President: Alberto Laddomada.

All the Member States were present except for some points Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania and Malta were absent but represented by other Member States. An expert from Turkey attended the meeting when the point 7 was discussed.

1. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin.

To ensure the correct implementation of the pre-export certification system set up in the memorandum of 2 September 2004 concerning veterinary certification of EU exports to Russia, the Commission provided the Member States with the latest information as regards the Russian import requirements.

2. Information from Romania on the classical swine fever situation.

The Romanian representative made a presentation on the issue. At the end of May 163 outbreaks were recorded. The main number of outbreaks is located in the South-East part of the country (Muntenia and Moldova regions). The emergency vaccination with live attenuated conventional vaccine has been implemented. The vaccination in wild boars has not been started yet.

3. Information from Hungary on the classical swine fever situation in wild boar and the eradication programme.

The Hungarian representative made a presentation on the issue. A total of 7 cases have been reported in Nógrád County in the wild boar population. No suspicion was established on domestic pigs. On the basis of the opinion of the National Expert Group and the decision of SCFCAH the whole territory of Nógrád county is defined as infected area. All shot wild boar should be examined serologically and virologically.
4. Information from Slovenia on the measures taken following the classical swine fever outbreaks in Croatia.

The Slovenian representative made a presentation on the measures taken following an outbreak of CSF in Croatia close to the border with Slovenia. The measures have been lifted on 22nd of May.

5. Information from Italy on the Swine Vesicular Disease situation.

The Italian representative made a presentation on the issue. The most recent outbreaks in Northern Italy were confirmed on 5.5.2007 (in Lombardia). Two new outbreaks in Cremona province were identified on the basis of clinical symptoms. At present, no link with the previous outbreaks was detected and no further spread of the infection was observed. In South Italy, two outbreaks were detected: one in Campania during the surveillance activities and one in Calabria during the eradication activities.


The Slovak representative made a presentation on the issue. The programme of eradication of pig holdings from Aujeszky's disease is carried out on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. Vaccination has been applied until 31.12.2005 and is prohibited since 1.1.2006. Monitoring of Aujeszky's disease is performed in all registered holdings on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic.

The last Aujeszky's disease (gE) positive samples were detected on 4 July 2006 and originated from imported piglets in quarantine. All holdings are recognized with the status officially Aujeszky's disease-free since August 2006.

Slovakia requested the Commission to add the whole territory of Slovakia to the annex of decision 2001/618/EC as a country being free from Aujeszky's disease.

6A. Information from the Member States on the Newcastle disease situation.

The Commission presented an overview on the Newcastle disease situation in Member States. In 2007 until today a total of 22 Newcastle disease cases were reported to ADNS. Bulgaria reported two cases in backyard poultry, Romania reported 14 cases in backyard poultry and one case in wild birds, Czech Republic reported one case in racing pigeons and Belgium reported four cases in racing pigeons.

7. Information from Turkey on the foot-and-mouth disease situation.

The Turkish expert made a presentation on the issue. 486 outbreaks occurred between 1 January and 6 May 2007 in Turkey. Because of the introduction of a new strain and the movement of animals during the Kurban Festival (end of the year) the FMD virus was spread all over Turkey. Outbreak investigations are ongoing.

The newly isolated virus was a close match with the viruses isolated in Iran in 2006, but also they were similar to the viruses isolated in the Middle East Region, particularly from Jordan. The spring vaccination campaign has started on 12 March 2007 in the whole country. It is not completed yet. However, the current coverage is too low to effectively stop the
circulation of the virus. The acquisition of vaccine for the next spring vaccination campaign has already been achieved.

8. Information from Italy on the Special plan for eradication of buffalo brucellosis in Caserta, Campania.

The Italian representative made a presentation on the issue. The presented eradication plan is a reaction to the worsening of the situation in Caserta detected last years. The prevalence reaches 37% in some areas, which is an exceptional high level. In order to reinforce testing and slaughtering of animals and movement control, electronic identification of animals will be introduced in the near future. The fundamental point in this plan is vaccination. That becomes compulsory in the high risk area. Negative animals could be moved only within vaccinated holdings. In order to eliminate any risk for the consumers all the milk should be pasteurized.

8A. Information from Greece on the bluetongue situation.

