SUMMARY RECORD OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 17 DECEMBER 2004
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)
(Section Animal Health)

President: Eric Poudelet for points 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-11, 18, 19, 20a, 21 & 22; Michael Scannel for points 3, 6-8, 12-17 & 22, Alberto Laddomada for points 20, 20b-20d

All the Member States were present.

1. Recent information on testing of Semicarbazide (SC)

The Commission presented an updated note on the analysis of nitrofurans residue SEM (semicarbazide) in products of animal origin from the Community Reference Laboratory of Fougères.

According to the current knowledge, when positive results for SEM in unprocessed raw materials of animal origin have been found, it is possible to conclude definitively that nitrofurazone has been used.

The presence of SEM in the animal fraction of composite food may arise from the use of nitrofurazone in live animals, but may also result from other sources or a chemical reaction during processing. Therefore, any presence of SEM in composite foods should be accompanied by a statement in the analytical report indicating that SEM in these foods may originate from other sources.

2. Information on a suspicion on BSE in goats (KVD)

See Point 21

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

State-of-play as regards delivery of specimen veterinary export certificates to the Russian authorities. Discussion on pre-export certification system for products with final destination in Russia.

4. Mandate of Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concerning the monitoring of zoonoses (JCC)
Directive 2003/99/EC foresees that EFSA shall in particular examine the annual reports from the Member States and prepare a summary report.

The Directive foresees that these reports are compiled under the responsibility of each Member State and transmitted each year to the Commission. The Commission then transmits these reports to EFSA for examination and preparation of the summary report.

For reasons of efficiency, it appears that the creation of an electronic reporting system and a database, managed by EFSA in close collaboration with the Commission, would serve as a base for fulfilling more effectively the notification and reporting obligations mentioned above and would also respond to other information and knowledge needs of all the parties involved (the Commission, EFSA and the Member States).

The Commission, in line with EFSA and the outcome of meetings with the Member States, has entrusted EFSA with this additional task within the framework of scientific and technical assistance to the Commission foreseen in Article 31 Regulation 178/2002. Relevant actions performed under this mandate will be carried out in good cooperation with the Commission, in particular on issues related to accessibility, confidentiality, safety and more general use of the data.


The Commission distributed to the Member States the works programmes of the Berlin (Germany), Fougères (France), Bil-thoven (Netherlands) and Rome (Italy) Community Reference Laboratories in the of veterinary public health (residues) for 2005.

6. **Presentation of the final report of a mission to the United States of America from 18 September to 2 October 2003 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of milk, heat treated milk and milk-based products under the auspices of 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 [DG(SANCO)/9107/2003]**

7. **Presentation of the final report of a mission to the United States of America from 12 to 25 September 2003 in order to evaluate the operation of control systems in the fresh meat, meat products, minced meat, meat preparations, farmed and wild game meat sector under the auspices of 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 [DG(SANCO)/9121/2003]

8. Presentation of the final report of a mission to the United States of America from 23 June to 3 July 2003 in order to audit the United States regulatory system pertaining to fishery product safety - Presentation of the final report [DG(SANCO)/9135/2003]


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (residues) for the year 2004.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community Reference Laboratories in the field of veterinary public health (biological risks) for the year 2004.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a specific financial contribution by the Community relating to the surveillance programme of Campylobacter in broilers presented by Sweden for the year 2005 (Document SANCO/3446/2004) (JCC) (See Point 30 of the 7 December 2004 SCFCAH)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision on the financial support for 2005 of the Community regarding the multi-annual surveillance programme of Campylobacter in broilers, which was submitted by the Swedish authorities. The programme aims at estimating the baseline prevalence both in primary production and in the food chain, and to
progressively reinforce implementation of hygienic measures in farms with a view to lower the prevalence at farm level and subsequently along the food chain.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


Point postponed until the 18 January 2004 SCFCAH

13. 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 is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Saudi Arabia (Document SANCO/10643/2004) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Legal Basis: Council Decision 95/408/EC) (CL)

Point postponed until the 18 January 2004 SCFCAH


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/102/EC following a restructuring of the Russian administration.

