turkey holding located in the Lombardia Region. Since then, and until 7 September, 3 more LPAI infected meat turkey holdings were identified in the same region. Furthermore, on 14 August 2007, a LPAI virus of the H5N2 subtype was isolated in a free-range goose and duck breeder flock in Emilia-Romagna Region. All the viruses isolated in 2007 were unrelated to the H7N3 virus which caused the 2002-2004 LPAI epidemic in Italy and to the H5N2 LPAI virus that caused the 2005 epidemic in Lombardia Region respectively. The outbreaks concern a densely populated poultry area with a particular risk for further virus spread. Italy has submitted an [emergency vaccination plan](#) for approval. According to this plan, vaccination will begin in September 2007 and will last for 6 months, covering the Lombardia and Veneto Regions. Vaccination shall be carried out on all farms keeping fattening turkeys, laying hens and capons. The vaccination campaign is accompanied by exhaustive monitoring and active surveillance to: a) ensure that vaccination is carried out properly, b) to

evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccination plan, and c) to assess the evolution of the infection within the vaccination area.

4. Information from Estonia on the Newcastle Disease.

Postponed.

5. Information from Bulgaria and Romania on the classical swine fever situation.

The **Bulgarian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. Since the beginning of 2007, 3 outbreaks were confirmed (1 in domestic pigs and 2 in East-Balkan pigs from two free-ranging herds); the last one on 1 March 2007. The control and eradication programme of CSF is still ongoing. The first oral vaccination of feral pigs carried out in June and the second campaign is planned for October. Until now, the Bulgarian National Reference Laboratory tested 66,362 samples serologically and 6,942 samples virusologically. The only positive results concerned the outbreaks.

The Commission representative explained that although there are no outbreaks notified since March and Bulgaria has anticipated on certain issues, further evidence is required that the situation in Bulgaria fully under control.

The **Romanian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. In August 2007, 3 outbreaks of CSF were confirmed in the Timis County, in professional holdings. In total, 53, 983 pigs were affected and destroyed. Cleansing and disinfection of the holdings were carried out. The basic causes of the infection were: the poor biosecurity measures in all three holdings, the poor management of the company and the deficiencies in applying the immunization with the marker vaccine. Within the protection and surveillance zone, in non-professional holdings, a total number of 452 pigs were tested, all with negative results. The Romanian authorities decided to revaccinate all domestic pigs and to vaccinate all pigs in professional holdings in the Timis County. Currently, there are 159 professional holdings with 1,562,992 (566,302 still unvaccinated) pigs and 1,428,687 non professional holdings with 4,389,807 pigs (824,688 still unvaccinated). An urgent tender procedure for the supply of the necessary vaccine doses will start soon thus avoiding any delays and the risk of not having the vaccine doses needed for the further vaccination. Surveillance in the professional holdings and of the wild boar population is still ongoing.

6. Information from Hungary on the classical swine fever eradication plan in feral pigs.

The Hungarian representative presented the [eradication plan](#) in feral pigs in the Nógrád County. Since the beginning of 2007, 26 positive cases were found in wild boars (the last one reported on 22 August). Based on the epidemiological situation and the distribution of seropositive cases inside the county, the whole territory of the Nógrád County was designated as infected area. Certain measures were taken aiming at the prevention of the spread of the disease in the wild boar population. All the shot, found dead, road killed and clinically suspected wild boars have to be examined both serologically and virologically. If both serological and virological results are negative the carcass is tradable. In the opposite

case the carcass must be destroyed. Measures also apply in domestic pig holdings and monitoring is ongoing in the large scale holdings as well. Domestic pigs from small or large holdings may be moved from the Nógrád County only for slaughter after clinical examination, and negative serological test results. The Hungarian authorities informed the hunters and the animal keepers of the presence of the disease, distributed information sheets that contain the most prominent clinical signs and the obligations of the farmers.

7. Information from Italy and Portugal on the swine vesicular disease situation.

The **Italian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. Between July and September 2007, 13 outbreaks were detected during the surveillance activities in Calabria in Southern Italy (132 animals were stamped out) and 7 further outbreaks were detected in Lombardia in Northern Italy during the surveillance and eradication activities (22,413 pigs were stamped out). The province mainly affected was Brescia, counting 5 outbreaks. All necessary measures were taken.

The **Portuguese** representative gave an [update](#) of the situation following the information presented in the last meeting of this Committee on 5 & 6 July on the swine vesicular disease situation in Alentejo Region, at the border with Spain. The outbreak was notified on 27 June and immediate measures were taken. Protection and surveillance zones were established and animals from all the herds within the protection zone were tested with negative results. The surveillance has been increased although till now the clinical examinations didn't reveal the presence of the disease. On 3 September, the measures applied within the protection zone suspended and replaced by the measures apply within the surveillance zone.

Spain informed the Member States that the Portuguese authorities immediately contacted them after the identification of the outbreak. The 10km protection zone covers Spanish territory. In that area there are only 16 small family holdings, 5 of them not active. Samples from the 11 remaining ones were taken and the results of the inspections were negative. Movement restrictions applied in that area.

The Commission representative asked Spain to provide a report on the measures taken and of any further relevant information. Portugal was asked to extend surveillance to the whole country and to report regularly on the situation.