The Greek representative made a presentation on the issue. A mission of Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) was carried out in Greece for evaluation of the surveillance Bluetongue program between 23 and 27 April 2007. The Greek authorities collected blood samples from 10 bovine herds in each prefecture (randomly selected) following the protocol proposed by the Commission services. A total of 300 samples have been collected and tested. According to the result from Community Reference Laboratory (CLR) all the tested animals have been found negative for Bluetongue virus.

9. 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 (Doc. SANCO/10082/2007 and SANCO/10142/2007)

The Commission presented the draft annual report for 2006. 15 Member States provided the data before the deadline. The Member States should check the data and inform the Commission in case of a mistake.

10. Information from Germany on their vaccination plan against avian influenza.

The German representative made a presentation and briefly presented the results of the field trial on vaccination against avian influenza. At least one booster vaccination is required for full clinical protection of chickens immunised with a H5N2 inactivated vaccine under field conditions. Virus shedding after challenge of chickens and geese is, even after a booster vaccination, apparently not reduced to a level required to completely disrupt spread of infection to susceptible in-contact birds.
10A. Information from the United Kingdom and Italy on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation.

The British representative made a presentation on the issue. The outbreak took place in the Northern part of Wales. A low pathogenic avian influenza of the H7N2 subtype has been confirmed in hens bought from a local market on 24 May 2007. Poultry on infected premises have been culled and sampled and no meat has entered the food chain. A 1-km restricted zone has been established with movement restrictions on live poultry and certain poultry products.

On 25 May 2007 nine people were tested for influenza. Four of the test results were positive. However, these persons did not become seriously ill and had an uneventful recovery. The risk to the general public is considered to be very low.

The Italian representative made a presentation on the low pathogenic avian influenza situation in Italy. A low pathogenic avian influenza virus of the H7N3 subtype has been identified in samples collected on 21 May 2007 from a backyard flock situated in the municipality of Santa Maria di Sala in Venetia province (Veneto Region). All poultry present on the infected holding were stamped out. Cleaning and disinfection has been completed on 25 May 2007. A restricted zone of 1 km radius and monitoring zone of 10 km radius have been established around the outbreak site.

Preliminary phylogenetic analysis of the virus indicates that the virus represents a recent introduction in the domestic poultry population.

11. Avian influenza online reporting system: state of play.

The Commission representative presented the current situation concerning the avian influenza online reporting system. The system is going to be operational at the end of June. It is a very standard system and is similar to the system used for the BSE and TSE.

The Commission invited the Member States to start work with the new system in order to see any possible problems.

12. Information on communication activities on animal welfare developed and planned by DG SANCO. (AG)

The animal welfare factsheet and the CD ROM on "The Special Eurobarometer on the Welfare of the Farmed Animals 2005-2006" have been distributed during the meeting. The fact sheet is the first ever prepared on this area and has been circulated to the major media. The Commission had two Eurobarometer surveys (in 2005 and 2006) aiming to find out what the European citizens know on the area of welfare.

The Commission is working to better develop animal welfare on an international level. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) will play an active role on the issue. The Commission is preparing an animal welfare website for children as well as information tools for teachers to be able to teach children about animal welfare.

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

The Commission representative updated the Committee on the situation concerning the import of bovine semen from Australia.
The Commission distributed the extensive guarantees provided by the Australian government. Based on those guarantees, the Commission considers that those guarantees are sufficient and there is no risk for the import of bovine semen from Australia.


The Commission representative made a presentation on the imports of poultry meat products from China and briefly presented a historical overview on the issue. According to the results of the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) recent mission to evaluate the avian influenza situation in China (October 2006), the overall situation in China has improved, but there are still some problems left (traceability, vaccination, monitoring in unvaccinated farms etc.).

Document SANCO/10136/2007: "Information in relation to imports of heat treated poultry meat from China into the EU" has been distributed during the meeting. This document presents the outcome of a technical meeting carried out in Beijing in January 2007.

15. 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 item raised.

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2006/802/EC as regards a temporary derogation for the movement of pigs for slaughter originating from small holdings in Romania and the further use of meat of those pigs. (SANCO/10098/2007-Rev.3)

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 in that Member State. One of the measures of the emergency vaccination plan for pigs in smaller holdings lays down that the movement of domestic pigs from non-professional holdings and of pigmeat, pig products and by-products from those pigs is forbidden except for family consumption in the holding of origin.

