

**SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
(Section Animal health and welfare)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 11-12 OCTOBER 2004**

President: Mr. Bernard Van Goethem for points 26, 27, 28 and Mr. Alberto Laddomada for the other points

All the Member States were present except Germany for the points 26, 27, 28 (represented by Denmark)

1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING:

African swine fever

Italy (Sardinia)

The Italian delegation provided update information on the disease situation in 2004. African swine fever has been confirmed in the *Nuoro Province*. To date, more than 100 outbreaks have occurred (outbreaks and epidemiological links). The number of outbreaks peaked in May – July 2004 (14500 pigs were slaughtered).

A few outbreaks were also recorded in *Oristano* and *Cagliari*, that were however rapidly put under control.

The origin of the serious recrudescence of the disease is being investigated. As to the important spreading of the disease, the Italian delegation pointed out that illegal behaviour of farmers in the Province of Nuoro and difficulties encountered by the local authorities carrying out the necessary controls could be indicated as the possible causes.

The Commission expressed its serious concerns about the situation, in particular the illegality in which the farmers seem to operate in the Province of Nuoro and the insufficient controls by the authorities that seems not to be in conformity with the African swine fever Directive and with the eradication programme approved by the Commission for 2004. Consequently, the 2005 eradication programme for ASF submitted by Italy in the context of Council Decision 90/424/EEC will not be proposed for co-financing.

Italy assured the Committee that the Italian authorities have every intention to fight the disease but that they will only be able to manage if they have the full support of all authorities concerned, including the police.

The Commission announced that an urgent FVO mission to Sardinia was being planned in order to assess the situation.

West Nile Fever

France

The French delegation distributed and presented information about the disease situation. To date, 15 cases have been confirmed and 24 suspicions are being analysed. The representative outlined measures taken to control the disease and to increase awareness of veterinarians and horse keepers. Epidemiological surveillance in birds is ongoing. To date, 8 seroconversions have been confirmed. No human cases have been reported.

Bluetongue

France (Corsica)

The French delegation distributed and presented information concerning the current disease situation. In the region of Haute-Corse 12 outbreaks have been confirmed and in the region of Corse du sud 4 outbreaks (serotypes 4 and 16). Entomological data showed the presence of vectors (culicoida) in three regions (Porto-vecchio, Figari and Sartène).

France informed the Committee about its intention to start a vaccination campaign with serotypes 2, 4 and 16.

2. INFORMATION FROM GERMANY ON THE EVOLUTION OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN FERAL PIGS IN LOWER SAXONY

Postponed at the request of Germany.

3. INFORMATION FROM ITALY ON THE PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FROM FERAL PIGS IN SARDINIA (ART. 16, COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/60/EC)

The Italian delegation presented the plan and explained the current situation. The Commission replied that it needs a further assessment of the situation

See also point 1.

4. INFORMATION ON AVIAN INFLUENZA IN:

Asia

The Commission presented the following information documents:

- *FAO Recommendations on the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Asia (SANCO/10492/2004-B)*

This FAO position paper included the following conclusions:

In determining the strategy for control of H5N1 HPAI, all available control measures should be considered and those that are feasible and likely to be cost effective in the local situation should be adopted. The selection of measures should

be based on risk assessment and a thorough understanding of the HPAI status in the country or compartment. Stamping out and vaccination are not mutually exclusive. Targeted vaccination has considerable value as part of a phased response strategy, allowing veterinary authorities to bring infection under control as a preliminary step on the road to eradication in specified compartments or the entire country, as appropriate to the circumstances.

- *Update on the avian influenza situation in Asia, in particular on Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand (SANCO/10542/2004-B)*

South Africa

In view of the current situation in South Africa the protection measures already in place and elapsing on 31 December 2004 were proposed to be prolonged until March 2005, in line with the OIE standards established for this disease.

See also point 2 (SANCO/10541/2004-Rev.1)

5. INFORMATION ON LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN ITALY (DOC. SANCO/10572/2004) (MP)

Italian delegation reported outbreaks of the LPAI H7N3 subtype in turkey flocks in the region of Veneto. The first outbreak was confirmed on 15 September 2004. The origin of this outbreak was assumed to be introduced of a novel virus from wild hosts or re-emergence of the 2002-2003 epidemic strain. To date, 17 LPAI outbreaks have been confirmed since 15/09/2004 in this region.

