1. **Information from Ireland on their BSE situation**

The Irish delegation distributed and presented a report on the BSE situation in Ireland, providing information about the total number of cases and the age profile of the cases. The delegate illustrated that the recent increase of cases could be explained by the fact that controls introduced in 1996/1997 show their effect only now. *The data contained in the report presented are attached as an annex to the present document.*

2. **State of play of the suspension of imports of products of animal origin from China**

In the light of detection of chloramphenicol in animal products from China and the subsequent import suspension, the Commission reported on the result of the second Commission/China meeting held in Beijing. The Chinese authorities have provided new residue plans and the results of the plans of the previous year and had tabled a request to amend the safeguard measures to allow imports of certain product such as fishery products (including surimi and cray fish), honey, royal jelly, poultry and rabbit meat.

The Commission clarified some elements of the residue plans and announced that the matter would also be discussed at the next SPS meeting in Geneva.

3. **Different aspects of the dossiers concerning the imports of products of animal origin contaminated with residues of veterinary medicines**

See point 2.

4. **Information to the Member States on the financial claims received for the 2001 BSE programmes**

The Member States were presented a table listing the claims submitted by Member States for the 2001 BSE programmes. The claims of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had not yet been received.
5. **INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION CONCERNING COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**

The Commission asked for an opinion from the Legal Service concerning the requirements for Community Reference Laboratories and National Reference Laboratories for Dairy Products. The conclusions of the Legal Service are that those laboratories fall under the scope of Directive 89/397/EC as amended by Directive 93/99/EEC and should be accredited according to ISO 17025 standard.

The opinion has been translated and will be soon sent to each CVO and to the National Reference Laboratories for information.

6. **DISTRIBUTION FOR INFORMATION:**

Follow up on the recommendations formulated in the report of a mission carried out in Kazakhstan from 10 - 14 April 2000 with the objective of assessing the implementation of Council Directive 91/493/EEC on fishery products: (DG(SANCO)/1004/2000 – MR final)

7. **DISTRIBUTION (BY E-MAIL) FOR INFORMATION:**

Draft Report of a mission carried out in Poland from 15 – 26 April 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Polish authorities for the up-grading of certain classes of food processing establishments and to review associated live animal control. (Doc. DG(SANCO)8541/2002-MR Draft)


The Member States considered a draft Regulation amending several aspects of Regulation (EC) 999/2001. The proposal was intended to:

- review the BSE monitoring programme in the light of the results obtained during the first six months;
- following conclusions of the Scientific Steering Committee and in line with OIE decisions based on similar scientific grounds, repeal the provisions on the destruction of bovine embryos and ova from BSE cases and the BSE related conditions for bovine embryos and ova;
- clarify the rules on the removal and control of specified risk material.
It appeared from the discussion that further in-depth study of the proposal was necessary. The vote was therefore postponed.

9. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision to authorise France to apply the requirements of Council Directive 64/433/EEC to certain slaughterhouses which handle not more than 2000 livestock units per year (Doc SANCO/1115/2002)**

France explained that it had sent to the Commission a request for authorisation to apply the requirements of section A of Article 4 of Directive 64/433/EEC to certain slaughterhouses which handle not more than 2000 livestock units per year. The derogation requested is justified because the slaughterhouse concerned is situated in a region suffering from special geographical constraints, with meat supply difficulties to the population of this region, and because of the additional guarantees and information supplied by France to the Commission. A draft Decision, consistent with a Decision already taken in relation to Italy and reflecting the French application, was presented to the Member States.

**Vote:** 72 votes in favour, 15 abstentions.

10. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation establishing a derogation for the transport of carcasses, half-carcasses, half-carcasses cut into no more than three wholesale cuts and quarters of fresh meat, pursuant to Chapter XV, paragraph 69, second alinea of Directive 64/433/EEC (Doc SANCO/3458/2001 Rev-1)**

Denmark informed the Committee about difficulties encountered transporting meat to other Member States, and in particular the quality of the meat at arrival if cooled down to +7°C as required in Directive 64/433/EEC. The Commission distributed an opinion of the SCVPH of 15-16 March 1999 on cooling of carcasses during transport.

The draft Decision would allow Member States to grant derogation for operators in the fresh meat sector from requirements in respect of transport conditions, in particular that fresh meat may be transported at temperatures above +7°C, subject to specific conditions.

It was decided to refer the proposal to a working group for further in-depth discussion.

11. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation updating the list of national reference laboratories for the analysis and testing of milk and milk-based
The draft Regulation is updating the list of Community and National Reference Laboratories for dairy products (Annex I and II). It is also publishing the references of the NRL for Switzerland and Norway and the list of the methods of reference validated by the CRL. As the German delegate could not reach her correspondent in the German Laboratory, the vote was postponed to the next Committee.

The vote was postponed.