8. Information from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg on the bluetongue situation.

The **Italian** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. From 15/04/2006 until 14/04/2007, 238 clinical outbreaks were confirmed. Since then, no more clinical outbreaks were detected. In the last 60 days, 2,985 sentinel holdings and 25,566 sentinel animals were serologically tested. The surveillance results showed that 56 holdings were seroconverted. Virus BTV1, BTV2 and BTV9 were detected, with serotypes 1 (in Sardegna), 2 (in Toscana, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata and Sicilia), 9 (in Basilicata) and 16 (in Umbria, Marche, Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Sicilia and Sargegna). Entomological surveillance showed presence of *C. imicola* in 18 holdings in Sardegna and presence of *Culicoides* spp in 94 holdings in various regions.

The **Spanish** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. The first outbreak started on 18.7.2007 in a farm in the municipality of Tarifa (Cádiz) affecting 4 sheep. On 25 July the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) in Algete confirmed the presence of bluetongue of serotype 1. On 24 July a second outbreak was confirmed in a farm situated in the municipality of Almonte (Huelva). There were 40 sheep affected out of 1700 animals. On 24 August there was a confirmation of a 3rd outbreak close to the first outbreak in the municipality of Casares (Malaga) affecting 18 sheep. On 5 September a 4th outbreak was confirmed in a farm in the municipality of Almaden de la Plata (Sevilla) affecting 35 sheep. In all outbreaks bluetongue of serotype 1 was confirmed by the CVL, affecting only sheep. Following the confirmation of each outbreak, the Spanish authorities informed the Commission, the Member States, the industry and the autonomous Regions and all necessary measures applied immediately.

The Spanish representative informed the Member States about changes in their national legislation in order to enlarge the restriction zones. The authorities decided to reinforce surveillance and to increase entomological surveillance.

Member States expressed the opinion that it would be useful to get a map every week showing the bluetongue situation in Europe. The Commission representative explained that issuing such a map on a weekly basis showing the primary outbreaks might be possible, however, for the secondary outbreaks it might be possible to be issued on a monthly basis. Despite that, Member States shall notify secondary outbreaks on a weekly basis.

The **Portuguese** representative gave an [update](#) of the situation in Portugal. Following the notification of the first outbreak in Spain the Portuguese Veterinary Authorities immediately implemented a Specific Surveillance Program for the Bluetongue virus of serotype 1 in the border zones of the south of Portugal, in the regions of Alentejo and Algarve. All precautionary measures are being constantly evaluated, according to laboratory results, clinical evaluations and the evolution of the disease situation in Spain.

The **Belgian** representative gave an [update](#) of the situation. From the beginning of 2007 up to the 10th of September there were 2195 confirmed outbreaks (1474 in sheep, 719 in cattle and for the first time 2 in goats). Outbreaks are spread all over Belgium. Morbidity and mortality in sheep and cattle are much higher than in 2006. A number of holdings that were infected last year are infected again. Vector monitoring is ongoing using 24 traps and data is collected on a weekly basis.

The **French** representative made a [presentation](#). From 27 July 2007 until 11 September there were 203 confirmed outbreaks of bluetongue virus of serotype 8 in France most of them in the Nord department. The ¾ of these cases were detected because of clinical signs. The rest of them were confirmed following serological checks before animal movements and three of them were found when tests in sentinel animals performed. Most of the cases were found in cattle. What is important to notice is that this year there are cases of sudden death in sheep. In cattle, there is still a very limited mortality. From August onwards, there is a very notable increase in serological positive results. The vector activity during the summer period was low but immediately raised once the temperature increased. Currently three zones apply in France: the high risk zone, the protection zone and the surveillance zone. Movement of breeding animals: ban of movements within the protection zone unless tests prior to the movement are negative (28 days before their movement). The same applies from animals coming from the surveillance zone. Animals for slaughter: all animals and trucks should be sprayed with insecticide to avoid spread of the disease and once they have moved, animals should be slaughtered within 24 hours.

The **Dutch** representative made a [presentation](#) on the issue. Up to 12.09.2007 there are 1891 infected holdings (most of them sheep holdings) and 2041 suspected holdings. The sentinel monitoring programme will end in September and then the Dutch authorities will evaluate the situation and might propose a change in the monitoring system which will allow them to meet the monitoring needs.

The **German** representative made a [presentation](#). From 24 August 2007 until 10 September 3933 new bluetongue cases were confirmed, most of them in North-Rhine Westphalia where the highest concentration of vectors is also observed. The German authorities extended the restriction zones towards the north and towards the east at the area bordering with the Czech Republic.

The **Luxembourg's** representative made a presentation on the issue. Up to 10.09.2007 there are 414 (bovine and ovine) infected holdings, most of them bovine. Since 20 August 2007, the entire territory of Luxembourg is affected. The serological and virological surveillance which started in February on a monthly basis, checking 15 farms with 10 sentinel animals, gave negative results and therefore stopped on 1 September.

A map showing the restricted zone in Czech Republic in relation to bluetongue was distributed during the meeting. The restricted zone applied following the outbreaks in Germany at the area bordering Czech Republic and it covers territory of the following Regions: Karlovy Vary, Plzeň, Central Bohemian Region and the Region of Ústí nad Labem.

