President: Eric Poudelet: points 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 24, 25, 26
    Patricia Brunko: point 1
    Alberto Laddomada: points 23b and 28
    Michael Scannell: points 4, 5, 6, 11, 15-23a, 27 and 28

All the Member States were present.

1. **Information from the Commission on key obligations of food and feed operators (PB)**

   The Commission distributed a sheet listing the key obligations of food and feed business operators deriving from Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (Food Law), as it had recently emerged that there was a need to remind all food/feed business operators of these obligations. The Member States were invited to ensure the widest possible distribution of this sheet. The sheet has been posted in all Community languages on the website of the Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection, from which it can be downloaded for further use and distribution: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/foodlaw/responsibilities/index_en.htm

2. **Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin. (RH) (See Point 2 of the 19 October 2004, 18 January, 16 February and 16 March 2005 SCFCAHs and Point 3 of the 17 December 2004 SCFCAH)**

   This point was not discussed further during this committee.

3. **Exchange of views on draft Commission guidelines for the development of Community guides to good practice, in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs (SM)**

   An initial discussion took place on the draft guidelines proposed by the Commission to be followed when developing Community guides to good practice. The Member States were invited to give their comments on the working document. The Commission will send a letter asking each Member State to give an updated list of approved national guides to good practice, the names of the competent authority managing that activity, as well as a contact point.

The Commission informed the Member States that animal by-product establishments in Latvia are no longer submitted to transitional measures since 1 January 2005. Moreover, there is no need to develop a new decision repealing Decision 2004/464/EC.


The Latvian competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the fish, meat and milk sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have even ceased their activities. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.


The Lithuanian competent authority has officially declared that certain establishments in the fish, meat and milk sectors have completed their upgrading process and are now in full compliance with Community legislation. Certain establishments have even ceased their activities. Those establishments should therefore be deleted from the list of establishments in transition.


In order to set the first Community target for the reduction of salmonella prevalence in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus, a collection of relevant data from the Member States started from 1 January 2004 to last through the whole year. The report developed on basis of these data analyses the five most frequent salmonella serotypes in human salmonellosis, which have to be covered by the Community target.

8. **Information from the Commission on the reception state of the cost statements (SG)**

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

This point was removed from the agenda because of the controversial point of the proposed salmonella criterion for minced meat, meat preparations and meat products intended to be eaten cooked (c=1 or c=0). The Member States were asked to provide the Commission with further information on the economic consequences of each option. Furthermore, the Commission informed the Member States that they would be asked to send data on the number of contaminated batches as well as recalled batches in 2004.

Vote postponed to the 24-25 May 2005 SCFCAH at the earliest.


The proposed regulation answers the need to clarify the importation requirements and to lay down specific conditions for category 3 material (intermediate products) intended for technical uses in cosmetics, medicinal products, medical devices and laboratory reagents. The monitoring of their destination and uses should reduce the risk of their diversion into the food and feed chains, which implies putting in place appropriate channelling, recording and control measures.

Technical vote: 279 votes in favour, 42 abstentions (qualified majority)


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Decision amending the list of border inspection posts to include, amongst other changes, addition of new posts in Malta (Valetta port), Slovakia (Bratislava airport), Portugal (Sines Port) and UK (Manston airport).

Vote: unanimous vote in favour

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.


Further to the detection of BSE in a goat slaughtered in France, a reinforced monitoring programme of TSE was put in place to assess the prevalence of BSE in caprine animals. For that purpose, the amounts of tests performed in caprine animals to be reimbursed to the Member States needs to be increased, as well as the maximum amount of the Community financial participation for each programme.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The Community financial assistance to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Addlestone, United Kingdom (Community reference laboratory) needs to be increased in order to cover the additional costs for the advanced discriminatory testing, coordinated by the CRL, and introduced to investigate the possible presence of BSE in small ruminants.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

This proposal intends to harmonize the sanitary conditions for the import of fishery products from Algeria. In this country, the ‘Direction des Services Vétérinaires’ is the competent authority identified as responsible for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of Directive 91/493/EEC. It will also be responsible for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and of freezer vessels.


This proposal intends to harmonize the sanitary conditions for the import of fishery products from the Bahamas. In this country, the ‘Department of Fisheries’ is the competent authority identified as responsible for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of Directive 91/493/EEC. It will also be responsible for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and of freezer vessels.

