

**SUMMARY RECORD  
OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18-19 MARCH 2003  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)  
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)**

President: Mr. Eric Poudelet for points 1, 6 to 10, 13 and 14. Mr. Michael Scannell for points 2, 5, 11 and 12; Ms Patricia Brunko for points 3 and 4;  
All the Member States were present.

**1. INFORMATION TO THE MEMBER STATES ON THE SUBMISSION OF FINANCIAL CLAIMS FOR THE 2002 TSE MONITORING PROGRAMMES (AW)**

The Commission requested the Member States to submit their financial reports and claims as soon as possible, preferably by the end of April 2003, the official deadline still being 01 June 2003. An early submission of the data requested might speed up payments.

**2. INFORMATION ON THE SECURITY CERTIFICATES LAID DOWN BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS TO ACCOMPANY THE CONSIGNMENTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR EC MARKET (CL)**

The Commission distributed a letter from the South African authorities in relation to SPS Security Certificates. The delegations were handed out a specimen of the new health certificate for fishery and aquaculture products originating in South Africa.

Member States agreed that the new certificate would apply as of 01 May 2003.

**3. INFORMATION FROM THE EXPERTS MEETING ON BOLDENONE HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2003 (SC)**

The Committee was informed of the outcome of the meeting of experts held on 25 February 2003. The experts had concluded that studies on the origin of beta boldenone were still required and outlined the points which needed to be investigated. In the meantime, a report summarising current knowledge would be prepared and discussed at a future meeting of the group of experts.

**4. INFORMATION ON THE PART OF THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES ON THE CONTAMINATION OF CERTAIN REARINGS OF POULTRY BY NITROFURANES**

The Portuguese authorities presented a new up-date of the situation following the discovery of illegal use of nitrofurans in poultry farms in Portugal and distributed a progress report.

The Portuguese authorities are continuing to implement their action plan. Following positive results from residues control, a second round of testing is being undertaken on drinking water, feed and animals of the relevant farms. When positivity is confirmed, the animals on the farm are slaughtered and destroyed. On 18 March, the situation is as follows: 12 farms have been confirmed positive, 9 are negative and 34 remain under restriction (of which 19 were empty and could not be tested in the second round).

In addition, a wide monitoring of poultry farms is being undertaken. As a first step, the authorities are sampling and testing the 227 poultry farms which represent 70 % of the total Portuguese production. Sampling has been completed for 197 poultry farms.

15/25 pig farms and 9/29 rabbit farms have also been sampled.

In order to identify the possible source of this contamination, the Portuguese authorities have collected 276 samples from feed producing plants, exceeding the foreseen figure of 155 samples. Furaladone was found in large quantities at two wholesalers of pharmaceutical products and one home-mixer.

The samples have been sent to official laboratories in other Member States and results are expected soon. The Commission thanked the Member States for this assistance.

The Portuguese delegation informed on the measures taken on 16 March 2003 with regard to the recall of products in the food chain. This overall recall of poultry meat from Portugal frozen before 14 March 2003 has been notified through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Although the recall concerns all frozen poultry, which can be easily identified by its health mark, several Member States requested the Portuguese delegation to make available the distribution list, in order to be able to locate the products and retrieve them from the food chain. The Committee also wished to receive the analytical results for poultry and feed as soon as they became available.

As regards live animals, Portugal confirmed that 1 day-old chicks were sent to Spain, which excludes that they could have been contaminated.

The Portuguese authorities will continue to report in writing on an on-going basis through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed. The issue will be reviewed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health of 25 March 2003.

The Commission will maintain constant contact with the Portuguese competent authorities to keep the situation under review.

All Member States which have not yet done so will provide their results of nitrofurans residue monitoring at the latest by 31 March 2003, indicating also the method used.