Romania submitted to the Commission a request for a temporary derogation because of the unforeseen excess of pigs from small holdings that exceed the capacity of consumption in the holdings of origin. An amendment of the plan for the emergency vaccination against classical swine fever of pigs in pig holdings with a live attenuated conventional vaccine was therefore submitted. That amended plan authorises, under certain conditions, the direct movement of pigs from smaller or non-professional holdings to a slaughterhouse located in the same or adjacent county. The Commission has examined the amended plan and found it to be compatible with the objective of eradicating classical swine fever in Romania.

Romania has also requested a temporary derogation to be able to market the pigmeat obtained from those pigs on a county level in view of the major difficulties that arose to find a sufficient local market in the municipality.

The purpose of this Decision is to approve amended emergency vaccination plan against classical swine fever and to lay down until 31 August 2007 conditions so that the pigmeat of
vaccinated pigs from small non-professional holdings can be used on a county level rather than at municipality level.

**Vote: unanimously in favour, Cyprus represented by Greece, Lithuania represented by Luxembourg.**


Outbreaks of swine vesicular disease have occurred on 7 and 15 May 2007 in the North of Italy (the Lombardy region, province Cremona). Protection zones were established in the municipalities of Salvirola and Fiesco, province of Cremona, in accordance with Article 10 of Directive 92/119/EEC. The movement and transport of pigs on public and private roads within those protection zones has been prohibited. However, Italy has submitted a request for an exemption from that prohibition for the transport of pigs for slaughter coming from outside those protection zones in order to transport them to a slaughterhouse situated in the protection zones. The objective of this Decision is to grant this exemption for the movement of slaughter pigs to a slaughterhouse situated in the protection zones. Control and precautionary measures are laid down to guarantee that there is no risk of spread of the disease.

**Vote: unanimously in favour, Bulgaria represented by the Czech Republic, Cyprus represented by Greece, Lithuania represented by Luxembourg, Malta represented by the UK.**

### 17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 as regards extension of the validity of the transitional measures related to former foodstuffs. (Doc. SANCO/10107/2007-Rev.3) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament)

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 provides for a complete revision of Community rules on animal by-products and introduces a number of strict requirements as regards their use and disposal. In particular, it's Article 22 (1) (a) and (b) lays down general restrictions on uses of animal by-products and processed products. Commission Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 on transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the collection, transport, treatment, use and disposal of former foodstuffs sets out a number of transitional measures that are due to expire on 31 July 2007. In particular, Article 3 (c) of Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 provides that Member States may authorise former foodstuffs to be used in feed or for other purposes, without further treatment, subject to certain conditions set out therein. Pending the revision of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002, it is appropriate to prolong the transitional period until 31 July 2009. In the interests of clarity of Community legislation, it is furthermore appropriate to clearly specify that the uses that may be authorised under Article 3 (c) of Regulation (EC) No 197/2006 do not affect the general restrictions set out in Article 22 (1) (a) and (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.

**Vote: unanimously in favour.**
18. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision establishing the Community's financial contribution to the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat Newcastle disease in Denmark in 2005. (Doc. SANCO/1506/2007-Rev. 2)

Council Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field provides in Article 3 for the possibility of granting a Community financial contribution for the eradication of certain diseases, including Newcastle disease.

Outbreaks of Newcastle disease occurred in Denmark in 2005. Commission Decision 2006/579/EC granted a financial contribution from the Community to Denmark in the framework of these outbreaks. The financial contribution granted by this Decision is 50% of the expenditure eligible for Community funding.

With regard to the costs incurred by the Member State to eradicate this disease, the Commission has to fix the amount of the financial contribution.

Vote: unanimously in favour.


Commission Decision 2003/634/EC approves and lists programmes submitted by various Member States. The programmes are designed to enable the Member State subsequently to initiate the procedures for a zone, or a farm situated in a non-approved zone, to obtain the status of approved zone or of the approved farm situated in a non-approved zone, as regards one or more of the fish diseases viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN).

The United Kingdom and Italy has applied for approval of one programme to be applied within its territory. Both applications submitted have been found to comply with Article 10 of Directive 91/67/EEC and the programmes should therefore be approved.

