



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions

C2 - Management of scientific committees; scientific co-operation and networks

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SCVPH PLENARY MEETING OF 30-31 JANUARY 2002

(APPROVED ON 10 APRIL 2002)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee.

For apologies and absences, see the attached attendance list.

The annual declarations of interest were provided to the Commission.

No conflicts of interest with the items proposed for discussion in the agenda were declared.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A small change in the order of discussion of items 5.1 and 5.2 of the agenda was agreed. The agenda was adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21-22 NOVEMBER 2001

The proposed minutes were adopted.

4. INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON POSSIBLE NEW QUESTIONS

The members of the *ad hoc* working group on hormones were presented and the Committee asked to endorse the group. The Committee agreed upon the proposal. The Working Group will meet in February.

Concerning the setting up of a new *ad hoc* working group on “revision of meat inspection in veal calves”. At the previous plenary meeting of November the Committee gave mandate to the rapporteur and the secretariat together with the Chair to identify appropriate working group members. The members of the Committee were requested to propose experts in the field of interest. It was agreed that the proposals should be sent to the rapporteur with copy to the secretariat.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A SCIENTIFIC OPINION CONCERNING :

5.1. Working group on Criteria on methods for *Salmonella* detection

The Chairman of the group briefed the Committee about the outline of the document and main points considered. The draft report was discussed thoroughly and the members of the Committee commented upon it. The Committee suggested different amendments and asked for clarification of certain parts. It was agreed to present the document for possible adoption at the next plenary.

5.2. Working Group on NLVs

The Rapporteur presented the draft report and the amendments made since the last presentation. From the report it appears that these viruses are considered to be one of the main causes of gastroenteritis in humans. It is considered a foodborne zoonosis and most infections result from contamination from infected food-handlers. Person-to person contact also represents an important source of infection. The main sources are bivalve molluscs and fresh produce. Water is also a very important source but it only covered in the report in terms of irrigation use. The Committee complimented the working group on the draft document. The draft report was discussed thoroughly and the members of the Committee commented upon it. On conclusions and recommendations, the document was revised and updated accordingly and finally adopted unanimously subject to small editorial changes to be made by the rapporteur and the secretariat. It was agreed to circulate a final amended document before publication and the Committee agreed to reply within three days from the date of its receipt.

6. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE:

6.1. Working group on *Salmonellae*

The Chairman of the working group briefed the Committee on the state of art and progress made by the group. The group at its last meeting considered a list of food-commodities important for *Salmonellae* and ranged them based on the associated risk. The rapporteur also asked the Committee for some input on the progress to be made for the future work. The Committee agreed that the work to be carried out is considerable as *Salmonellae* are so widely found making the task for the group rather difficult. The working group will meet again at the beginning of March.

6.2. Working group on VTEC

The Chairman of the working group presented the progress. Reflection was given to the different behaviour of the micro-organisms considered (VTEC and *Salmonellae*). Although the mandate is similar to the *Salmonellae* one, the behaviour of VTEC in comparison to *Salmonellae* is very different and therefore the outcome of the reports could differ. Water will represent an important source for VTEC. The next working group meeting is planned for beginning of March. The two working groups will

keep in contact on the progress made and a joint working group meeting has already been planned.

6.3. Working group on honey

On behalf of the Chairman of the working group the secretariat informed the Committee on the progress made. The working group met at the beginning of January and the outline of the document was agreed, tasks were distributed. A first draft report is likely to be presented at the next plenary meeting.

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

The latest discussion on BSE was reported to the Committee.

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

The SCVPH member of the current SCF *ad hoc* working group on “Fruit and Vegetables microbiology” reported that a draft opinion will probably be presented for adoption at the next plenary meeting of the SCF.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

A colleague from DG Research (RTD) presented the Sixth Framework of research. The Committee commented upon the plan presented and limitations of procedure in accessing funding for research programmes. However, the committee agreed to discuss and forward an overview on possible new areas of research.

Proposed date for the plenary meeting of 2002. The secretariat asked to postpone the date of the last meeting of the year, initially scheduled on 20-21 November. The Committee agreed. The new date is **27-28 November**.

Annex I: Attendance

Members

Dr. A. Baars,
Prof. J. Brugere-Picoux,
Dr. P. Colin,
Prof. C. Martinez Bordenave-Gassedat,
Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels (chairman),
Prof. R. Fries,
Prof. A. Johnston (I vice-chairman),
Dr. H. Kruse,
Prof. A. Macri,
Dr. R. Maijala,
Prof. A. Mantis,
Dr. W. Pfau,
Prof. F. Smulders,
Dr. I. Vågsholm,
Prof. J. Van Hoof,
Prof. A. Vuitton (II vice-chairman).

Apologies

Dr. P. Gerner-Smidt,
Dr. T. Roberts.

Absent

Prof. V. Caporale

COMMISSION

Mrs R. Diez (SANCO/C2),
Mrs M. Marini (SANCO/C2),
Mr R. Horgan (SANCO/C2),
Mr B. Verleysen (SANCO/C2).