**5. PRESENTATION OF THE COMPLETE FOLLOW-UP OF THE FVO MISSION TO CANADA FROM 19 TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2000 ON THE CONTROL OF RESIDUES IN LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS (DG SANCO 1188/2000) - RESIDUE SAMPLING PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 2001 TO DECEMBER 2002 - (XP/PVG/NG)**

The Commission distributed and presented a table summarising the core elements and the state of progress of the Canadian Residue Audit – Action Plan which was set up following the outcome of a EU mission in Canada on the control of residues in live animals and animal products. The Commission's representative pointed out that although many of the deadlines had not been met, progress had been made in all the actions planned.

The document also contained the results of the Canadian residue-sampling programme 2001-2002.

**6. DISTRIBUTION FOR INFORMATION / DISTRIBUTION POUR INFORMATION:**

- Final report of a mission carried out in Cyprus from 23 September to 27 September 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Cypriot authorities for the upgrading of certain classes of food processing establishments and to review associated live animal controls (DG(SANCO)/8612/2002)
- Final report of a mission carried out in Malta from 30 September to 4 October 2002 in order to review the plan submitted by the Maltese authorities for the upgrading of certain classes of food processing establishments and to review associated live animal controls (DG(SANCO)/8696/2002)
- Report of a mission carried out in the Slovak Republic from 27 to 31 January 2003 in order to evaluate the implementation of certain measures aimed at the eradication, control and prevention of bovine spongiform encephalopathies (BSE) and the system of controls applied in the sector of animal nutrition (DG(SANCO)/9004/2003)
- Report of a mission carried out in Poland from 20 to 24 January 2003 in order to evaluate the implementation of certain measures aimed at the eradication, control and prevention of bovine spongiform encephalopathies (BSE) and the system of controls applied in the sector of animal nutrition (DG(SANCO)/9005/2003)
- Report of a mission carried out in Hungary from 27 to 31 January 2003 in order to evaluate the implementation of certain measures aimed at the eradication, control and prevention of bovine spongiform encephalopathies (BSE) and the system of controls applied in the sector of animal nutrition (DG(SANCO)/9006/2003)
- Report of a mission to Lithuania from 27 to 31 January 2003 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/9016/2003)
- Report of a mission carried out in Lithuania from 10 to 14 February 2003 in order to review the follow-up action taken by the competent authorities with regard to the up-grading of certain classes of food processing establishments and associated live animal controls and in order to review additional public health and animal health controls (DG(SANCO)/9081/2003)

**7. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2002/677/EEC LAYING DOWN STANDARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMMES OF ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES CO-FINANCED BY THE COMMUNITY AND REPEALING DECISION 2000/322/EC (SANCO/1147/2003, REV.3) (PM)**

The Member States considered a draft Decision laying down standard reporting requirements for control programmes of zoonotic salmonella, which are co-financed by the Community on the basis of Council Decision 90/424/EEC. The Commission pointed out that similar reporting requirements have already been laid down for other programmes of eradication and control of animal diseases in Commission Decision 2002/677/EC. The proposal was presented in view of harmonising the reporting systems in order to collect meaningful and comparable information. Certain minor changes were agreed in order to clarify the text.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

**8. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EC) No 999/2001 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS THE IMPORT OF LIVE OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS (DOCUMENT SANCO/3926/2002, REV. 4) (JM)**

Ovine and caprine animals imported into the Community after 1 October 2003 are to be subject to the presentation of an international animal health certificate attesting that either they were born in and continuously reared on holdings in which a case of scrapie has never been diagnosed or are sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype, coming from a holding where no case of scrapie has been reported in the last 6 months (so they cannot act as fomites).

The proposal had been submitted to the WTO subsequent to the Committee's favourable technical opinion expressed at the SCFCAH of 16/12/2002. The Member States were presented the above proposal for final opinion:

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

**9. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COUNCIL DECISION 98/256/EC CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (DOCUMENT SANCO/850/2002, REV. 2) (JM)**

Withdrawn.