9. Information from the Commission on the avian influenza surveillance in Member States.

Document SANCO/10259/2007: first quarterly Report on "Surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds carried out by Member States January – March 2007" prepared by the Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. All Member States and Switzerland submitted surveillance data to the Commission. Concerning the second quarterly Report from April to June 2007, as Member States were asked to send the surveillance results using the new online system in place, the Commission reminded the Member States that the data should be submitted latest by 30 September 2007 as some Member States have not yet submitted data.

Document SANCO/10277/2007: the first quarterly Report on "Surveillance for avian influenza poultry carried out by Member States January – March 2007" prepared by the Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. All Member States submitted data to the Commission for the sampling of poultry holdings between January and March 2007. Concerning the second quarterly Report from April to June 2007, as Member States were asked to send the surveillance results using the new online system in place, the Commission reminded the Member States that the data should be submitted latest by 30 September 2007 as some Member States have not yet submitted data.

Concerning the report for the year 2006: a revised draft report on the wild birds was published on the webpage. The report for the domestic birds will be presented in a future committee. Members States were requested to send detailed information about budget which has not been used until now and which could be redistributed. In the subsequent discussion Member States raised a few questions and comments concerning mainly technical details related to the AI

online reporting system (exchange and sharing of information between Member States, access to the system etc.).

10. Exchange of views on the import of bovine semen from Australia.

The Commission has transmitted a letter of 26 July 2007 provided by the Australian competent authority requesting advice for possible exports from Australia of bovine semen collected, processed and stored between 9 March 2004 and 23 February 2007 in semen collection centres (notified by Australia to the Commission as being approved in compliance with Directive 88/407/EEC for imports into the Community of bovine semen from Australia) currently held in Australia, and its eligibility for export to the EU.

Member States were requested to send their comments on that subject by e-mail. It was agreed that if no written comments will be received from the Member States until 28 of September 2007, the proposal submitted by Australian competent authority is considered as accepted by the Member States.

11. Information from the Commission on reports received from the Member States in accordance with article 8 of Council Directive 64/432/EEC on the details of the occurrence of diseases listed in Annex E (I) thereof and of any other diseases covered by the additional guarantees provided for by Community legislation and of monitoring or eradication programme. (Not covered by Decision 2002/677/EC) in the territory of the Member States (Docs. SANCO/10082/2007-Rev.2; SANCO/10142/2007-Rev.2)

The Commission has expressed its gratitude to the Member States which had already submitted all required report, remained Italy and the United Kingdom to provide missing data and urged Malta to provide as soon as possible all compulsory information for the years 2005 and 2006.

12. Information from the Commission on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2007/26/EC as regards certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/10209/2007)

Although this item has been included under section A, for information, it has been presented for an opinion.

Certain structural requirements on the hygiene of foodstuffs and on food of animal origin, laid down in Community legislation, are not to apply to certain milk processing establishments in Bulgaria, until 31 December 2009. A list of those establishments authorised to receive and process without separation compliant and non-compliant milk has been established as well as a list of compliant establishments authorised to receive and process separately compliant and non-compliant milk.

The Bulgarian competent authorities have reviewed the situation in the milk sector and re-evaluated those establishments. According to this assessment only a limited number of establishments have the capacity to handle properly two separate production lines.

The rest of them have requested to benefit from a transitional period as regards certain specific structural requirements.

Therefore, the lists of establishments in Annex II of Commission Decision 2007/26/EC which comply with structural requirements and have been authorised to receive and process separately compliant and non-compliant raw milk must be updated.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

13. 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.

Document SANCO/10376/2007 – Rev.2 has been distributed during the meeting: draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/415/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in poultry in Germany.

Following a second outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 in a poultry holding in Bavaria, Germany has taken appropriate measures including the establishment of areas A and B. The Commission has examined those measures in collaboration with Germany, and is satisfied with the borders of areas A and B as set by the German authorities. Decision 2006/415/EC should therefore be amended to include these areas.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision establishing the conditions for the recovery of the foot-and-mouth disease and infection free status of the United Kingdom in accordance with Directive 2003/85/EC and repealing Decision 2007/554/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10268/2007 – Rev.6)

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have been confirmed in Surrey County in Great Britain. The authorities in the United Kingdom have taken measures in the framework of Council Directive 2003/85/EC on Community control measures for FMD and have, in particular, established protection and surveillance zones around those outbreaks. In addition, the UK has introduced further measures within the affected area, and in relation to the movement of animals of susceptible species within and out of Great Britain.

In order to reinforce the measures implemented by the UK, the Commission adopted Decision 2007/554/EC on certain protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom, applicable until 15 September 2007, which provides for certain restrictions on the dispatch of susceptible animals and products thereof and applies until 15 September 2007.

The United Kingdom removed the measures implemented in the protection zones around the confirmed outbreaks on 24 August 2007 and the measures implemented in the consolidated surveillance zone on 8 September 2007.

