SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 24 MAY 2005
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

President: Willem Daelman: points 1, 3, 4 and 16
Michael Scannell: points 2 and 5 to 15

All the Member States were present, except Malta, Poland and Slovakia.

1. Presentation of the "Report on the Monitoring and testing of Ruminants for the presence of TSE in the EU in 2004" (KDS/JOV).

This version of the annual Report on the Monitoring and testing of Ruminants for the presence of TSE in the EU in 2004 contains all the information, comments and corrections sent by Member States to the Commission. Member States agree on the publication of the report, provided the Commission takes into account final comments to be forwarded by some Member States. The Commission is also preparing a road map to go along with the report with regard to TSE/BSE and measures to be taken in that field.

2. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin. (RH) (See point 2 of the 19 October 2004, 18 January, 16 February, 16 March and 21 April 2005 SCFCAHs and point 3 of the 17 December 2004 SCFCAH)

The current situation is relatively calm with regard to EU-Russia relations. In the framework of Russia’s WTO accession negotiations, the Commission insists on their compliance with the SPS agreement.


Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 requires the establishment of a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of the 5 most frequent salmonella serotypes in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus. The proposal should apply from 1 July 2005 in order to allow national control programmes to be implemented from 1 January 2007 and the Community target to be achieved by 31 December 2009.
Vote postponed to the SCFCAH of 7-8 June 2005 (Animal Health and Welfare section)

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation establishing requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national control programmes for the control of salmonella. (Document SANCO/951/2005 Rev.1) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (JCC)

The proposal establishes restrictions for the use of antimicrobials and vaccines as specific control methods in the framework of national programmes for the control of salmonella. It takes into account 2 opinions of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which state that antimicrobials may be used only under exceptional circumstances whereas vaccines are considered as a possible efficient control method. Provided wild-type strains of salmonella can be distinguished from vaccine strains, live vaccines can be used.

Vote postponed to the SCFCAH of 7-8 June 2005 (Animal Health and Welfare section)


This proposal clarifies the text of Decision 2002/994/EC as regards the range of animal products which are authorised for import from China and adds petfood to the list of authorised products.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)

6. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 99/120/EC as regards the inclusion of one establishment in Albania in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import animal casings. (Document SANCO/10260/2005) (Legal basis: Council Directive 95/408/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (RM)

This proposal intends to allow the inclusion of one establishment in Albania in provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import animal casings further to appropriate guarantees of compliance with Community rule provided by the Albanian authorities.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)

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; and for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and freezer vessels.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


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; and for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and freezer vessels.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


This proposal intends to harmonize the sanitary conditions for the import of fishery products from Grenada. 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; and for drawing up a list of approved establishments, factory vessels or cold stores, and freezer vessels.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)

10. 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 Algeria, the Bahamas and Grenada. (Document
This proposal is a consequence of the proposals presented under points 7, 8 and 9, adding Algeria, the Bahamas and Grenada to the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)

11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 96/609/EC laying down special conditions governing the import of fishery and aquaculture products originating in the Ivory Coast, as regards the designation of the competent authority and the model of health certificate. (Document SANCO/10173/2005 Rev.2) (Legal basis: Directive 91/493/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CL)

This proposal takes into account the change of the competent authority in the Ivory Coast for imports of fishery and aquaculture products to ‘Ministère de la Production Animale et des Ressources Halieutiques – Direction des Services Vétérinaires et de la Qualité’. The model of health certificate is amended accordingly.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)

12. 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 Rev.2) (Legal basis: Directive 91/493/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CL)

This proposal takes into account the change of the competent authority in Senegal for imports of fishery and aquaculture products to ‘Ministère de l’Economie Maritime - Direction des Pêches Maritimes – Bureau de Contrôle des Produits Halieutiques’. The model of health certificate is amended accordingly.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


This proposal takes into account the change of the competent authority in Madagascar for imports of fishery and aquaculture products to ‘Direction de la Santé
Animale et du Phytosanitaire du Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Elevage et de la Pêche’. The model of health certificate is amended accordingly.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


This proposal takes into account the change of the competent authority in China for imports of fishery and aquaculture products to ‘General Administration for quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine’. The model of health certificate is amended accordingly.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


Further to the positive outcome of a Community inspection visit, this proposal authorises further approval of Bulgarian establishments for imports of fishery products from Bulgaria and the pre-listing procedure laid down in Decision 95/408/EC for future modifications of the list of establishments; and grants the reduction of the frequency of physical checks in border inspection posts when fishery consignments from Bulgaria arrive to the EC border.

Vote: 284 votes in favour, 37 votes absent (qualified majority)


This proposal amends Annex IV to Regulation No 999/2001 laying down rules for the feeding of proteins derived from animals in order to prevent the dissemination of TSEs to animals. The Commission wishes the proposal to be adopted and applicable before the harvest in September 2005 and therefore will present it for vote in its current limited form at the SCFCAH of 21-22 June 2005. The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) is to deliver its opinion on the issue, which may result in an additional amendment of Annex IV at a later stage. Member States expressed the need to harmonise the risk assessment format. The Commission suggested to work more in depth on the subject after EFSA has given its opinion.
17. Miscellaneous

- **Trichinella situation in Latvia**
  In January and March 2005, 45 human cases of trichinosis have been detected in Latvia, of which 42 were involved in 3 outbreaks and 3 were sporadic cases. As in all Member States, Latvian legislation requires investigation for trichinosis in pigs and horses, using the compression method as well as more recently the digestion method. Further to the cases, double testing and checking was performed in slaughterhouses with negative results. The problem arises only locally in small farms where farmers raise pigs for their own consumption, but also bring some parts of the meat to the market without going through official control. The disease originates in wild boars, parts of which are used by small farmers to feed pigs. The Latvian authorities have made information broadly available in order to raise awareness of the disease and the importance of checking animals. They will inform the Commission in written about the further evolution of the situation and give more detailed information.

- **Hungarian position on the draft Regulation microbiological criteria for foodstuffs**
  The Hungarian delegation informed the Commission that they are in favour of n=5, c=0 for minced meat and meat preparations destined to be cooked but stressed that monitoring of the real contamination level should be performed and a review made after 6 months of implementation.

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)

Paola Testori-Coggi
Director