1. **INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE CATEGORISATION FROM COUNTRIES BASED ON THE BSE STATUS (KVD)**

The Commission informed the Committee that it was considering the procedure for classification. 11 Member States had their status reassessed and this was published on 21st February 2002. The assessment will continue.

2. **INFORMATION FROM THE MEMBER STATES ON THE REPORTS RECEIVED FOR THE 2001 BSE PROGRAMME (LVDB)**

The Commission is preparing a report but is still awaiting information from some Member States. The deadline for requests for reimbursement is June 2002 and those Member States who had not yet submitted the relevant information were requested to do so.


Article 2, point 15 of Council Directive 91/493/EEC defines the placing on the market of « small quantities » of fishery products. However the Directive provides no definition of what constitutes a « small quantity » and Member States were asked to provide information on national guidelines.

Most Member States confirmed that no specific rules setting out figures for a « small quantity » existed in national legislation and they expressed concern at hygiene conditions if potentially non-inspected fishery products were sold directly to the retailer. The Commission is to consider whether to define this matter more precisely in the legislation or to leave it to the discretion of Member States.


The Commission distributed and presented a report of the mission to New Caledonia to evaluate the system for monitoring the production and export to the EU of aquaculture products and farmed game meat products. The Commission’s representative presented the main conclusions and highlighted the fact that the report reflects the response of the Competent Authorities to the individual recommendations made.

The Commission distributed and presented a report of the mission to Surinam to evaluate the conditions of production of fishery products. The Commission’s representative presented the main conclusions.


The purpose of the draft decision is to amend the maximum amount of financial participation by the Community in the new monitoring programmes in the Member States for scrapie in ovine and caprine animals. Under this new programme, the numbers of healthy slaughter and dead-on-farm animals to be tested are substantially increased.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The Commission proposed to:

- Prohibit the feeding of:
  - proteins derived from animals to ruminants;
  - processed animal proteins to farmed animals which are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food.
- Allow the feeding of eggs and egg products, milk and milk products to farmed animals which are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food.
- Clarify the rules for establishments on the production of fishmeal.

Vote: 79 votes in favour, 8 votes against.

See separate report for Section on Toxicological Safety.


See separate report for Section on Toxicological Safety.


The Commission presented the Committee with an amended version of the decision and explained that the text had been discussed by the Committee at the meeting on 19th December 2001 and modified in response to comments received over previous months in the Working Group and in discussion with the Legal Service. The proposal intends to lay down one single list of products of animal origin to be submitted to the veterinary checks procedure at the border inspection posts.

A discussion followed during which the following points were raised:

- the use of the Animo code in the internal market;
- the setting of time limit for risk based assessment can only be established with the adoption of the Council and European Parliament Regulation on Hygiene;
- clarification was requested in Article 3 for “limited percentage”;
- composite products: dominating element of product; each product must correspond to legislation in force and Article 3 aims to clarify this situation.

**Vote:** 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions.


This agenda item was withdrawn.
12 EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING PROTECTIVE MEASURES WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTED FROM THAILAND (DOC. SANCO/828/2002) (C.L.)

The Commission informed the Committee that the original decision had been changed and two additional urgent draft decisions had been included in this agenda point to deal with the problems of contamination with residues of veterinary medicines in certain products of animal origin imported from Myanmar and Vietnam that may constitute a danger for animal or public health. More specifically, the presence has been detected of veterinary medicinal products that do not comply with international standards and thus create a significant public health risk. The Commission presented the following proposals:

1) **Draft Decision of the Commission concerning protective measures with regard to poultry meat and certain fishery and aquaculture products destined for human consumption and imported from Thailand (Doc. SANCO/852/2002 Rev. 3)**

   This proposal concerns the presence of nitrofurans in shrimps and poultry meat imported from Thailand.

2) **Draft Decision of the Commission concerning protective measures with regard to certain fishery and aquaculture products destined for human consumption and imported from Myanmar (Doc. SANCO/857/2002 Rev. 2)**

   This proposal concerns the presence of chloramphenicol in shrimps imported from Myanmar.

3) **Draft Decision of the Commission concerning the extension of the protective measures provided by Decision 2001/699/EC, with regard to the fishery and aquaculture products imported from Vietnam (Doc. SANCO/859/2002 Rev. 2)**

   This proposal concerns the presence of nitrofurans in shrimps imported from Vietnam.

   It is proposed for all three decisions that Member States carry out systematic control testing on all batches of these products to ensure their safety and notify the Commission of their results through the Rapid Alert System.

**Vote:** unanimous vote in favour for all three decisions.

MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Clarification on the scope of Commission Decision 2002/69/EC regarding imports of products of animal origin from China was requested by several Member States. The Commission replied that:

- dog chews were not included in the legislation;
- Hong Kong has special status and therefore the Decision does not suspend their products;
- if a third country imports a product from China, reprocesses the product, this then becomes an export from that third country but of Chinese origin.
The Commission also explained that there had been extensive contact with the Chinese authorities regarding the distinction between wild and farmed crustaceans. The Commission included crustaceans in the ban with the exception of crustaceans which have been caught, frozen and packaged in their final packaging at sea and directly landed on Community territory.

(3) Following a request from The Netherlands for clarification on the new TSE Regulation regarding the use of the blue label the Commission informed the Committee that the provision was not to be applied retroactively.

(4) The Netherlands also requested information regarding unpublished research results on scrapie prions in muscle tissue in genetically modified mice. The Commission informed the Committee that the Scientific Steering Committee had been consulted to assess the implications of an article on this subject published in the Journal of the American Academy of Science and the Committee would be informed of the outcome in the near future.

(5) Italy highlighted the irregular use of anabolic steroids in Italy and was concerned about the diverging opinions following the Residue Group meeting. They asked the Commission if the opinion of the Scientific Committee had been requested and if so when it was expected. This matter was dealt with by the Toxicological Safety section.

(6) France requested information from Germany on the testing of carcasses in Bavaria. Germany informed the Committee that all laboratories had been checked and there were no more irregularities.

(7) In response to concerns expressed by several Member States concerning the administrative problems in receiving the agendas for the meeting, the Commission explained that although the new rules of procedure for the meetings stated that agendas and documents expected to be presented for voting should be sent to the Member States 15 days in advance of the meeting, in practice this was not always possible. The fact that 3 different units were involved in compiling the agenda, last minute amendments to decisions were often necessary and urgent points were often added to the agenda, all resulted in a lot of extra work for the administrative staff involved. The Commission proposed a compromise to send out the agenda at least one week before the meeting.

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg24/health/vi/reports/index_en.html

(signed)
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