Based on information provided by the United Kingdom on 11/09/2007 (point 1, part I), it is now possible to remove the restrictions applied pursuant to Directive 2003/85/EC and Decision 2007/554/EC. However, the UK should ensure that in accordance with Article

62(3) of the Directive, no animals of a susceptible species are to be removed to another Member State from the previous surveillance zone until the FMD free status is recovered 3 months after the last outbreak.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

NOTE: In the light of the events described under Agenda Point 1, Document SANCO/10268/2007-Rev.6 has not been submitted for formal adoption. On 12/09/2007 the Member States were informed and agreed on this (see also point 14a).

14a. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision (Doc. SANCO/10385/2007)

Based on information provided by the United Kingdom on 12/09/2007 (point 1, part II), it is necessary to amend Decision 2007/554/EC in order to extend the period of application until at least 15 October 2007 and to enlarge the restriction areas in Annexes I and II to that Decision to the whole of the territory of Great Britain.

The French representative made the following statement:

"La France demande à la Commission que, dans le cadre des mesures de protection contre la fièvre pahteuse au Royaume-Uni, soient définies des règles harmonisées de gestion des lots de produits d'origine animale origianires du Royaume-Uni et mis sur le marché communautaire".

"In the framework of the protection measures against FMD in the UK, France expects the Commission to establish harmonised rules to manage consignments of products of animal origin dispatched from UK to the others MS".

Vote: unanimous in favour.

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Decision introducing emergency vaccination against low pathogenic avian influenza and related provisions for movements in Italy. (Doc. SANCO/10267/2007 – Rev.2)

Since May 2007 outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza have occurred in parts of Northern Italy and measures in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC have been taken to control the spread of the virus.

Italy has submitted to the Commission an emergency vaccination plan for approval. The Commission has examined the plan together with Italy and is satisfied that it conforms to relevant Community provisions. In the light of the development of the epidemiological situation in Italy, it is appropriate to approve the emergency vaccination plan to supplement the control measures taken by that Member State and to introduce certain restrictions on movements of poultry, hatching eggs of poultry, day-old chicks and certain poultry products. Italy will start the implementation of its vaccination plan before the end of September and will finish by the end of March 2008. In addition, surveillance and monitoring of vaccinated and unvaccinated poultry flocks as set out in the emergency vaccination plan should be carried out.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex D to Directive 88/407/EEC and Annex II to Decision 2004/639/EC as regards the introduction of model health certificates for intra-Community trade in and imports into the Community of semen of domestic animals of bovine species dispatched from the semen storage centres. (Doc. SANCO/10215/2007 – REV.1)

Directive 88/407/EEC laid down the animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of semen of domestic animals of bovine species and established the model veterinary certificates for intra-Community trade of that commodity. That Directive was amended to introduce *inter alia* semen storage centres and conditions for the official approval and the official supervision of those centres. Decision 2004/639/EC laying down the import conditions of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species sets up the model veterinary certificates for imports into the Community of bovine semen.

The purpose of this Decision is to amend Annex D to Directive 88/407/EEC and Annex II to Decision 2004/639/EC in order to

- introduce model veterinary certificates for intra-Community trade in and imports into the Community of semen of domestic animals of bovine species dispatched from approved semen storage centres and thus to ensure the full traceability of that semen in intra-Community trade.
- adapt Decision 2004/639/EC in line with Directive 88/407/EEC and to supplement the list of third countries from which Member States authorise imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species
- align all the certificates to the standardised TRACES layout
- align certain animal health requirements (residency periods for the donor bulls and additional guarantees for third countries)

Vote: postponed.

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/779/EC concerning transitional animal health control measures in relation to classical swine fever in Romania. (Doc. SANCO/10265/2007 – rev.1)

The purpose of this Decision is to prolong the protective measure for Romania until the 31st of December 2009.

Commission Decision 2006/779/EC concerning transitional animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in Romania was adopted in response to outbreaks of classical swine fever in Romania and applies for a period of nine months from the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania. In the light of the disease situation of classical swine fever in Romania, it is appropriate to extend the period of application of Decision 2006/779/EC until 31 December 2009. Decision 2006/779/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

The Romanian representative asked the Commission to shorten the transitional period..

The Commission therefore issued following statement:

"The proposed period until 31 December 2009 is a realistic period in which protective measures will be necessary as regards Classical Swine Fever in Romania.

The stringent and correct implementation of the eradication programme and emergency vaccination programmes is an absolute necessity for Romania to eradicate Classical Swine Fever meanwhile.

A review of the measures remains possible before 31 December 2009 if justified on the basis of the results achieved of the above programmes."

Vote: unanimous in favour.

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/805/EC as regards the prolongation of animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States. (Doc. SANCO/10264/2007 – Rev.1)

Decision 2006/805/EC concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States was adopted in response to outbreaks of classical swine fever in certain Member States. That Decision establishes certain disease control measures concerning classical swine fever in areas of those Member States where that disease is present in feral pigs in order to prevent the spread of the disease to other areas of the Community.

In the light of the overall disease situation of classical swine fever in areas of Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, it is appropriate to extend the validity of Decision 2006/805/EC. Decision 2006/805/EC applies until nine months after the Accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007. The purpose of this Decision is to prolong the application of the measures laid down in Decision 2006/805/EC until 31 July 2008.

