

**SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 NOVEMBER 2003
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(CMT/2003/5545)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)
(CMT/2003/5547)
(Section Animal Health)
(CMT/2003/5548)**

President: Eric Poudelet for points 2-4a, 6, 8-9 & 22; Patricia Brunko for point 1; Michael Scannel for points 5 & 10-18, Bernard Van Goethem for points 7 & 19-21.

All the Member States were present.

1. Follow-up of Decision 2003/460/EC on emergency measures regarding hot chilli and hot chilli products with the transmission of results obtained in the Member States according to Article 3

The Commission distributed the first three-monthly report established by certain Member States as requested by Decision 2003/460/EC on emergency measures regarding hot chilli and hot chilli products. In addition, a summary of the Rapid Alert System notifications indicating positive findings of Sudan dyes and a summary of favourable tests carried out by Member States was also provided. On the basis of this information, Member States agreed to an approach aiming at the extension of the current measures to cover other dyes and a further chilli product (curry powder).

2. Preliminary information on the results of the collection of data on the trends and sources of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in the year 2002

The Commission presented to the Member States the preliminary results of the collection of data on the trends and sources of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in the year 2002. Based on the results, the numbers of reported human zoonoses cases tend to decrease or remain at the same level as in previous years. An interesting exception was the number of human brucellosis cases, where an increase was observed after many years with a decreasing trend. For the first time, a decrease in the number of reported human campylobacteriosis cases was reported. The draft report from 2002 will be sent to the Member States for their comments before the end of 2003.

3. Presentation of the Annual report on the monitoring of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in Member States in 2002 in accordance with Chapter B II in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the

European Parliament and of the Council, amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1494/2002

The Commission presented to the Member States an updated version of its Annual Report on the monitoring of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (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:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/bse/testing/annual_report_2002_en.pdf

4. Distribution pour information / Distribution for information:

- Report of a mission to Poland from 14 to 18 July 2003 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/9216/2003)
- Report of a mission to Latvia from 08 to 12 September 2003 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/9217/2003)
- Report of a mission to Lithuania from 29 September to 03 October 2003 concerning import controls (DG(SANCO)/9218/2003)
- Report of a mission carried out in Romania from 06 to 10 October 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 (DG(SANCO)/9184/2003)

4a. Information from Italy on an unusual strain of BSE in cattle

The Italian Delegation informed the Commission and the other Member States on the identification of a novel BSE molecular and neuropathological phenotype in Italy and committed to provide the European and national authorities with all the scientific information available.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation laying down procedures for veterinary checks at Community border inspection posts on products imported from third countries and repealing Commission Decision 93/13/EEC (Document SANCO/10232/2003, Rev. 5)

The Commission presented to the Member States a Draft Commission Regulation laying down procedures for veterinary checks at Community

border inspection posts on products imported from third countries and repealing Commission Decision 93/13/EEC.

Vote: 67 votes in favour, 20 abstentions (qualified majority)

Declaration of the German Delegation (official translation):

It is not explicitly stated in the first indent of Article 3(3) that the original of the certificate referred to in Annex B must remain with the competent customs authorities in order to prevent subsequent improper misuse. A reference to Regulation (EEC) No 2913/91 is insufficient for this purpose.

6. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decisions 2002/798/EC and 2002/934/EC as regards the allocation of Community's financial contribution to Member States' TSE monitoring programmes for 2003 (Document SANCO/4492/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards the allocation of Community's financial contribution to Member States' TSE monitoring programmes for 2003. As certain Member States will not utilise their full allocation for 2003, while others will carry out monitoring in excess of the number of tests funded, funding from Member States that are not using their full allocation will be re-allocated to those that are exceeding it. The reallocation is based on the most recent information on the expenditure actually incurred by the concerned Member States.

Vote : 65 votes in favour, 4 votes against, 18 abstentions (qualified majority)

7. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/799/EC on the list of programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and on the list of programmes of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses qualifying for a financial contribution from the Community in 2003 and Decision 2002/943/EC approving programmes for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases and for the prevention of zoonoses presented by the Member States for the year 2003 (Document SANCO/522380/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision as regards the reallocation of the Community's financial contribution to Member States' programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses for 2003. As certain Member States will not utilise their full allocation for 2003, while others will carry out monitoring in excess of the number of tests funded, funding from Member States that are not using their full allocation will be re-allocated to those that are exceeding it. The reallocation is based on the most recent information on the expenditure actually incurred by the concerned Member States.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

- 8. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission 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 (Document SANCO/4162/2003, Rev. 5)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation amending Regulation 999/2001 as regards monitoring of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in ovine and caprine animals. Monitoring of ovine animals slaughtered for human consumption in Member States with large sheep populations is reduced and is no longer compulsory in small sheep populations. Monitoring of caprine animals slaughtered for human consumption is no longer compulsory. Monitoring of dead-on-farm stock in both ovine and caprine animals is increased.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