**10. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COMMISSION DECISION 2003/126/EC AS REGARDS THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TWO COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (DOCUMENT SANCO/1214/2003-REV. 5) (KVD/PC)**

The Member States were presented a draft Decision to grant financial assistance for two projects respectively being set up in the Community Reference Laboratories in Weymouth (1) and Weybridge (2), United Kingdom.

The objectives of the projects are:

- (1) To investigate some aspects of microbiological accumulation/contamination in certain bivalve shellfish in relation to human health;
- (2) The analysis of results of the Community BSE monitoring programme and the subsequent development of an epidemiological valid integrated approach to initial and continuing evaluation of country BSE status.

The Commission distributed the additions to the respective CRL work programmes for 2003 (Doc. SANCO/33/2003).

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour.**

The Commission insisted on having the Member States' full commitment to both these projects.

**11. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM SRI LANKA (DOCUMENT SANCO/10041/2003-REV.1) (RM)**

The purpose of the draft Decision was to lay down detailed rules concerning the importation of fishery products into the Community from Sri Lanka in accordance with Directive 91/493/EEC and to draw up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and a list of freezer vessels equipped in accordance with the requirements of Directive 92/45/EEC.

**Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent.**

**12. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 97/296/EC DRAWING UP THE LIST OF THIRD COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE IMPORT OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IS AUTHORISED, WITH RESPECT TO SRI LANKA (DOCUMENT SANCO/10042/2003-REV.1) (RM)**

Subsequent to the opinion expressed under point 11, the Member States considered a proposal to add Sri Lanka to the list in part I of the Annex to Decision 97/296/EC.

**Vote: 82 votes in favour, 5 votes absent.**

**13. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISIONS/REGULATIONS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTING PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL MEASURES FOR REGULATION (EC) NO 1774/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL LAYING DOWN HEALTH RULES CONCERNING ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (SANCO/... /2003) (MM)**

The Commission distributed 16 draft Decisions and Regulations laying down a number of implementing measures (derogations) and transitional measures in relation to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002. One more proposal was being prepared. These proposals (a total of 17) will be submitted for an opinion at the SCFCAH of 15-16 April 2003.

**14. MISCELLANEOUS**

- (1) A questionnaire on actions taken by the Member States following positive findings in residues monitoring was distributed. Member States were asked to provide answers to the Commission by 31 May 2003.
- (2) The Italian delegation raised the issue of the use of carbon monoxide in thuna fish, a practice applied to maintain the fresh looking colour of the product. The Netherlands delegation informed that they had also been confronted with this practice, which they had considered as misleading for the consumer. The Commission stated that the issue would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.
- (3) Sweden sought clarification concerning imports of semen, ova and embryos of sheep and goats in relation to BSE (Dir. 92/65/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1282/2002).
- (4) Spain questioned the Commission concerning the language of the export certificates for products of animal origin transiting through Poland or another country. Will the certificate have to be translated?
- (5) In reply to a question from the French delegation, the Commission informed the Committee that a formal report to the Council concerning the degree of implementation of the 'acquis' as regards veterinary issues in the Acceding countries is being prepared.
- (6) The Commission made the following statement, clarifying an earlier statement made at the SCFCAH of 06 November 2002:

*“At the SCFCAH meeting of 6/11/2002 the Commission, commenting on item 18 on the agenda of that day, stated that “in a situation where only one supplier is available on the market, rules on public procurement are not relevant”. This statement referred to the obligation for national authorities to comply with applicable rules on public procurement and to the fact that in some cases such rules could provide for exceptions to the general principle requiring the publication of an open call for tenders.*

*From the feedback from the Member States following that statement, the Commission considers that a clarification as to what is the relevant meaning of “market” in such context is necessary.*

*The statement included in the minutes of the above meeting refers to the Community market, not the market in each Member State. Community rules on public procurement apply unless an exception is envisaged therefrom and applicable to the specific case. In particular, such rules require the contracting authority to issue an open call for tender unless it could be demonstrated that the product responding to the technical requirements from the demand side could only be provided by one supplier on the EU market.”*

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](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html)

Paola Testori Coggi  
Director