The Bulgarian representative requested the Commission a statement as regards earlier possible review of the measures.

Statement of the Commission:

"The proposed period until 31 July 2008 is a realistic period in which protective measures will be necessary as regards Classical Swine Fever in Bulgaria.

The stringent and correct implementation of the eradication programme and emergency vaccination programmes is an absolute necessity for Bulgaria to eradicate Classical Swine Fever meanwhile.

A review of the measures remains possible before 31 July 2008 if justified on the basis of the results achieved of the above programmes."

Vote: unanimous in favour.

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/800/EC to prolong the application of the plans for

the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs against that disease in Bulgaria. (Doc. SANCO/10270/2007)

Commission Decision 2006/800/EC approving the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs against that disease in Bulgaria was adopted as one of a number of measures to combat classical swine fever. The Bulgarian authorities have informed the Commission about the evolution of the disease in Bulgaria. Given the epidemiological situation in Bulgaria it is appropriate to prolong the application of the approved eradication and emergency vaccination plans.

The purpose of this Decision is to prolong the application of this decision until end of 31 December 2007.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/802/EC to prolong the application of the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs and of pigs in holdings against that disease in Romania. (Doc. SANCO/10271/2007)

Commission Decision 2006/802/EC approving the plans for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs and the emergency vaccination of those pigs and of pigs in holdings against that disease in Romania was adopted as one of a number of measures to combat classical swine fever. The Romanian authorities have informed the Commission about the evolution of the disease in Romania. Given the epidemiological situation in Romania it is appropriate to prolong the application of the approved eradication and emergency vaccination plans.

The purpose of this Decision is to prolong the application of this decision until end of 31 December 2007.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving the plan for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Hungary. (Doc. SANCO/10153R1/2007)

Directive 2001/89/EC introduces the minimum Community measures for the control of classical swine fever. In January 2007, classical swine fever was confirmed in the feral pig population in Hungary. In the light of the epidemiological situation, on 24 April 2007 Hungary submitted to the Commission, in accordance with Directive 2001/89/EC, a plan for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs in the concerned area of Hungary. The Commission requested that an amendment be made to that plan. Accordingly, an amended plan was submitted by Hungary on 11 July 2007. The amended plan complies with Directive 2001/89/EC and should therefore be approved. The purpose of this Decision is to approve a plan for the eradication of classical swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Hungary (territory of the county of Nógrád).

Vote: unanimous in favour.

22. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on the renewal of the Community stocks of live attenuated vaccine against classical swine fever. (Doc. SANCO/10263/2007 – Rev.1)

The Community has purchased 1 million doses of live attenuated classical swine fever vaccine and made arrangements for keeping it in stock and making it rapidly available in case of an emergency vaccination of domestic pigs. Those doses have been made available to Romania in July 2007. Accordingly, they need to be replaced for the purpose of maintaining the Community's capability to respond quickly to the need to carry out emergency vaccination against classical swine fever. In addition, in the light of the overall disease situation in certain Member States the stock of live attenuated vaccine should be replaced quickly when depleted in order to maintain the Community's capability to respond to an emergency.

The purpose of this Decision is to approve a renewal of the Community stocks of live attenuated vaccine against classical swine fever.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

23. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision laying down the animal and public health conditions and model certificates for imports of certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines for human consumption from third countries and repealing Decision 2005/432/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10104/2007 – Rev. 10)

Commission Decision 2005/432/EC lays down the animal and public health conditions and model certificates for imports of meat products for human consumption from third countries. It also lays down the animal and public health rules and certification requirements for the importation into the Community of consignments of certain meat products, including the lists of third countries and parts thereof from which imports of such products are authorized. The specific treatments laid down for each third country by Decision 2005/432/EC are established in order to eliminate any potential animal health risk carried by the fresh meat used in the preparation of the meat products. From the animal health point of view, treated stomachs intestines and bladders should be treated with the same specific treatments provided for in Decision 2005/432/EC.

In addition, Regulation (EC) 722/2007 of the Commission as amended by Regulation of the Commission SANCO/2096/2007 lays down new BSE import requirements that must be taken into account.

Animal health requirements for importation into the EU of casings are laid down in Decision 2003/779/EC. Therefore, the products covered by Decision 2003/779/EC should be excluded by the definition of meat products and processed stomachs, bladders and intestines laid down in this draft Decision.

In order to ensure clarity, coherence, simplification and transparency as regards the definition of meat products, including treated stomachs, intestines and bladders, as well as introducing the new BSE import rules, it is appropriate to repeal Decision 2005/432/EC and replace it by the present draft Decision.

Due to the fact that Draft Commission Regulation doc SANCO/2096/2007 amending Regulation (EC) 722/2007 has not yet been approved by the SCOFCAH, the vote is postponed to the next SCOFCAH in order to have both legal texts approved at the same time

Vote: postponed.

24. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marking of animal by-products. (Doc. SANCO/10571/2006 - Rev.6) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament)

The Commission explained that this document has been presented and discussed several times in the past during the committee meetings and working groups.

