



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 21-22 JANUARY 2003

(APPROVED ON 26 MARCH 2003)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee.

For apologies and absences, see the attached attendance list.

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

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The sequence of draft documents to be discussed under point 5 was amended (to start with the discussion on the fluoroquinolone document). The agenda was adopted in accordance to the changes proposed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27-28 NOVEMBER 2002

The proposed minutes were adopted.

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

4.1. VTEC

The draft document has been amended, taking into account the comments made by the Committee members at the last plenary meeting and the Chairman of the working group highlighted the changes made since previous presentations. The Committee focused on the latter parts of the document, and discussed particularly the section on “the appropriateness of setting microbiological criteria” and the conclusions and recommendations. These sections were revised and updated. The document was finally adopted unanimously subject to minor editorial changes to be made by the rapporteur and the secretariat.

4.2. Salmonellae

The Chairman of the working group presented the document as amended since the latest discussion. A proposed executive summary was also

discussed. The Committee emphasised the roles of food categories identified as ‘high risk categories’ linked to outbreaks of salmonellosis and the prevalences of salmonellae in the foodstuffs. The revised document, taking account of amendments requested, will be presented for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

5. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE:

5.1. Working group on Fluoroquinolones

A first draft document was presented for comments to the plenary. The rapporteur briefly presented the table of contents and the various chapters and the Committee commented upon it. Main comments concerned the consequences of fluoroquinolone-resistant *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* for human health, and the ‘pros’ and ‘cons’ associated with the use of these substances. The members of the Committee were asked to provide data on the use and prescription of fluoroquinolone in different countries.

5.2. Working group on revision of meat inspection procedures in veal calves

The revised draft document was distributed and briefly introduced. The Chairman of the working group explained the difficulty in defining a veal calf. An overview of the major diseases affecting veal calves, which were considered by the working group, was also presented. The Committee commented upon the possible use of alternative methods of meat inspection. The revised document will be tabled at the next plenary meeting, for discussion and possible adoption.

5.3. Working group on Staphylococcal enterotoxins in cheeses

An advanced and updated draft was tabled for discussion. The Chairman of the Working group briefed the Committee on the outcome of the latest working group meeting. The Committee commented upon the draft and suggested to include additional information on the analytical methods used for the detection of staphylococcal enterotoxins and to revise the text referring to current microbiological criteria and new possible criteria for *S. aureus* in milk products. Information on the factor influencing the growth of *S. aureus* should also be included. A revised draft document will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the next SCVPH plenary meeting.

6. INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON NEW QUESTIONS AND NEW WORKING GROUPS

The Commission Services presented a new urgent question on the evaluation of antimicrobial substances for poultry carcasses to the Committee. The new question relates to the evaluation of chemical substances, dossiers to be presented and to the previous SCVPH opinion on “Benefits and limitations of antimicrobial treatments for poultry carcasses”, issued in October 1998. After discussing the proposed mandate the Committee accepted this new question and agreed to

establish an *ad hoc* working group. The working group composition was agreed and dates for meetings were arranged. Considering the urgency of this question, the Committee aim to try to finalise it as soon as possible and possibly by April.

Regarding new working groups, the secretariat informed the Committee that, following the previous SCVPH meeting, two new working groups have been set up one on Tuberculosis and another one dealing with West Nile Virus. The composition of the two working groups was presented and endorsed by the Committee.

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

A short presentation on the main outcome of the discussions at the latest SSC plenary meeting was presented to the members of the Committee. Document concerning harmonisation of risk assessment procedures has been approved by the SSC.

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

The SCVPH member of the *ad hoc* working group on TSE – briefed the Committee on the main issues currently under discussion in the group.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

The Chairman of the Committee and the secretariat briefed the Committee on the ongoing developments regarding the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). A document regarding transition arrangements from the current Scientific Committees to the EFSA Scientific Committee and Panels was distributed to the members of the Committee.

Dates for an additional plenary meeting were agreed by the Committee (14th and 15th April).

Annex I: Attendance

Members

Dr. A. Baars,
Prof. J. Brugère-Picoux,
Dr. P. Colin,
Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels (chairman),
Prof. R. Fries,
Prof. A. Johnston (I vice-chairman),
Dr. H. Kruse (21 January),
Prof. A. Macri (22 January),
Prof. R. Maijala,
Dr. W. Pfau,
Dr. T. Roberts,
Prof. F. Smulders,
Dr. I. Vågsholm,
Prof. J. Van Hoof,
Prof. A. Vuitton (II vice-chairman).

Apologies

Dr. P. Gerner-Smidt,
Dr. H. Kruse (22 January),
Prof. A. Macri (21 January),
Prof. A. Mantis.

Absent

Prof. V. Caporale
Prof. C. Martinez Bordenave-Gassedat.

COMMISSION

Ms L. Costa (SANCO/C2),
Ms M. Marini (SANCO/C2),
Ms M. Hugas (SANCO/C2),
Mr M. Weijtens (SANCO/D2, 22 January).