- 9. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards trade in ovine and caprine animals for breeding (Document SANCO/4560/2003)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation amending Regulation 999/2001 as regards trade on ovine and caprine animals for breeding. The Regulation introduces increased monitoring requirements for holdings sending breeding animals for intra-community trade. Restrictions on animals entering such holdings would no longer extend to sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

Vote: postponed until the 16 December 2003 SCFCAH

- 10. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Guyana (Document SANCO/10639/2003)**

The Commission presented to the member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Guyana and approving the “Noble House Seafoods” (East Bank Demerara) processing plant.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

- 11. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Kenya (Document SANCO/10640/2003)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Kenya and approving the W.E. Tilley (Muthaiga) Ltd. (Nairobi), East African Sea Foods Ltda (Kisumu), Afro Meat Limited (Kisumu), Prinsal Enterprises Ltd. (Migori), Transafrica Fisheries Limited (Mombasa), Peche Foods (Kisumu), Capital Fish (K) Limited (Homa Bay), Fish Processors (Two Thousand) Ltd. (Kisumu), Samlaki (2000) Limited (Nairobi), Sea Harvest (K) Ltd. (Mombasa) processing plants, as well as the MV. Alpha Manyara (East African Sea Food Ltd.) (Mombasa), MV. Alpha Serengeti (East African Sea Food Ltd.) (Mombasa), MV. Alpha Amboseli (East African Sea Food Ltd.) (Mombasa), MV. Venture II (Basta and Sons Limited) (Mombasa) freezer vessels.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

12. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Serbia and Montenegro (Document SANCO/10641/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Serbia and Montenegro and approving the Antivari d.o.o (Bar) and Albamont Rozafa d.o.o (Bar) processing plants.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

13. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Egypt (Document SANCO/10642/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Egypt and approving the Sala Company (Port Said) processing plant.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/296/EC drawing up the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Guyana, Kenya, Serbia and Montenegro, and Egypt (Document SANCO/10643/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending Decision 97/296/EC drawing up the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Guyana, Kenya, Serbia and Montenegro, and Egypt.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/251/EC to revoke the systematic checks imposed to poultry meat imported from Thailand and certified after 21 September 2002 (Document SANCO/10717/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft decision revoking the systematic checks imposed to poultry meat imported from Thailand and certified after 21 September 2002.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 95/174/EC laying down special conditions for the import of live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods originating in Peru and repealing Decision 2001/338/EC (Document SANCO/10645/2003, Rev. 1)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for the import of processed and frozen bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods from the following production areas in Peru: Pucusana (Pucusana – Lima), Guaynuna (Casma – Ancash), La Mina/Bahia de Lagunillas (Pisco Ica), Isla Tortuga (Casma – Ancash), Bahia de Independencia (Pisco – Ica), Bahia de Paracas (Pisco – Ica), Playa Jaguay (Chincha – Ica) and Playa La Antena (Chincha – Ica).

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2002/862/EC laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Kazakhstan, as regards the nomination of the competent authority (Document SANCO/10718/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Kazakhstan, as regards the nomination of the competent authority. Following a restructuring of the Kazakhstan administration, the competent authority for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of the Community legislation has changed to the “Veterinary department of the Ministry of Agriculture (VD-MA)”.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

18. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision repealing Decision 96/293/EC concerning certain protective measures

with regard to fishery products originating in Mauritania (Document SANCO/10647/2003)

This point was removed from the agenda

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision on the financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Germany in 2003 (Document SANCO/99/2003, Rev. 1)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on the financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Germany in 2003.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 678/2003/EC on a first financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in the Netherlands in 2003 (Document SANCO/100/2003, Rev. 1)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on the financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in The Netherlands in 2003.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

21. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 749/2003/EC on a first financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Belgium in 2003 (Document SANCO/101/2003, Rev. 1)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on the financial contribution from the Community towards the eligible costs of the eradication of avian influenza in Germany in 2003.

Vote : unanimous vote in favour

22. Miscellaneous/Divers

- The Commission informed the Member States that it is aware of the report from the Environmental Justice Foundation on the negative effects of shrimp farming in Asia and will reply to the Danish authorities in the matter.

- The Commission informed the Member States that it has forwarded the draft final report on the recent FVO mission to China on residues to the Chinese authorities. The follow-up action will be decided in the light of their response and the recommendations in the final report.
- At the request of the Belgian Delegation, the President of the Committee reported on the General Food Law section meeting of the SCFCAH, which took place on 10 October 2003, as regards water retention agents in poultry meat.

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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