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 lays down specific health requirements for animal by-products not intended for human consumption. It also provides that Category 1, 2 and 3 materials are to be collected, transported and identified without undue delay. In order to improve control and traceability, standardised colour-coding of packaging, containers and vehicles should be used for trade in those by-products and processed products. Regulation (EC) No.1774/2002 also provides that certain processed animal by-products are to be permanently marked, where technically possible with smell, using a system approved by the competent authority. So far, the Regulation did not specify the marking substance which had to be used in these cases due to a lack of suitable scientific data. The Commission issued an implementation study to evaluate Glyceroltriheptanoate (GTH) as a suitable marker for animal by-products processed in rendering plants. It is the objective of the attached Draft Regulation to introduce the fatty acid glyceroltriheptanoate (GTH) as marking substance and to specify the conditions for its application in the course of the rendering process.

The draft Regulation also authorises Member States to adopt supplementary measures for the marking of animal by-products and for further rules on colour-codes for animal by-products which circulate exclusively within their national territory.

Member States discussed the proposal and made comments concerning the colour coding system, and they raised the issue on the harmonisation with this system. The Commission representative is at the opinion that the proposed decision lays down a harmonised system and enough time is given to the Member States to do all necessary steps since it will apply as from 1 July 2008.

Vote: in favour by qualified majority, 19 votes abstained.

25. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 829/2007 as regards the transitional period granted for the use of commercial documents and health certificates for animal by-products. (Doc. SANCO/10201/2007)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 829/2007 of 28 June 2007 to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards placing on the market of certain animal by-products, as regards model commercial documents and as regards health certificates for imports of certain animal by-products provides for a transitional period of six months during which consignments may still be transported with the documents in the format applicable prior to its entry into force . Since the publication of that Regulation however several requests for clarification concerning the provisions applicable during this transitional period have been addressed to the Commission.

In order to facilitate the application of this Regulation for stakeholders and third country authorities, the original transitional period of six months from 24 July 2007 introduced by Regulation (EC) No 829/2007 should be extended until 30 April 2008. An additional period

should be provided for accepting such documents and certificates for trade in and for import into the Community.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

26. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision laying down 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 the applicable veterinary certification conditions, and repealing Decisions 93/342/EC, 94/438/EC and 2006/696/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10011/2007 – Rev.4)

Vote: postponed.

27. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 318/2007 concerning the list of approved quarantine facilities and centres for imports of certain birds into the Community. (Doc. SANCO/10188/2007 – Rev.2)

Regulation (EC) No 318/2007 lays down the animal health requirements relating to the import of birds other than poultry (captive birds) and the quarantine provisions applicable to such imports after importation. The Regulation sets out a list of quarantine facilities and centres approved by the competent authorities of the Member States for import of certain birds other than poultry. The Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom have reviewed their approved quarantine facilities and centres. Therefore, the list of approved quarantine facilities and centres should be amended accordingly.

Furthermore, the provisions in the Regulation stipulate that in case avian influenza or Newcastle disease is suspected in a quarantine facility or in a unit of quarantine centre all birds should be killed and destroyed before even the suspicion is confirmed by laboratory testing. However such a regime could lead to the unnecessary culling of birds that are actually not infected with either disease. Therefore, it is considered more appropriate to wait until the suspicion is confirmed to rule out any other cause of disease symptoms, before culling the birds in the affected premises.

The fact that only captive bred birds can be imported and not birds caught in the wild has been made more clear in the text.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

28. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2002/994/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to products of animal origin imported from China. (Doc. SANCO/10165/2007 – Rev.3)

Document SANCO/10165/2007 was discussed in previous meetings of this committee, together with the documents under items 29 and 30.

The Commission informed Member States about the ongoing mission of Commissioner Kyprianou in China. China continues its avian influenza vaccination campaign. To date, more than 7 billions birds have been vaccinated.

Vote: postponed.

29. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2005/692/EC concerning importation requirements for heat treated poultry meat products from China. (Doc. SANCO/10166/2007 – Rev.2)

See point 28.

Vote: postponed.

30. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision [SANCO/10104/2007 - Rev.9] concerning the authorisation of China for the importation of heat treated poultry meat products. (Doc. SANCO/10174/2007 – Rev.1)

See point 28.

Vote: postponed.

31. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2005/393/EC as regards restricted zones in relation to bluetongue. (Doc. SANCO/10246/2007 – Rev.4)

Commission Decision 2005/393/EC lists the protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue demarcated by Member States where bluetongue has occurred and where the eradication of the disease has not yet been achieved.

Restriction zones in relation to bluetongue currently exist in Spain, Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands. Following a substantiated request by those Member States, it is appropriate to amend the demarcation of the restricted zones already in place. Following the enlargement of the restricted zone in Germany due to the recent outbreaks in Bavaria, it is appropriate to demarcate a restricted zone in the Czech Republic. Decision 2005/393/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

32. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Council Directives 64/432/EEC, 90/539/EEC, 92/35/EEC, 92/119/EEC, 93/53/EEC, 95/70/EC, 2000/75/EC, 2001/89/EC, 2002/60/EC, Decisions 2001/618/EC and 2004/233/EC as regards lists of national reference laboratories and State institutes. (Doc. SANCO/10207/2007 – Rev.3)

The purpose of this Decision is to update the lists of national reference laboratories in certain Member States.