One programme applicable to Finland has been modified. Three programmes applicable to Italy have been finalised and should therefore be removed from the Decision.

The purpose of this Decision is to update Decision 2003/634/EC accordingly.

20. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision concerning measures to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza to other captive kept in zoos and approved bodies, institutes or centres in the Member States and repealing Decision 2006/474/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10654/2006-Rev.3)

Commission Decision 2006/474/EC lays down certain requirements in relation to biosecurity measures and the preventive vaccination of zoo birds, in the light of the risk posed by highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 as well as rules for the approval and implementation of the vaccination plans submitted by the Member States. The Commission has approved 17 preventive vaccination plans against avian influenza for birds kept in zoos submitted by the Member States. Vaccination plans have been implemented by 14 Member States.

Experience gained during the last vaccination campaign and following the recommendations of the recently delivered opinion by the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal
Welfare of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) demonstrate that it is appropriate to extend the scope of the preventive vaccination plans to cover not only highly pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N1 subtype but also to protect birds against other H5 and the H7 avian influenza subtypes and to amend the administrative requirements for the approval and implementation of preventive vaccination plans, provided they do not endanger disease control. For the movement to the other Member States of vaccinated birds in zoos, approved bodies, institutes or centres certain additional animal health requirements have to be met and therefore the health certificates in Annex E to Directive 92/65/EEC should be modified. For the sake of clarity it is appropriate to repeal Decision 2006/474/EC and replace it by this Decision.


Decision 2005/432/EC has been amended by Decision 2006/801/EC in order to put the text in line with new health requirements and definitions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs, Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption. The specific treatments laid down for each third country by Decision 2005/432/EC are established in order to eliminate the potential animal health risk carried by the fresh meat used in the preparation of the meat products. Therefore, from the animal health point of view, processed stomachs, bladders and intestines should be treated with the same specific treatments as provided for in Decision 2005/432/EC and consequently submitted to the veterinary certification for their import into the Community.

In order to introduce the new requirements in the EU legislation and ensure clarity, coherence, simplification and transparency, it is opportune to repeal Decision 2005/432/EC and replace it with a new Decision.


Council Decision 79/542/EEC lays down 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.

In view of the entry into application of Regulations (EC) 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004, it is necessary to amend and update the health conditions and certification requirements for the importation into the Community of fresh meat derived from bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine animals, and domestic solipeds, farmed land mammals other than domestic ungulates and wild ungulates as laid down in Decision 79/542/EEC. The formats of all the model certificates need to be amended to take into account their compatibility with TRACES.

It is appropriate to lay down a transitional period for the introduction of new certificates.
The Agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products recognised New Zealand as a country free of *B. abortus* and *B. melitensis*. As New Zealand is now recognised as a country free of *B. abortus* and *B. melitensis*, according to Commission Decision 2006/854/EC, this recognition should be reflected in the import certification conditions in Decision 79/542/EEC.

For reasons of simplification, these amendments should be inserted into the model certificates, and Decision 79/542/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

23. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision laying down a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, specified pathogen-free eggs, meat, minced meat and mechanically separated meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products 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)

Commission Decision 2006/696/EC of 28 August 2006 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 sets out a list of third countries from which the commodities concerned may be imported into, and transit through the Community and lays down the veterinary certification conditions.

The import requirements for poultry commodities mentioned above should take into account the most recent scientific knowledge and developments on the epidemiology of avian influenza in the Community and worldwide. The scope of the control measures to be applied in the event of an outbreak should be extended from highly pathogenic avian influenza to deal also with outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza.

Such control measures would be equivalent with the measures applied within the Community and would be in line with the revised requirements for international trade in poultry and poultry products laid down by the standards of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE. The freedom from low pathogenic avian influenza should be certified based on the results for surveillance on avian influenza in poultry flocks. Therefore, influenza surveillance programmes should be submitted by third countries to the Commission for evaluation. In addition, the possibility to import certain poultry commodities from third countries that carry out vaccination against avian influenza should be introduced. In this case the vaccination plan against avian influenza should also be submitted to the Commission for evaluation.

For the sake of clarity it is appropriate to repeal Commission Decisions 93/342/EEC, 94/438/EC and 2006/696/EC which are replaced by this single legislative act.

