



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY MEASURES RELATING TO
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Held on 23-24 September 1999 in Brussels

(Approved at the meeting on 16-17 December 1999)

1. WELCOME, DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

The Committee was informed that two members might soon have to resign from the Committee because of changes in their professional life.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE

The minutes were adopted.

4. REVIEW OF THE PLANNING OF PLENARY SESSIONS

The members agreed on the following dates for next plenary meeting:
08.11.99(meanwhile cancelled) and **16-17 12.99**

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF 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 – postponed)

The rapporteur presented the draft report which had been amended in the light of the discussions at the last plenary and circulated to the members of the Committee before the meeting.

The Committee held a detailed discussion on the scientific reasoning, the conclusions and the recommendations as well as on the microbiological criteria. The opinion was

adopted unanimously. However, a few minority views were expressed for some microbiological criteria in specific food products.

The secretariat was asked to circulate the opinion, when amended, to the rapporteur for a proof-reading.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the mandate of the outstanding part on "temperatures" is being reconsidered in view of its presentation at the next plenary.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON LISTERIA

The rapporteur presented the draft report on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready to eat food. The report, as amended during an in depth discussion was adopted by unanimity. The rapporteur was mandated to incorporate the amendments made during the meeting and to carry out final editorial work.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REQUEST FOR A SCIENTIFIC OPINION CONCERNING THE PREVALENCE AND METHODS OF CONTROL OF CYSTICERCOSIS

The rapporteur informed the Committee that the draft report should be ready for the next plenary in December. The members had a discussion about the development of new detection methods for cysticercosis, the current situation concerning human cysticercosis (notifiability, antigen detection, development of antibodies) and the possibility of vaccination.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A SCIENTIFIC OPINION CONCERNING THE REVISION OF ANTE-AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR AN ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION SYSTEM FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF PIGS

The rapporteur introduced the draft report which had been amended in the light of the discussions at the last plenary. The Committee stressed that the aim of the exercise should be wider than the reduction of unnecessary costs in the current meat inspection system and that the opportunity should be taken to recommend a more forward looking approach which should result in a better protection against a series of food-borne zoonotic diseases.

The Committee agreed in principle with the first part of the report highlighting the weakness of the current system.

The rapporteur was asked to elaborate, a more detailed pro-active approach for discussion and possible adoption at the plenary of December.

Because of the resignation of a member of the WG the Committee reviewed the composition of the WG.

9. INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON POSSIBLE NEW QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE:

9.1. Cleaning and disinfection of knives in the meat industry

The Secretariat explained the mandate. It was suggested to extend the terms of reference in order to cover the whole slaughterhouse and cutting procedure. A Working Group was set up with the view of preparing a draft report

9.2. Review of the report of the Sc. V.C. on "Trichinella free areas" (report 1996) and the reliability of Trichinella detection methods

The Commission explained the need to review and update these past reports, taking into account the epidemiological implications deriving from the recent outbreaks in humans.

A Working Group was set up with the view of preparing a draft report

9.3. Ovine gas de-pelting

The Committee was asked to reflect on the issue, to explore the scientific evidence and to consider appropriate experts for this issue.

9.4. Vibrio vulnificus and V. parahaemolyticus in molluscs

The Committee was asked to gather scientific information on this issue and to reflect on appropriate experts on this question.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF RISKS RELATED TO ZOOONOTIC DISEASES CAUSING MAJOR CONCERN TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND ON POSSIBILITIES TO DECREASE THEIR INCIDENCE IN HUMANS

The Secretariat informed that the WG on Zoonoses had started its activities and that a final draft report is expected to be available by mid January 2000.

11. FEEDBACK BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATING IN THE SSC WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONISATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

This item was postponed because of absence of the rapporteur

12. FEED-BACK BY THE CHAIRMAN ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE SSC WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was provided with a copy of the agenda of the last meeting of the SSC.

13. FEED-BACK BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVING ATTENDED WORKING GROUP MEETINGS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

This item was postponed because of absence of the rapporteur.

14. MISCELLANEOUS

It was suggested that members should be provided with a written feedback on activities in other Scientific Committees. The secretariat agreed to provide relevant parts of the minutes of the SSC summarizing work carried out in the other Committees.

Two members of the Committee were asked to examine various comments received on the opinion concerning the cooling of carcasses and to provide feed-back at the next plenary.

Next meetings are scheduled for:

08 November 1999 (meanwhile cancelled), **16-17 December 1999**.

