

Summary Report of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health held on 22 June 1998 in Brussels (approved at the meeting on 20 July 1998)

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Prof. A. Osterhaus (chairperson)

Prof. R. Gilbert (first vice-chairperson)

Prof. J-L. Jouve (second vice-chairperson)

Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels, Prof. A. Johnston, Prof. O. Kaaden, Prof. A. Macri, Prof. A. Mantis, Prof. E. Nurmi, Prof. E. Quinto Fernandez, Dr. J. Schlundt, Dr. I. Vagsholm, Prof. D. Vuitton, Prof. P. Willeberg

APOLOGIES

Prof. V. Caporale, Prof. F. Van Knapen

ABSENT

None

COMMISSION

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

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 25 May April 1998

The minutes were adopted.

4. Discussion and possible adoption of 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.

The rapporteur introduced the draft report that was circulated to the members of the Committee before the meeting. Considering the comprehensiveness of the draft report, members are asked to communicate their possible comments and / or suggestions in writing to the to the rapporteur as well as to the secretariat.

As was agreed at the last plenary, a US delegation attended the meeting to explain the use of decontaminants in the US and to clarify the Megareg. The explanation referred inter alia to principles of risk assessment, governmental overviews on the use of chlorine, chloroforms, chill water in relation to chlorine, chlorine dioxide, organic acids, TSP and ozone. A series of scientific publications was handed over to the secretariat and subsequently distributed to the members of the Committee. Finally the US representatives answered a series of questions concerning the Megareg.

The major part of the meeting concentrated on this question and it was concluded that the draft opinion will be reconsidered in the light of the discussion with a view to its formal adoption at the next plenary.

5. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning the use of antimicrobial treatments of poultry carcasses, the various methods of carcass rinsing including trisodium monophosphates (TSP), organic acids and hyperchlorinated water

Due to a lack of time, this question was only addressed indirectly when discussing point 4 of the agenda.

Considering the comprehensiveness of the draft report, members are asked to communicate their possible comments and / or suggestions in writing to the rapporteur as well as to the secretariat.

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

There had been no meetings of the SSC since the last plenary.

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

A member reported on the opinion adopted by the Scientific Committee for Food on risk to health from fruit and vegetables and their products grown in areas where cholera (*Vibrio cholerae*) has reached epidemic levels.

8. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning cooling of carcasses during transport

Considering the difficulties in finalising the draft report, the Committee decided to extend the working group with an additional external expert. A meeting of the extended working group will be organised as soon as possible.

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

The rapporteur informed the Committee on the progress made in the working group meeting on 16 June and on the task distribution within the group. Reference was made to the work done in the other group that is concentrating on animal health and animal welfare aspects.

10. 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.

A report was given on the working group meeting on 18 June where the comprehensive issue was discussed on the basis

of a reflection paper that was prepared by the rapporteur. The microbiological criteria in various Community provisions will be scientifically assessed against a decision tree that takes account of the principles laid down by the Codex Alimentarius.

The next working group meeting is scheduled for 29 September.

11. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the prevalence and methods of control of cysticercosis

The item was postponed because of the absence of the rapporteur.

12. Progress report 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 secretariat informed the Committee that a first orientation document is being circulated amongst the members of the working group.

13. Information on the state of progress on the creation of the multidisciplinary steering group on antimicrobial resistance (secretariat)

The secretariat informed Committee that the first meeting of the multidisciplinary group is scheduled for 15 July.

14. Progress report on the multidisciplinary working group on:

- a) recycling of pig, poultry and fish waste (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSCA's ad hoc group on TSE);
 - b) fallen stock (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSCA's ad hoc group on TSE);
- (secretariat).

Considering the several interrelations with similar questions that are currently under examination by the SSC's ad hoc group on TSE, both questions are managed by its secretariat.

15. Miscellaneous

In order to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the written procedure, the Committee confirmed the formal unanimous adoption of the following opinions:

- detection of *Trichinella spiralis* in pork with a pooled sample digestion method using a magnetic stirrer and two separate funnels;
- detection of *Trichinella spiralis* in horse meat.