24. Exchange of views on a 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 the Community as regards the extension of its period of application. (Doc. SANCO/10137/2007)

Commission Decision 2006/416/EC lays down certain transitional measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds and provides for measures to be applied by the Member States that have not fully transposed the provisions of Directive 2005/94/EC. That Decision will elapse on 30 June 2007. As of 1 July 2007
Directive 2005/94/EC on Community measures for the control of avian influenza will apply and must be transposed by the Member States by that date. Decision 2006/415/EC lays down certain protection measures to be applied in case of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in poultry to prevent the spread of infection, including the establishment of areas A and B. Those areas are listed in the Annex to that Decision and include at present parts of Hungary and the United Kingdom, where outbreaks have recently occurred. That Decision applies until 30 June 2007. However, as outbreaks of the avian influenza virus subtype H5N1 continue to occur in the Member States and third countries, which pose a threat to the Community, the measures laid down in Decision 2006/415/EC shall continue to apply in case avian influenza of subtype H5N1 is detected in poultry thereby supplementing the measures of Directive 2005/94/EC. Hungary and the United Kingdom have notified to the Commission that all control measures in relation to outbreaks on their territory no longer apply. It is therefore appropriate to modify the Annex to that Decision for areas A and B, to prolong its validity and to construe any reference to Decision 2006/416/EC as a reference to Directive 2005/94/EC.

Miscellaneous / Divers

- The French representative made a presentation on equine infectious anaemia in the Southern part of France in the department of Ardèche. A suspect horse from a small holding has been examined after some clinical signs have been observed. The samples were tested by the National Reference Laboratory and the positive result was confirmed on 25 May 2007. The French Authorities introduced measures in the holding. Disinfection has been carried out on all premises and a 3 km surveillance zone has been established.

- The Spanish representative updated the Committee on the African horse sickness situation in equidae imported from Morocco. One out of 20 imported donkeys was found seropositive. No symptoms were found in horses and also PCR tests were negative. A meeting between the Spanish and Moroccan experts took place last week in Casablanca. During the discussion, the Spanish experts realised that the traceability of the donkeys did not exist, there was no information as to the age or as to where the animals are coming from. Illegal vaccination has been suspected. A different non-commercial Elisa test is used from the one used in Spain. The Moroccan authorities would like to improve the traceability of the donkeys and the Spanish authorities offered to help them with the testing.

- The German representative informed the Committee that the bilateral agreement for the export of processed animal protein in accordance with Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 has been concluded with the Ukraine on 29 May.

- The German representative raised an issue concerning problems with import of ornamental fish from the Maldives. The import of ornamental fish is linked to those countries which are members of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), but the Maldives are not a member. The Maldives can therefore currently not export to the Community. The Commission will look into this issue.

- The German representative asked the Commission for harmonised requirements on the status of the brucellosis and tuberculosis free deer holdings in third countries and of the inspections before transport and import into the EU.
The Commission representative informed the Committee that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has been requested to provide a scientific opinion on the issue. Based on the opinion of EFSA, the Commission will then harmonise the rules in relation to this issue accordingly.

- The **Commission** representative provided information received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on an infestation on bee pests on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. The investigation confirmed that infestation was limited to that one island. The investigation also showed that the most likely route of entry of the infestation was illegal imports of honey bees.

- The **Commission** representative reminded the Member States to submit the information on the illegal trade of dogs and cats as requested by the letter sent to them in March.

- The **Commission** distributed during the meeting information received from the Ministry of Agriculture in Georgia on the confirmation of an outbreak of African swine fever in the country. Georgia has officially notified the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of 11 outbreaks of African swine fever in pigs. Tests carried out on samples submitted to the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright confirmed the presence of African swine fever virus.

- The **Commission** representative provided preliminary information on a possible circulation of the Bluetongue virus in the North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany. The virus occurred in a sentinel cattle herd close to Gummersbach. This farm was already positive in 2006 and it seems that the virus is being isolated again. Blood samples were taken from two test animals and positive findings were found from these tests. Samples taken between the 3 and the 21 of May in Germany conclude that the infection started in the middle of the April.

- The **Commission** representative provided information concerning multiple applications for authorisation of transporters and the possible measures to prevent it. There is a problem with the interpretation of article 12 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport in some Member States. The Commission have an electronic e-mail system helping Member States dealing with this sort of problems bilaterally.