President: Eric Poudelet: points 1, 2, 4, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14
Moustapha Magumu: points 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11

All the Member States were present, except Cyprus absent in the morning and the Slovak Republic absent in the afternoon.

1. **Presentation by Cyprus of a project for a study on "Polymorphisms of caprine PrP gene and their association with resistance or susceptibility to scrapie", requesting financial support by the Commission (KDS)**

The Cypriot delegation being absent, the Commission gave some background information. The prevalence of TSE in caprine animals in Cyprus is very high and there is very little information on TSE resistant genotypes. A first study was made which showed that certain PrP gene could be resistant to TSE. Cyprus has asked the Commission to finance a further study to investigate such resistance and to better assess PrP gene in goats. The project was sent for evaluation to the Community Reference Laboratory in Weybridge and should be available for presentation at the next SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005 followed by a draft decision on a financial contribution of the Commission. At the request of the Belgian delegation, the Commission will ask the Cypriot experts to forward an electronic version of the first study.

2. **Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin. (TB) (See point 3 of the 17 December 2004 SCFCAH and point 2 of the 19 October 2004, 18 January, 16 February, 16 March, 21 April, 24 May, 21-22 June and 23 September 2005 SCFCAHs)**

Information on this subject will be presented at the next CVO’s meeting further to a meeting on anti-fraud which took place on the same day in Lithuania.


The Commission informed the committee that the Ambassadors of the Member States were sent a letter about the approval of 17 Member States’ national residue
monitoring plans 2005. Satisfactory reply was received from Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal for which the Commission was in the process of sending letters to the ambassadors. As for the remaining MS (Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain) this issue will be discussed at the next expert group meeting probably on 14 November 2005.


Following two opinions by the European Food Safety Authority in 2004 (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/421_en.html, http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/471_en.html), the combustion of tallow in a thermal boiler and the biodiesel process can be considered as safe means of disposal and use respectively of animal by-products and of Category 1 material under strict conditions. For the final stages of those processes, technological progress has led to a number of modified process parameters which Member States should be able to use. In order to reflect that evolution and allow more flexibility, the Member States considered a draft Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 92/2005 implementing Regulation No 1774/2002 laying down rules concerning means of disposing and ways of using animal by-products. The proposal was revised to take into account comments from several Member States.

Vote: 275 votes in favour, 27 votes abstain, 19 votes absent (qualified majority)

4b Exchange of views and possibly opinion of the committee on a draft Commission Decision extending the validity of the transitional measures to be applied by Cyprus as regards on-site burning and burial of animal by-products under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Document SANCO/2935/2005 Rev. 1) (Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament) (MM)

The purpose of this proposal is to extend by 14 months the validity of the transitional period granted to Cyprus with regard to the disposal of animal by-products in order for the national competent authority to set up a collection and disposal scheme for such products. Cyprus will be able to make use of on-site burning and burial until 1 January 2007 and should report regularly to the Commission on the progress made on the scheme.

Vote: 287 votes in favour, 27 votes abstain, 7 votes absent (qualified majority)

The vote on this proposal was put off because Indonesia has not been able to put in place effective corrective measures with regard to fishery products.


Under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 the Member States (MS) are required to carry out internal audits or have external audits carried out in order to ensure that they achieve the objectives of that legislation and comply with national control plans. The Commission has to provide MS with guidelines for the conduct of these audits so as to reflect the relevant international bodies’ standards and recommendations regarding the organisation and operation of official services. Though presented by means of a Commission Decision these guidelines preserve their non-binding nature but serve as useful guidance for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

The Food and Veterinary Office looked at existing audit systems in MS during fact-finding missions at the end of 2004 - beginning of 2005. A first draft was presented to working party meeting in Grange on 14 June 2005 leading to a first draft for the guidelines. After a time for reflection and commenting, MS were presented with a revised document for further consideration following the SCFCAH of 19-20 July 2005. It then went through interservice consultation and was discussed at a second working party meeting with MS in Grange on 14-15 September 2005. The document should be officially adopted before 1 January 2006, date of entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

In order to address the French and German concerns about the choice of the legal form the Commission will search legal advice on the use of a decision for adopting the guidelines. The proposal will presented for general consensus at the 22-23 November 2005 SCFCAH.


On the one hand, this proposal aims at extending to 1 January 2007 the validity of the transitional measures on repopulation of ewes flocks culled in the frame of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) eradication. On the other hand, it aims at adding respectively 1 and 3 more tests to the lists of rapid tests for monitoring of TSE for bovines and small ruminants as they were approved by the

This proposal lays down extended transitional arrangements under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of former foodstuffs, which are in line with environmental legislation. Operators will be able to continue to apply current national rules for the handling of former foodstuffs after the initial expiry date of 31 December 2005 until the entry into force of environmental legislation. The Commission will revise the document taking into account comments from several Member States and intends to present it for vote at the SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005.


