President: Eric Poudelet for points 2, 3, 6 & 8; Patricia Brunko for points 4 & 9; Henri Belvèze for points 1 & 5; Bernard Van Goethem for point 7.

All the Member States were present, except Malta, absent.

1. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin (RH) (See Point 2 of the 19 October 2004 SCFCAH)

Point withdrawn from the agenda.

2. Information from the UK and Spain on Salmonella outbreaks in the UK possibly related to the use of shell eggs (TC)

The Spanish and British delegations informed the Commission and the Member States on the outcomes of a bilateral meeting that took place on 24 October 2004 in Madrid, regarding salmonella outbreaks in the UK, possibly related to the use of Spanish shell eggs. Both delegations committed to provide reports on the situation as regards the origin and cause of the outbreaks at the 17 December 2004 SCFCAH.

3. Information on a suspicion of BSE in a goat in France (KVD)

The Commission informed the Member States on the state of play relating to the suspicion of BSE in a goat born in March 2000. A panel of experts will meet on 25 November 2004 and, in the event the suspicion is confirmed, the Commission will organise an extraordinary meeting of the SCFCAH on 30 November 2004, in order to take the appropriate legislative measure.


These guidelines were distributed at the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health of 21 September 2004 and some Member States asked for additional time to submit further comments. The comments were
submitted to the Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) and they were requested to provide technical advice to the Commission by considering the new comments from the Member States and if necessary revise the guidelines. The revised guidelines are attached together with detailed explanations given by the CRLs on each particular comment made by the different laboratories. The Commission explained that the aim of the guidelines is to provide clarification on some aspects of the Commission Decision 2002/657/EC to facilitate a harmonised implementation of the Decision. The document was endorsed unanimously thus demonstrating the commitment of the Member States to follow these guidelines.

Additionally it was reminded that a questionnaire on the state of play of validation of analytical methods for group A (Directive 96/23/EC) substances was distributed by e-mail and that the deadline for answers was the 25 November, in order to have an overview of the situation before the residue expert meeting to be held on 26 November 2004.


The purpose of this draft is to update the list of border inspection posts in the European Community in response to requests from Member States, and following inspection and recommendation by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) of the Commission.

The following border inspection posts were proposed to be added to the list:
- Daugavpils, Riga, Rezekne and Ventspils in Latvia,
- Castellón in Spain, and;
- Gyékényes, Kelebia and Eperjeske in Hungary.

The following border inspection post was proposed to be reinstated into the list:
- The port of Rugen in Germany.

The following border inspection posts were proposed to be deleted from the list:
- The port of North Shields in the United Kingdom,
- Divonne and the port of La Rochelle Rochefort in France.

Vote: 318 votes in favour, 3 votes absent (qualified majority)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation as regards epidemiо-surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine, ovine and caprine animals.

Considering the need to differentiate TSE from scrapie, in the light of strong suspicions of TSE on a French goat, and following recommendations of a Panel of strainotyping experts on an investigation strategy, the Commission proposed to firstly implement a screening method of all confirmed TSE cases in small ruminants at the level of the national reference laboratories. Secondly, a ring trial with at least three different methods in selected laboratories under the heading of the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) will need to be carried out on all cases in which the first screening test could not exclude BSE. Finally, mouse strain typing will be required if the outcome of the ring trial does still not exclude BSE to confirm or exclude BSE.

**Vote: 267 votes in favour, 51 votes against, 3 votes absent (qualified majority)**

The Commission made the following statement:

In order to support the implementation of the measures provided in the text, the Commission foresees the co-financing of Step 2 and 3 of the discriminatory tests. The Commission intends to finance the 100 % of the costs of the following measures:

- Molecular tests at a maximum of 135 € per test (estimated);
- Ring Trials at a maximum of 1000 € per test (estimated);
- Mouse Bioassays at a maximum of 15 200 € per test (estimated).


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft decision suspending the non-vaccinating status of Denmark as regards Newcastle disease, and laying down certain transitional additional guarantees that shall be requested from the competent veterinary authority in Denmark before the dispatch of poultry on its territory.

**Vote: 289 votes in favour, 29 votes against, 3 votes absent (qualified majority)**

The Commission informed the Member States on a resolution of the European Parliament against the proposal and further indicated that they are currently reflecting on how to proceed with the proposal.

9. Miscellaneous

- The Commission distributed to the Member States a summary of Rapid Alert Notifications on findings of Malachite green and Leucomalachite green in fishery products since January 2004. The UK informed on several additional cases, which were not yet entered into the Rapid Alert System. The Commission will follow up.

- The Commission distributed to the Member States a letter sent to the Philippines Authorities as regards the mission of the FVO that took place from 11 to 22 October 2004.

- The Commission informed Member States that the attestation to accompany the consignments of products of animal origin imported from China is intended to put in evidence that the products have been subject to a pre-shipment control for the detection of residues of veterinary medicines. The terms of the attestation are stated in Decision 2004/621/EC and the model of attestation, as agreed with the Chinese authorities, has been provided to all the CVOs of the Member States. The attestation will be issued in English and Chinese. Its translation in all Community languages would cause an additional burden to trade. Since the attestation intends to transfer to Chinese authorities the responsibility of the control of residues, it is of the utmost importance that the attestation be well understood by Chinese laboratories and authorities.

- The Commission informed the Member States that the reports of the missions of the Food and Veterinary Office in the United States of America concerning milk products and fresh meat would be presented at an upcoming SCFCAH meeting.

- The Irish Delegation informed the Commission and the Member States that it wished to engage discussion with the European and British authorities, concerning its trade of cattle with continental Europe, as carriers will discontinue direct transport of cattle from Ireland to the Continent on 1 January 2005. The Irish authorities wish to use the United Kingdom as a land bridge.

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

Agendas, records and voting results are available on the Comitology Register: 

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