The competent authorities of certain Member States submitted requests for updating details of their national reference laboratories listed in a number of Directives and Decisions. Those laboratories are competent for diagnosing main animal infectious diseases.

Council Directives 64/432/EEC, 90/539/EEC, 92/35/EEC, 92/119/EEC, 93/53/EEC, 95/70/EC, 2000/75/EC, 2001/89/EC, 2002/60/EC, and Decisions 2001/618/EC and 2004/233/EC should therefore be amended.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

33. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down additional measures on control, surveillance and restrictions of movements of susceptible animals in relation to bluetongue. (Doc. SANCO/10178/2007 - Rev.4)

This draft Regulation was discussed during a working group and the Commission representative explained the main changes in comparison to the previous version. For the preparation of this new version, the comments made by the Member States were taken into account.

Directive 2000/75/EC lays down control rules and measures to combat bluetongue in the Community, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones and a ban on animals of the susceptible species leaving those zones. Commission Decision 2005/393/EC of 23 May 2005 on protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue and conditions applying to movements from or through these zones provides for the demarcation of the global geographic areas where protection and surveillance zones ("the restricted zones") are to be established by the Member States. Following the adoption of this Decision, the bluetongue situation in the Community has considerably changed and new experience has been gained on disease control. Based on that experience, it is appropriate to improve harmonization at Community level of the rules on the control, surveillance, restrictions and movements of susceptible animals in relation to bluetongue as they are of fundamental importance for safe trade in animals moving from restricted zones, with the aim of establishing a more sustainable strategy for the control of bluetongue. For the sake of clarity, it is therefore necessary to repeal Decision 2005/393/EC and to replace it by this Regulation.

Member States discussed the proposal and made comments to be introduced into the document and presented in a future meeting of this Committee.

Vote: postponed.

34. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down transitional measures for structural requirements of certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors in Bulgaria provided in Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. (Doc. SANCO/10202/2007 – Rev.1)

Commission Decision 2007/31/EC lays down transitional measures as regards the dispatch from Bulgaria to other Member States of certain products of the meat and milk sectors covered by Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 which lays down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. Those products are to be dispatched from Bulgaria only if obtained in a processing establishment listed in Decision 2007/31/EC.

The Bulgarian services have demonstrated that they now have the capacity and capability to evaluate establishments correctly for approval for intra-Community trade and have solved the former problems of control. Therefore, Decision 2007/31/EC should be repealed.

In Bulgaria certain establishments in the meat and milk sectors need supplementary time to comply with the relevant structural requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and 853/2004. Accordingly, the structural requirements laid down in those Regulations, should not apply to establishments listed in this proposed draft Decision until 31 December 2009, subject to certain conditions. As long as these establishments are in transition, products originating from those establishments shall only be placed on the domestic market or used for further processing in Bulgarian establishments in transition. The products must bear a different health or identification mark to that provided for in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Bulgaria should communicate that mark to the other Member States.

Bulgaria should ensure that only those establishments which fully comply with the relevant structural requirements by 31 December 2009 may continue to operate.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

34A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Annex II to Council Decision 79/542/EEC as regards the list of third countries and parts thereof from which imports into the Community of certain fresh meat is authorised. (Doc. SANCO/10538/2006 – Rev.6)

Council Decision 79/542/EEC sets out a list of third countries and parts of third countries from which Member States are authorised to import certain live animals and their fresh meat. It also indicates the time periods for which importation into the Community is authorised or not authorised, in relation to dates of slaughter or killing of the animals from which the meat was obtained. Those periods are indicated in order to allow the importation of fresh meat produced before the animal health restrictions were applied to certain third countries or parts thereof.

However, to guarantee a high level of health protection in the Community, it is appropriate to provide that imports of fresh meat obtained in a third country from animals slaughtered on or before the date of application of restrictive measures are only allowed for a limited period of time, namely 90 days. In case of consignments certified on or before the date of application of an import ban and transported on high seas at the moment in which the ban enters into force, that period should be 40 days.

The date from which imports into the Community of fresh meat from a certain third country or parts thereof are authorised, or banned, should be inserted in Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC in order to avoid imports of fresh meat produced in a period in which an animal health risk was present in such country or part thereof.

In order to achieve a high level of protection of health and in order to ensure clarity, coherence and transparency as regards the list of third countries from which imports of fresh meat into the Community are authorised, it is appropriate to amend Annex II to Decision 79/542/EEC and to delete the references to those periods. In addition, entries concerning certain countries, in particular Paraguay and Brazil, should be updated.

Decision 79/542/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

35. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation laying down the certification requirements for the placing on the market and the animal health conditions and certification requirements for import of aquaculture animals and products thereof. (Doc. SANCO/ 10576/2006 – Rev. 3)

Council Directive 2006/88/EC on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals represents a complete revision of the aquatic animal health legislation and replaces three Council Directives (91/67/EEC, 93/53/EEC and 95/70/EC). As part of the implementation of Council Directive 2006/88/EC, this draft Commission Regulation lays down the model animal health certificates for placing on the market of aquaculture animals (fish, molluscs and crustaceans) within the Community and the animal health conditions for import of aquaculture animals (fish, molluscs and crustaceans) into the Community.