For the sake of clarity and consistency, the Member States considered a draft Decision amending Decision 94/278/EC by updating the list of third countries from which Member States import egg products, snails, frogs’ legs, honey and royal jelly. The update was based on cross-references to lists already applied for similar or related products.

*Vote: unanimous vote in favour.*

13. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/69/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to the products of animal origin imported from China (Doc. SANCO/10149/2002-rev.4)**

The purpose of the draft Decision was to expand the list of fish species of which imports from China could be authorised, subject to a temporary intensified monitoring and testing programme to ensure their safety. Imports from China had been suspended following the detection of chloramphenicol in certain aquaculture and fishery products and the shortcomings identified during a Community inspection visit.

*Vote: unanimous vote in favour.*

14. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 97/467/EC on drawing up provisional lists of third country establishments from which the Member States authorise imports of rabbit meat and farmed**
GAME MEAT, AND INCLUDING SLOVAKIA FOR RABBIT MEAT (DOC. SANCO/10141/2002)

The Member States considered a proposal to draw up a provisional list of establishments in Slovakia, from which Member States authorise imports of rabbit meat.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.

15. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLY TECHNICAL VOTE ON THE DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLAGEN AND AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF ANNEX II TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/118/EEC (DOC. SANCO/4366/2001 REV.3)**

The purpose of the draft Decision is to lay down specific health rules for the importation of collagen and raw material destined for the production of collagen intended for human consumption. The proposal also intends to draw up model health certificates to accompany the imported collagen and raw material destined for the production of collagen intended for human consumption.

The Commission noted the Member States’ comments. It appeared from the exchange of views that further discussion was needed.


The Commission summarised that the draft decision provides details for implementation of the second paragraph of Article 15(1) (methods used in official control of residues) and repeals the relevant Decisions in force: 90/515/EEC, 93/256/EEC and 93/257/EEC. The content of the decision has been put together by an expert group.

It was pointed out the document does not differentiate between routine methods and reference methods as this concept has been superseded by criteria approach, in which performance criteria and procedures for the validation of screening and confirmatory methods are established (see also recital 6 of the document).

The Commission confirmed that the document has been agreed upon in Interservice Consultation and that recital 6 in particular was discussed in depth with the Legal Service.

The UK was of the opinion that the transition periods provided (2 years and 5 years for substances mentioned in group A and B of Annex I of Directive 96/23/EC respectively) were too short. The Commission replied that relevant written comments of the UK were forwarded to the Community Reference Laboratories (CRL). The
CRLs were of the opinion that the transition periods were sufficient considering that the basic requirements presented here were already contained in EN 45001/ISO 17025 which was mandatory for almost 10 years. A document with the detailed observations of the CRLs was distributed at the meeting.

Germany was of the opinion that Directive 96/23/EC should be modified first and that the decision should already propose minimum required performance limits for chloramphenicol and nitrofurans. Ireland would prefer the expression ‘violative’ instead of ‘non compliant’.

The document will be presented at the Standing Committee scheduled for 16 July 2002.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Austria wanted to know if meat marked with blue bars could be rejected at the border.

(2) Italy had some questions about casein import intended for industrial use.

(3) Denmark was expecting a Decision for 2 establishments in Greenland for reindeer and musk ox meat.

(4) Denmark also wanted to know what other Member States are doing analysing poultry meat, meat products and shrimps from Thailand to detect residues. Denmark is sampling each lot in a consignment. If there is one positive result, the whole consignment is destroyed. The Commission requested the Member States to provide information on positive and negative cases (comparative study).

(5) Denmark insisted on receiving draft Decisions, which would be presented for an opinion at the Committee, 14 days prior to the meeting. Germany endorsed the Danish request.

(6) At the request of Germany, the Commission clarified the situation as regards nitrofurans in poultry meat from Brazil.

(7) The UK wanted to know how long that the 100% testing regime for residues in products from China would be envisaged.

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/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html

Paola Testori Coggi
Director
NUMBERS OF NEW BSE CASES
SINCE PRESENTATION TO SVC
ON
BSE CONTROLS IN IRELAND
(MAY 2002)

TOTAL EXTRA CASES:- 31

DETECTED BY:-

- PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE – 12
- ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE – 19
  (16 FALLEN ANIMALS; 3 OTM)

(AS OF 16TH JUNE 2002 – DATA FOR 5 WEEKS)
## Total Case Numbers

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Age profile of cases

% in each age category

6 year old □ 5 year old □ 4 year old

Age profile of cases

% in each age category

![Chart showing age profile of cases over years 1996-2002 with bars for >8 years, 8 years, and 7 years categories.](chart.png)
SUMMARY

- Initial controls in 1989/1990 were insufficient to prevent exposure of cattle to the BSE agent.
- Comprehensive controls were introduced in 1996/1997.
- Benefits only now emerging.