Indeed, the competent authority for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of the Community legislation has changed to the “Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (CFPRS)”. It is therefore necessary to modify the nomination of the competent authority in Commission Decision 97/102/EC, laying down special conditions governing imports of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Russia

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

15. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/760/EC laying down
special conditions governing imports of fishery and aquaculture products originating in French Polynesia, as regards the designation of the competent authority and the model of health certificate (Document SANCO/10645/2004) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (Legal Basis: Directive 91/493/EC) (CL)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/760/EC following a restructuring of the French Polynesia administration.

Indeed, the competent authority for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of the Community legislation has changed to the “Département de la qualité alimentaire et de l’action vétérinaire (DQAAV) du Ministère de la promotion des ressources naturelles, chargé de la perliculture, de la pêche, de l’aquaculture, de l’agriculture, de l’élevage, des eaux et forêts et de la recherché”. It is therefore necessary to modify the nomination of the competent authority in Commission Decision 2003/760/EC, laying down special conditions governing imports of fishery products from French Polynesia.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending Decision 1999/710/EC by adding the Brezovo Ltd. (Brezovo, Plovdiv), Rodopa-Shumen Ltd. (Shumen, Shumen) and Nikas-Bulgaria Ltd. (Botevgrad, Sofia) establishments in Bulgaria to the provisional lists of establishments in third countries from which the Member States authorise imports of minced meat preparations.

The competent authority of Bulgaria (National Veterinary Service (NVS) of Republic of Bulgaria) has provided satisfactory guarantees as regards the sanitary conditions for the production of minced meat and meat preparations those establishments establishments.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 1997/252/EC as regards the provisional list of establishments in the United States of America from which Member States are authorised to import milk and milk products for human consumption (Document SANCO/10653/2004) (RM)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft decision amending Annex X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), as regards rapid tests for the monitoring of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in bovine animals.

This proposal is made following the 16 November 2004 opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recommendation to include seven new BSE rapid post mortem tests in the list of rapid tests approved for the monitoring of BSE.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down rules to allow the transit of live bovine animals from Ireland via the United Kingdom, following the withdrawal of service by ferry companies currently carrying cattle from Ireland to continental Europe.

Such transit will be subject to strict conditions and controls in order not to weaken the measures in force under Decision 98/256/EC, which ensures that live bovine animals are not dispatched from the United Kingdom to other Member States or to third countries.

**Vote: 292 votes in favour, 19 votes abstention (qualified majority)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision prolonging until 31 December 2005 the temporary access of Australia and New Zealand to the Community reserves of foot-and-mouth disease virus antigens.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision maintaining the transitional measures to be applied by Cyprus laid down by Decision 2004/467/EC, as regards on-site burning or burial of animal by-products under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

20b. Opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down animal and public health conditions and model veterinary certificates in respect of imports of meat products from third countries and revoking Decision 97/221/EC and Decision 97/222/EC (Document SANCO/10596/2004) (HLB) (See Point 20 of the 7 December 2004 SCFCAH)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision laying down animal and public health rules for the importation into the Community of consignments of certain meat products, including the lists of third countries and part of third countries from which importations of such products shall be authorised, the model public and animal health certificates and rules on treatments required for those products.

**Vote: 314 votes in favour, 7 votes abstention (qualified majority)**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision extending the restricted zone corresponding to the bluetongue situation prevailing in Spain and Portugal, and taking into account the geographical, ecological and
epizootiological factors connected with bluetongue in the affected regions of Portugal.

\textbf{Vote: Unanimous vote in favour}


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision in order to solve some acute trade problems. Community requirements for imports of bovine embryos should be at least as strict as those applicable to intra-Community trade in bovine embryos. Exporters and importers have requested a transitional period to adapt to these new stricter requirements. The Decision therefore provides the transitional period of two years.

\textbf{Vote: 285 votes in favour, 36 votes abstention (qualified majority)}


The Commission discussed with the Member States draft documents on the proposed extended list of specified risk materials to be removed, as well as on the monitoring of healthy slaughtered goats and of fallen stock goats.

22. \textbf{Miscellaneous}

- The Commission distributed to the Member States the main part of a report by the British Authorities on Salmonella in eggs: “\textit{Salmonella Enteritidis non-Phage Type 4 infection in England and Wales}”.

- The Commission distributed to the Member States letters from the Danish Authorities to the Commission as regards the European Community/United States of America Veterinary Agreement and the free circulation within the Community of fishery products imported from the United States of America into a Member State.
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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Director