This draft Commission Regulation represents a consolidation and simplification of the Community legislation and repeals Commission Decisions 1999/576/EC, 2003/390/EC, 2003/804/EC (import requirements for molluscs), 2003/858/EC (import requirements for fish) and 2006/656/EC (import requirements for ornamental fish).

The Commission asked the Member States to send their comments by email and informed them that this draft Regulation will be discussed in a working group to be held before the end of September.

36. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation No 2074/2005 as regards the certification requirements for import of fish, molluscs and crustaceans intended for human consumption. (Doc. SANCO/10091/2007 – Rev.2)

This draft Regulation is linked to the one under point 35.

As part of the implementation of Council Directive 2006/88/EC this draft Commission regulation amends the animal health part of the joint public and animal health certificates for imports of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs intended for human consumption, laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as amended by Regulation (EC) No. 1664/2006.

The Commission asked Member States to send their comments by email.

37. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decisions 2004/407/EC and 2006/311/CE as regard imports from certain third countries of photographic gelatine. (Doc. SANCO/10197/2007) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament)

Although this item has been included on the agenda for discussion, finally it was presented for an opinion.

The animal by-products Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 prohibits the importation and transit of animal by-products and processed products into the Community, unless they are authorised in accordance with that Regulation. Commission Decision 2004/407/EC provides that France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom shall authorise the import of gelatine produced from materials containing bovine vertebral column classified as Category 1 material, exclusively intended for the photographic industry.

The French competent authorities informed the Commission of the discontinuation of the production of photographic film in a factory situated in France, by use of photographic gelatine imported from USA and Japan in accordance with Commission Decisions 2004/407/EC and 2006/311/EC.

Therefore Decision 2004/407/EC should be amended accordingly.

Vote: unanimous in favour.

Miscellaneous / Divers

- **Germany** raised the issue of trade in heterospermic bovine semen (mix of semen collected from several different donors in one dose/straw) and asked the Commission to check whether Directive 88/407/EEC should be changed.

The Commission explained that since this issue concerns many Member States, the Commission will look into the matter and consider a modification to the Directive.

- **France** raised the issue of imports of equine animals from Australia that might have been infected by equine flu. The French authorities have received a letter from the Australian authorities asking whether France will allow the import of those animals. The French authorities have contacted the competent Australian authorities expressing their concerns on the issue. The Australian authorities are currently assessing the situation. The same letter was sent by the Australian authorities to other Member States. The Commission was requested to prepare a harmonised reply to this Australian request.

The Commission representative asked the Member States to encourage the owners of equine animals to vaccinate them against equine influenza and to take proper precautionary measures when importing equidae from Australia. Member States could request that horses to be imported into the EU from Australia are kept in quarantine facilities for 30 days before export, this being the most appropriate protective measure. The Commission will contact the Australian authorities to ensure that horses imported from that country are not coming from affected holdings.

- The Commission informed the Member States about an event which is organised on the occasion of the 50 years of food safety. This event will be held on 25 and 26 October in Brussels and Chief Veterinary Officers, the Chief Feed Officers, the Chief Plant Officers and the Chiefs covering the rest of the sections of the Standing Committee will be invited.

On the 25, in the morning, a meeting between the Chief Officers and the Commission will take place, having as subjects the Animal Health Strategy, the EC border inspection posts in relation to Animal Health and Welfare, Food Safety, Controls on food on Non-Animal Origin and Plant Health Inspections, as well as the Member States integrated control plans. In the afternoon, a major conference is planned with the

participation of Commissioner Kyprianou, on the food safety including animal welfare. The 300 participants will have various backgrounds, from experts previously worked at the Commission to students.

On the 26, the participants will visit a livestock market in Belgium and then an insemination centre. A visit to the pilothèque, a cattle hair collection centre which operates as a hair bank, an innovation in the area of animal traceability will follow. The event will close with lunch offered by DG SANCO.

In the framework of the celebrations, the Commission under the auspices of Commissioner Kyprianou intends to publish a book on animal welfare. The book will consist of texts and photos explaining what have happened decade by decade on that area. It will be published in English, French, German and Greek.

- The Final Report titled "Customs Working Group on Avian Influenza" has been distributed during the meeting. The Commission informed the Member States that the report will be presented in a future meeting of this Committee by a representative of DG TAXUD.
- The Commission informed the Member States about an outbreak of African swine fever in Armenia. An expert from the Community Veterinary Emergency Team has been sent there to assess the situation and the Member States will be informed about the results of his mission in a future meeting of this Committee.
- The Commission informed the Member States of an unscheduled SCFCAH Animal Health meeting will most probably be held on 18 of September.
- Following the entry into force of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 722/2007, EU models of import certificates are going to be accordingly amended to include additional the BSE attestations laid down in that Regulation. In order to prevent any disturbance to trade flows, the European Commission proposed to maintain the certification regime in place providing that the current models of certificates are accompanied by the additional BSE attestations as defined in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies as last amended.

The Commission has asked the Member States to take these controls in charge taking into account the specificity of the problem and with the necessary flexibility required by the situation. This information was also sent to the Chief Veterinary Officers on 11 September 2007.