18. 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 United States of America, Algeria, the Bahamas and Grenada. (Document SANCO/10172/2005) (Legal basis: Council Decision 95/408/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CL)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft decision adding the United States of America, Algeria, the Bahamas and Grenada to the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption. This proposal is a consequence of the proposals presented under points 15, 16, 17 and 23a.


The competent authority in Ivory Coast for imports of fishery and aquaculture products has changed to ‘Ministère de la Production Animale et des Ressources
Halieutiques – Direction des Services Vétérinaires et de la Qualité’. This proposal intends to take this change into account as regards the certification of fishery products imported from Ivory Coast.

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 96/355/EC laying down special conditions governing the import of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Senegal, as regards the designation of the competent authority and the model of health certificate (Document SANCO/10174/2005) (Legal basis: Directive 91/493/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CL)

The competent authority in Senegal for imports of fishery and aquaculture products has changed to ‘Ministère de l’Économie Maritime - Direction des Pêches Maritimes – Bureau de Contrôle des Produits Halieutiques’. This proposal intends to take this change into account as regards the certification of fishery products imported from Senegal.


The competent authority in Madagascar for imports of fishery and aquaculture products has changed to ‘Direction de la Santé Animale et du Phytosanitaire (DSAPS) du Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Élevage et de la Pêche’. This proposal intends to take this change into account as regards the certification of fishery products imported from Madagascar.


The competent authority in China for imports of fishery and aquaculture products has changed to ‘General Administration for quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine’. This proposal intends to take this change into account as regards the certification of fishery products imported from China.

The positive outcome of Community inspection visits allows the inclusion of new establishments in the list of premises authorised for the import of fishery products from Bulgaria, authorising further approval of Bulgarian establishments by the pre-listing procedure of Dec 95/408.


This proposal intends to harmonize the sanitary conditions for the import of fishery products from Granada. In this country, the ‘Public Health Department’ is the competent authority identified as responsible for verifying and certifying the compliance of fishery products with the requirements of Directive 91/493/EEC. It is also responsible for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and of freezer vessels.

23b Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on Community co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization with particular regard to activities carried out by the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease. (Document SANCO/10550/2004) (AEF)

The proposed decision aims at renewing the Implementing Agreement for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease between the European Community and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and fixing the Community contribution.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour.


The Community target for the reduction of salmonella prevalence is defined on the basis of relevant data collected in the Member States in 2004 and covers the five most frequent salmonella serotypes in human salmonellosis. The target can be reviewed during the first year of implementation of national programmes and should be achieved before 31 December 2009.

For the purpose of controlling salmonella, antimicrobials may be used only under specific circumstances; whereas vaccines are considered as an efficient control method and are subject to fewer limitations.


The British delegation informed the meeting of the decision taken to replace the Over Thirty Months (OTM) rule by a pre-1996 rule. The Commission explained that the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), in its opinion on the amendments to the Date Base Export Scheme (DBES), recommended to exclude permanently all animals born or reared before 1 August 1996 and that the BSE risk in the population after that date can be considered comparable with the other Member States. Since all products derived from this group, except for milk and hides, will be excluded from food and feed chain, this rule will be considered as equivalent to the culling measures. Therefore, the United Kingdom will be exempted from certain control and eradication measures for those animals born before 1 August 1996. However, Wales and Scotland can only adopt this rule if based on an EU legislation, which is the main purpose of the proposal under discussion.


The proposed measure intends to clarify the wording of Decision 2002/994/EC. At the same occasion, petfood is added to the list of products authorised for import.

28. Miscellaneous

- Rabies situation in Germany
  
The German delegation made a presentation of the current rabies situation in their country. The delegation showed the prevalence and progress of rabies in five western cantons. Emergency steps have been taken to cover a 24 000 km² vaccination area. Surveillance remains necessary to follow the
immunity response of the fox population, the titre of the vaccine when distributed, and the typing of virus isolated on the cases.

- **Russian ban of poultry import from Italy**
  
The Italian delegation complained about disproportionate and unjustified measures taken by Russia to ban imports of poultry from Italy because of outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza. The Commission expressed its sympathy to Italy which had acted responsibly in notifying the outbreak. Ongoing discussions aim at getting Russia to be more reasonable and proportionate towards all Member States in the event of such outbreaks. The issue is to be raised in particular in the context of their WTO accession negotiations.

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)

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