

# **Summary report of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to public health held on 28 September 1998 in Brussels (approved at the meeting on 30 October 1998)**

List of Participants

## **MEMBERS**

Prof. A. Osterhaus (chairperson), Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels, Prof. R. Gilbert (first vice-chairperson), Prof. O. Kaaden, Prof. A. Macri, Prof. A. Mantis, Prof. E. Nurmi, Prof. E. Quinto Fernandez, Dr. J. Schlundt, Dr. I. Vagsholm, Prof. P. Willeberg

## **APOLOGIES**

Prof. A. Johnston, Prof. F. Van Knapen, Prof. D. Vuitton

## **ABSENT**

Prof. V. Caporale

## **COMMISSION**

Mr. R. Vanhoorde (DG XXIV), Mr. B. Verleysen (DG XXIV), Mr. H. Belvèze (point 13) (DG XXIV), Mr. K. Madsen (point 13) (DG XXIV), Mr. P. Gangemi (point 13) (DG I)

## **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 Secretariat suggested to include a question on chlorination of crocodile meat to the agenda (Cf. point 16). The agenda, as amended, was adopted.

## **3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 20 July 1998**

The minutes were adopted.

## **4. Election of a new vice-chairperson**

The secretariat informed the Committee that Prof. Jouve (second vice-chairperson) had resigned from the Committee and that consequently a new second vice-chairperson was to be elected.

Prof. Vuitton, who had expressed her interest for the second vice-chair in writing, was elected as second vice-chairperson.

## **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**

The rapporteur presented the draft report resulting from the discussions at the previous plenary. Although the Committee had in principle agreed with the draft report, it was, considering the importance of the subject, decided to reconsider the document as a whole. Special attention was given to the detail of references quoted and to the overall balance of the various sections of the document.

Members agreed to provide within short notice (48 h) their contributions in writing. Most of them referred to clarifications of the wording of the document. The Secretariat will incorporate these contributions and circulate the final version of the draft report in view of its formal adoption at the next plenary.

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

The rapporteur informed the Committee that substantial progress has been made on this long outstanding question. The Working Group intends to finalise its the draft report on 09 October with a view to its presentation at the next plenary.

## **7. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the use of Bovine Somatotropin**

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 02 October. The rapporteur informed the Committee that it is aimed to submit a draft report for the plenary of December.

## **8. 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;**

The Committee was informed that the meeting scheduled for 29 September had to be postponed because of non availability of several members of the Working Group. The Secretariat will contact the members of the group in order to explore possible new dates for a meeting.

Since one Member had to leave the working group, the Committee decided unanimously to appoint a new member.

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

The Secretariat informed the Committee that all members of the Working Group have confirmed their willingness to participate. Considering the availability of its members, the first Working Group meeting will take place on 29 October.

## **10. 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 draft report is being circulated amongst the members of the Working Group for comments. Further planning of the activities (Working Group meeting) will depend on the comments and suggestions received.

## **11. Progress report on the state of progress on the multidisciplinary working group on**

## **antimicrobial resistance**

A feedback was given by the Secretariat. It was explained that the group has been extended by the addition of two scientists having expertise in the use of antimicrobials in human medicine and in nosocomial infections in particular.

### **12. 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);

A member attending this Group gave a short summary on the ongoing activities. He highlighted the complexity of the issue.

### **13. Information on the progress concerning the complementary risk assessment on the use of hormones**

A Commission representative updated the Committee about the study programme that has been initiated by the Commission on six hormones used for animal growth promotion. Reference was made to clinical and epidemiological studies on possible adverse effects on consumer health.

It was announced that the terms of reference are currently being prepared with a view to their submission to the Committee at its next plenary.

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

Because of non availability of the chairman and the vice-chairman, the Committee had not been represented at the last SSC plenary.

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

Feed-back was given on the work in the Scientific Committee for Food concerning microbial limits in soups.

Information was provided on the progress in the BST group dealing with animal health and animal welfare aspects.

### **16. Miscellaneous**

The Secretariat informed the Committee about a FVO mission report concerning chlorination during the dressing process of crocodile meat in Zimbabwe.

The Committee considered it not appropriate to examine such an isolated specified topic. It stated that it is common knowledge that reptiles are carriers of several zoonotic agents such as salmonella. As regards chlorination of crocodile meat, the Committee referred to the parallelism with ongoing work on antimicrobial treatments of poultry carcasses (Cf. point 5).

It is suggested to discuss the planning of next year's plenary sessions at the next plenary that is scheduled for 30 October.