

Summary Report of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health held on 27 April 1998 in Brussels (approved at the meeting on 25 May 1998)

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Prof. A. Osterhaus (chairperson), Prof. R. Gilbert (first vice-chairperson), Prof. J-L. Jouve (second vice-chairperson), Prof. V. Caporale, Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels, Dr. A. Johnston, Prof. O. Kaaden, Prof. A. Macri, Prof. A. Mantis, Prof. E. Nurmi, Prof. E. Quinto Fernandez, Dr. J. Schlundt, Dr. I. Vagsholm, Dr. D. Vuitton, Prof. F. Van Knapen, Prof. P. Willeberg

APOLOGIES

None

ABSENT

None

COMMISSION

Mr. R. Vanhoorde (DG XXIV), Mr. B. Verleysen (DG XXIV), Mr. H. Winter (DG VI/BII-2), Mr. H. Belvèze (DG XXIV) (partim)

1. Declarations of interest

No declarations of specific interest, which might be considered prejudicial to the independence of the members, were made.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 17 February 1998

The minutes were adopted.

4. Discussion and possible adoption of Internal Rules of Procedure

With reference to the note of 20 March on this subject, the secretariat clarified the improvement of the wording of point 16. The Committee agreed with the amendments made.

5. Feed-back by the chairman on subjects discussed in the SSC which are of interest to the Committee

The chairman gave an overview of the items which are under discussion in the SSC. He explained that up to now the work concentrated on BSE / TSE (safety of tallow, gelatine and meat and bone meal, sourcing, regionalisation, etc.). Furthermore, he informed the Committee about the new questions that have been attributed by the SSC to the SCVMPH (cf. points 17, 18, 19).

6. Feed-back by members of the Committee having attended working group meetings of other Scientific Committees

Two members reported on their participation in the following multi-disciplinary working groups:

6.1 Johne's / Crohn's disease (Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare)

The Committee had an exchange of views on possible transmission of mycobacterium paratuberculosis through milk and through other means, the efficacy of pasteurisation of milk, the animal species to be considered, the pathogenesis, etc.

6.2 Hygiene / microbiology (Scientific Committee on Food)

The feed-back on the work ongoing in the working group hygiene and microbiology of the Scientific Committee for Food included information on:

- microbiological standards for food,
- risk of spreading cholera through the consumption of vegetables,
- aeromonas in mineral water.

7. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning allergic reactions to ingested anisakis simplex antigens and evaluation of the possible risk to human health

The draft report was discussed and, with some minor amendments, adopted by unanimity.

8. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning the equivalence of two protocols for the detection of trichinella larvae in horse meat and in pork with the methods approved in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC

The rapporteur presented a first draft outlining the orientation of the draft opinion. It was agreed that he will prepare a more substantial scientific document including the terms of reference, the background, the scientific reasoning (risk assessment), conclusion and references. As soon as the draft report is received, it will be circulated by the secretariat to the members of the Committee with a view to its discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary.

9. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning the modification of the methods approved in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC for the detection of trichinella larvae in horse meat

Cf. point 8.

10. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning cooling of carcasses during transport

The chairman gave a short feedback on the discussions in the working group meeting on 24 March on this question which has been outstanding for a considerable period. He will contact the rapporteur in order to have a draft circulating before the next plenary.

11. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the prevalence and

methods of control of cysticercosis

A working group will be established to update the draft report dating from 1995. Some members of the Committee promised to communicate the full details of these experts to the secretariat. It was agreed that the issue needs to be addressed in a way that is covering several animal farm species (i.e. cattle and pigs).

12. Progress report on the request for a scientific review concerning the use of antimicrobial treatments of poultry carcasses, the various methods of carcass rinsing including trisodium monophosphates (TSP), organic acids and hyperchlorinated water

The rapporteur informed the Committee on the state of progress of in the working group. It is intended to finalise the draft opinion in a three day working group meeting at the end of May and to communicate it to the members of the plenary before the June session.

13. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the 9th code of Federal Regulations Part 304, et al. Pathogen reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems; Final rule

Cf. point 12.

14. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the use of Bovine Somatotropin

The rapporteur provided a short feedback about the discussions in the working group meeting on 25 March. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 16 June, i.e. after that the working group addressing the animal health and animal welfare aspects has met.

15. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion on the evaluation of microbiological criteria and temperatures for storage and transport of products of animal origin intended for human consumption:

- partim microbiological criteria;
- partim temperatures for storage and transport;

Reference was made to the first working group meeting on 31 March. The rapporteur informed the Committee that the next working group meeting is planned for 18 June and that it is expected to present a draft report to the plenary session of September.

16. Planning of the working group meeting on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the revision of ante- and post- mortem inspection procedures for an alternative inspection system for the slaughter of pigs

The first working group meeting is foreseen for 11 May.

17. Appointment of experts to participate in the multidisciplinary working group on antibiotic resistance

The chairman and the secretariat explained the background of this multi-disciplinary exercise. After a short exchange of views, the Committee decided by unanimity on the member which will attend the multidisciplinary steering group.

18. Appointment of experts to participate in the multidisciplinary working group on recycling of pig and poultry waste (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSCÂ's ad hoc group on TSE)

Considering the overlapping with point 19 of the agenda, it was decided that both questions should be addressed by one single working group. The working group was set up and will need to be completed by scientists appointed by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and by the SSCÂ's ad hoc group on TSE. The first working group meeting will be scheduled as soon as the other experts have been appointed.

19. Appointment of experts to participate in the multidisciplinary working group on fallen stock (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSCÂ's ad hoc group on TSE)

Cf. point 18.

20. Information by the Commission about the conclusions of the report of the "hormone panel" (WTO)

A commission representative informed the Committee that the Commission is currently identifying the lacks of scientific data and that it is calculating the time needed to provide new scientific evidence answering these outstanding questions.

21. Miscellaneous

It was suggested to address the problem concerning the illegal use of (veterinary) drugs and its possible impact on consumer health. A reflection document will be prepared.

The secretariat reminded the Committee that those members that have not yet returned the declarations referred to in the internal rules of procedure (incl. an update of their CV) should do this as soon as possible.