1. Presentation of the report of experts group on boldenone (SC)

The Commission presented the outcome of the meeting of 30 September 2003 on the control of boldenone in calves. The group of experts concluded that only 17 beta boldenone conjugates in urine of young calves could be used as a proof of illegal treatment, provided that some specific sampling procedures were applied to avoid faecal contamination. The Committee endorsed these conclusions to be used as guidance for control of boldenone by the MS.

The Commission thanked the group of experts, in particular its chairman, Professor Hubert de Brabander for their contribution towards a harmonised approach for the control of boldenone.

2. Presentation of the Commission Working Document with regard to the state of play on the prohibitions to feed animal protein to farmed animals to prevent transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

The Commission presented to the Member States the state of play on the prohibitions to feed animal protein to farmed animals to prevent transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The current feed ban gives a high level of public health protection and is aimed at eliminating the exposure of new animals to the BSE agent through feed, thus eradicating BSE over time.

Whereas previous bans, where only ruminant or mammalian meat-and-bone meal was banned in the feed of ruminants, have not been effective, by extending the prohibition to all farmed species, it is possible to exclude cross-feeding at farm level and it is also much easier to prevent cross-contamination in feed mills and during storage and transport.
Also, the current feed ban can be effectively controlled by microscopy since differentiation of the origin of the protein (ruminant or other) is not necessary. Finally, the provisions of the current feed ban are simple and easy to explain not only to the industry, but also to the general public and consumers, which may help to increase confidence in the safety of beef.

Nevertheless, animal by-products derived from animals fit for human consumption are currently disposed of mainly in a non-economic way such as direct incineration or land-filling. Moreover, the feed ban increases the production cost of meat (increased animal feeding costs and extra costs for the disposal of by-products) and therefore undermines the competitiveness of meat produced in the Community compared to third countries.


The Commission presented to the Member States its Annual Report on the monitoring of transmissible spongiform encephalophaties (TSEs) in 2002. The report covers the results on the monitoring of bovine animals, sheep and goats.

Information on TSE in ruminants, such as the age distribution of infected animals and the genotypes of ovine animals, is available in the “Report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of TSE in 2002” at the BSE web-site of DG SANCO:


4. **Distribution pour information / Distribution for information:**

- Report of a mission carried out in Latvia from 1 to 5 September 2003 in order to review the plan submitted by the Latvian Authorities for the upgrading of poultry meat and egg products establishments and the organisation of pre-slaughter inspection and post-mortem inspection of poultry [DG(SANCO)/9231/2003]

- Report of a mission carried out in Malta from 3 to 5 September 2003 in order to review the follow-up action taken by the Maltese Authorities with regard to the upgrading of poultry meat establishments and their supervision [DG(SANCO)/9227/2003]

5. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving on behalf of the European Community amendments to the annexes to the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to**
protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products (Document SANCO/10450/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision approving on behalf of the European Community amendments to the annexes to the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products.

Indeed, under the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products, the two Parties determined equivalence between the respective sanitary provisions concerning gelatine and collagen.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

6. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on health certificates for the importation of animal products from the United States of America (Document SANCO/10451/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on health certificates for the importation of animal products from the United States of America.

Indeed, under the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products, the two Parties determined equivalence between the respective sanitary provisions concerning gelatine and collagen.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/657/EC as regards the setting of Minimum Required Performance Limits (MRPLs) for certain residues in food of animal origin: malachite green in aquaculture products (Document SANCO/4163/2003)

The Commission proposed to the member States to set the MRPL for the detection of malachite green expressed as the sum of malachite green and its metabolite leuco malachite green at 2 µg/kg.

The Commission further explained that the value had been chosen following the advice of the competent Community Reference Laboratory (Fougeres, France), which carried out an enquiry in the National Reference Laboratories on the levels currently applied and the levels reachable. The values used in the national residue plans were also taken into consideration and the value of 2 µg/kg was retained because it is suitable for screening methods (HPLC).
Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)

8. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2001/881/EC drawing up a list of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries, and 2002/459/EC listing the units in the ANIMO computer network (Document SANCO/10558/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a Draft Decision amending Decisions 2001/881/EC drawing up a list of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries, and 2002/459/EC listing the units in the ANIMO computer network.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

9. Exchange of views and possible technical vote of the Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation on transitional measures as regards import and transit of certain products from certain third countries (Document SANCO/4096/2003, Rev. 1)


Vote: To be voted at the 04-05 November 2003 SCFCAH

10. Exchange of views and possible technical vote of the Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation as regards alternative means of disposal of animal by-products (Document SANCO/2153/2003, Rev. 6)

The Commission presented to the Member States a Draft Commission Regulation as regards alternative means of disposal of animal by-products. Some Member States expressed their wish to see more flexibility in the combustion of Category 1 fat. Nevertheless, the Commission believes that if Category 1 fat was to be incinerated in Category 2 and 3 plants, they could potentially enter the food chain in case of fraud.

Vote: To be voted at the 04-05 November 2003 SCFCAH

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Directive setting-up conditions for the microscopic detection, identification or estimation of the amount constituents of animal origin (defined as products from processing bodies and body-parts of mammals, poultry and fish) in feedingstuffs.

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this directive by 01 March 2004.

To be voted at the 20 November 2003 SCFCAH


The Commission presented to the Member States a Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards monitoring of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in small ruminants, as well as a working document explaining the rationale for the proposed changes to sample sizes for monitoring of TSEs in sheep and goats.

To be voted at the 18 November 2003 SCFCAH


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation amending Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the import of cervid products from Canada and the United States of America. The regulation would aim at minimising the potential public and animal health risk posed by the importation of fresh meat, meat products and meat preparations of farmed and wild cervidae.

14. Miscellaneous / Divers

• The Commission presented a draft Regulation (Document SANCO/4076/2003) on transitional measures under regulation (EC) No 1774/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the import and transit of certain products from certain third countries. It concerns a derogation regarding the importation from Australia, Canada, China and the United States of America and would apply from 1 January 2004 until 30 April 2004 in the case of products from intermediate plants and 31 October 2005 in the case of products from processing plants.
To be voted at the 04-05 November 2003 SCFCAH


- The Commission informed the Member States that the 2003 national residue monitoring plans for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom were due to be approved on 24 October. The plan for Ireland is ready to be approved and the plans for Germany, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Italy, and France will be discussed at the next residue expert meeting on 1 December 2003.

- The Swedish delegation informed the Commission and the other Member States on a case of NOR 98/TSE in sheep, following an 11 September 2003 rapid test, which was performed at slaughter on an eight year old ewe, within the Swedish control programme for TSE. Even though this is not a case of classical scrapie, all the requirements set out in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and in the Swedish national scrapie control programme are applied.

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

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