Under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 manure and products derived there from have to undergo processing and control parameters so as not to pose a risk to public and animal health. The opinion of the European Food Safety Authority of 7 September 2005 on the biological safety of heat treatment of manure (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/1151_en.html) advises on the risk of certain processing conditions for manure and on authorisation of safer conditions. Amendments of the requirements of the ABP Regulation are therefore proposed. Alternative process parameters may be authorised provided they are validated on the basis of a risk assessment to ensure that biological risks are minimised. This proposal will be put for vote at the SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005.


Following the EFSA’s opinion of 7 September 2005 (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/1151_en.html) the Commission is currently proposing amendments to the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the heat treatment process for manure.
Pending application of the new measures, Member States and operators should be allowed to apply transitional measures provided for in Decision 2003/329/EC for a further period of time, i.e. until 31 December 2006. This proposal applies to Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Finland. It will be put for vote at the SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005.


The European Food Safety Authority’s opinion of 7 September 2005 (http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_opinions/1150_en.html) on the safety regarding biological risks of biogas and composting treatment standards of animal by-products serves as the basis to allow for the amendment of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption. Competent authorities will be able to authorise the use of alternative process parameters provided they are validated on the basis a risk assessment to demonstrate that biological risks are minimised.

Commission Regulations (EC) No 809/2003 and No 810/2003 on transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 are also amended by the draft Regulation so as to allow the industry to adjust and develop alternative processing standards for Category 3 material and manure used in composting and biogas plants until 31 December 2006.

The Commission clarified the concerns of some Member States on the validation of alternative processes: these latter have to be validated per process system. This proposal will be put for vote at the SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005.


This document aims at giving guidance on the implementation of the new food hygiene requirements and on related subjects so as to allow all players in the food chain to better understand and to apply correctly and uniformly Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs. The interservice consultation not being completed, the Commission will ask for a general consensus from the committee at the next SCFCAH of 22-23 November 2005, where an updated version of the document will be submitted taking into consideration further remarks from the committee.

This document is directed at food businesses and competent authorities in the Member States and can be useful to readers in third countries to better understand the scope and the purpose of EU food hygiene rules. It clarifies a number of aspects of Regulation 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. The Member States were asked to comment on the draft. Among other things, the British delegation pointed out the need for clarification with regard to requirements for which transitional measures have been taken. The Irish delegation was concerned about the possibility that ‘dirty animals’ be slaughtered; the Commission agreed that slaughterhouses should see that farmers and haulers do not send in dirty or contaminated animals but at the same time it recommended that rules should not be unrealistic. The text will be revised further to all the comments made and submitted for a general consensus at the 22-23 November 2005 SCFCAH.

14. **Discussion and possibly reaching of a consensus on the “Guidance document on the implementation of procedures based on the HACCP principles and on the facilitation of the implementation of the HACCP principles in certain food businesses” (Document SANCO/1955/2005 Rev. 2)** *(See point 10a of the SCFCAH of 21-22 June 2005 and point 12 of the SCFCAH of 23 September 2005) (RD)*

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs requires food business operators to put in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The guidelines as laid down in Annex I of this related guidance document describe how the seven HACCP principles can be applied. Annex II clarifies to what extent flexibility can be applied with regard to the implementation of the procedures based on the HACCP principles, in particular in small food businesses, so as to ensure implementation in all circumstances. The Commission will examine further comments from Member States and submit the text for a general consensus at the 22-23 November 2005 SCFCAH.

Once agreed upon, all three guidance documents here above will be published on the European Food Safety website ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/index_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/index_en.htm)). They are meant to be evolving and updated to take account of experiences and information from food business operators and competent authorities.

15. **Miscellaneous**

- **Imports of fish products from Vietnam (TB)**

  The German delegation pointed out the problem of contaminated fish products imported from Vietnam which they have had to deal with for about one year. Though the results of Food and Veterinary Office missions were positive, the Commission was concerned about a number of (Rapid Alert
System for Food and Feed) RASFF notifications. Further discussions with the Vietnamese authorities will take place in order to elaborate the adequate actions.

- **Honey import from Turkey (CL)**

  The German delegation re-iterated its concerns, which they expressed in a communication to the Commission on 27 September 2005, about imports of honey from Turkey which do not comply with the requirements of the honey Directive. The competent services within the Commission will further examine the issue and take the necessary actions to deal with it.

- **Imports of treated feathers**

  The Italian delegation raised the problem of the imports of feathers from countries where cases of Avian influenza were found. In principle Member States can exempt treated feathers from EU requirements. But because of the Avian influenza outbreaks, the obligation to control imports, in particular of steamed feathers, should be re-introduced. The Italian delegation cited the case of a consignment in Italy of steamed feathers for which analyses showed the presence of bacteria. Standard parameters should be set in order to guarantee that all bacteria are eliminated through a steam treatment.