Italy also outlined the control and monitoring measures in place, both in the vaccination and outside the vaccination area. In view of the evolution of the disease situation Italy submitted a proposal to amend the Italian vaccination program (Commission Decision amending Decision 2004/666/EC. Document SANCO/10584/2004-Rev.1).

See also point 20.

6. DISEASE UPDATE- FMD SITUATION IN SOUTH AMERICA (DOC.SANCO/10604/2004) (HLB)

The Commission summarised information received from the Brazilian authorities as regards FMD outbreak which was confirmed on 26 August 2004. The area where the outbreak occurred is 500 km away from the current free zones with international recognition and nearly 350 km away from the area of the state of Para with national recognition as being “free from FMD disease with vaccination”.

7. BEES- INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ON IMPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION DECISION 2003/881/EC (PB/HN)

The Member States were informed about the presence of small hive beetle larvae in a bee shipment from Texas (USA) to Portugal, accompanied with the incorrectly issued certificate. The Commission made clear that per Decision 2003/881/EC USA is not currently authorized to ship queen bees to the EU because the small hive

beetle is not notifiable in the entire USA. The US authorities have now issued a request to authorise resumption of export of queen bees of the State of Hawaii explaining that this State is free of small hive beetle. The Commission distributed the letter from US (Document SANCO 10607/2004).

See also point 25.

8. MANUAL ON LEGISLATION CONCERNING IMPORTS OF LIVE ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS (DOC. SANCO/10343/2004) (AB)

The Commission distributed the “Community legislation on importation and transit of animals and products of animal origin” (Volumes I. and II.)

9. UNIT E2 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2003 (DOC. SANCO/10590/2004) (HN)

The Annual activity report 2003 of Unit E2 was distributed to each delegation.

10. PRESENTATION BY THE VETERINARY LABORATORIES AGENCY (UK) ON A RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPORT OF CONTAMINATED MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS INTO GREAT BRITAIN (THE DOCUMENT CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE FOLLOWING LINK : [HTTP://WWW.DEFRA.GOV.UK/ANIMALH/ILLEGAL/PDF/RISK-ASSESSMENT04.PDF](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegal/pdf/risk-assessment04.pdf))

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

11. TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION AND MONITORING OF CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASES IMPLEMENTED IN 2003 (DOC. SANCO/10601/2004) (JPV)

The Commission distributed and outlined the document summarizing the technical evaluation of the programmes for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases implemented in 2003. The programmes were assessed on the level of implementation and the fulfilment of the objectives as stated in the programmes. The Commission representative concluded that in general, most of the programmes were implemented satisfactorily. However, for some programmes additional information needs to be provided by the Member States to finalize the assessment. The Commission also made clear that the implementation and the fulfilment of some programmes or part of the programmes is not fully satisfactory.

12. INFORMATION OF THE MEMBER STATES ON THE DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE ANIMAL DISEASE CASES FOR 2003 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF DIRECTIVE 64/432/EEC (DOC SANCO 10409/2004-REV.1) (HK)

The Commission distributed and commented on the “Annual report 2003 concerning details of the occurrence of diseases listed in Annex E (I) and of any other diseases covered by the additional guarantees provided for by Community legislation and of monitoring or eradication programme in the territory of the Member States”.

The Member States were requested to provide missing information and check the documentation for possible mistakes/omissions.

13. LISTS OF MEMBER STATES (OR REGIONS) OFFICIALLY FREE OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS, BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS, ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS, IBR, BRUCELLA MELITENSIS AND AUJEZSKY'S DISEASE OR WHERE APPROVED AUJEZSKY'S DISEASE AND IBR CONTROL PROGRAMMES ARE IN PLACE (DOC SANCO/10574/2004) (HK)

The Commission presented the abovementioned list.

14. INFORMATION TO THE MEMBER STATES ON THE PROPOSED CO-FINANCING TO BE PAID FOR THE 2003 ERADICATION PROGRAMMES (AW)

Presentation of the list concerning the Financial aid decisions proposals for the 2003 Control and eradication programmes.

15. DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION (ON CD ROM)

APPLICATION FROM MEMBER STATES FOR APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMES, AND APPROVAL OF FARMS AND ZONES FOR FREEDOM OF VHS, IHN, BONAMIA AND MARTEILIA

SANCO/10551/2004,	SANCO/10552/2004,	SANCO/10553/2004,
SANCO/10554/2004,	SANCO/10555/2004,	SANCO/10556/2004,
SANCO/10557/2004,	SANCO/10558/2004,	SANCO/10559/2004,
SANCO/10560/2004,	SANCO/10561/2004,	SANCO/10562/2004,
SANCO/10563/2004,	SANCO/10564/2004,	SANCO/10565/2004,
SANCO/10566/2004,	SANCO/10567/2004,	SANCO/10568/2004

Reports from the annual meetings of the reference laboratories for fish diseases (SANCO/10569/2004) and mollusc diseases (SANCO/10570/2004).

16. DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION

FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION CARRIED OUT IN ROMANIA FROM 7 TO 11 JUNE 2004 IN ORDER TO FOLLOW UP THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES IN RESPONSE TO MISSION REPORT DG(SANCO)/9279/2003 CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF CONTROLS OF THE EXPORT OF LIVE SHEEP AND HORSES TO THE EUROPEAN UNION (DG(SANCO)/7341/2004-MR FINAL)

16a. Update on developments concerning fraudulently certified buffalo meat found in Hamburg, Muuga (Estonia) and Klaipėda (Lithuania). (WMM/MGB)

The Commission informed the Member States about the recent situation concerning fraudulently certified buffalo meat found in Hamburg, Muuga (Estonia) and Klaipėda (Lithuania). German authorities in Hamburg have contacted the Commission because of 36 containers of meat of Indian origin detained in the border inspection post in Hamburg. The certificates were false and the meat was falsely certified as being of Australian or possibly New Zealand origin, destined originally for transshipment to Russia via other ports in the EU in Lithuania, or Estonia. OLAF is liaising with Australia and New Zealand to ascertain where the problem originated. Indian authorities met with the Commission, but there is no official response yet.

The Russian authorities and the Commission exchanged letters on the situation regarding the containers in Hamburg.

Considering the animal health and public health risk, the Commission advised the Member States to inform the Border inspection posts to be alert and to carry out appropriate checks to prevent any illegal introduction.

17. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

No items were raised.

18. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE LISTS OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION AND MONITORING OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND OF CHECKS AIMED AT THE PREVENTION OF ZOOSES QUALIFYING FOR A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE COMMUNITY IN 2005 (DOC. SANCO/10547/2004) (JPV)

The purpose of the proposal presented was to approve the list of programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses qualifying for a financial contribution from the Community in 2005 and to set out the rate and amount of the financial contribution. The Commission explained that the Member States submitted 81 programmes of which 61 qualified for a financial contribution from the Community for 2005 according to Article 24(5) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC.

The programmes were assessed on the basis of their relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness and utility and also on the basis of priorities which have been set.

The Commission made the following statement:

“61 programmes submitted by the Member States qualified for a financial contribution from the Community for 2005 according to Article 24(5) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC.

Additional information was requested in accordance with Article 24(4). The Commission examined the programmes and concludes that 16 of 61 programmes need to be amended in order to be approved individually in accordance with Article 24(6). The Member States concerned have been informed about the programmes which have to be amended and have been requested to submit the appropriately amended programmes before 22 October 2004.

The following programmes need to be amended in order to be approved individually:

- Estonia – Enzootic bovine leucosis*
- Greece – Bovine brucellosis*
- Greece – Bovine tuberculosis*
- Greece – Ovine and caprine brucellosis (B melitensis)*
- Ireland – Bovine tuberculosis*
- Italy - Bluetongue*
- Italy – Bovine brucellosis*
- Italy - Bovine tuberculosis*
- Italy - Ovine and caprine brucellosis (B melitensis)*
- Italy - Enzootic bovine leucosis*
- Italy – Swine vesicular disease*
- Lithuania – Rabies*
- United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) - Bovine tuberculosis*
- Italy – Salmonella*
- Netherlands – Salmonella*
- Slovak Republic – Salmonella”*

Vote: 122 votes in favour; 2 abstentions (qualified majority)

19. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE LIST OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION AND THE MONITORING OF CERTAIN TSEs QUALIFYING FOR A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE COMMUNITY IN 2005. (DOC SANCO/2638/2004) (JOV)

The Member States considered a draft Decision aiming to adopt the list of programmes for the eradication and monitoring of certain TSEs qualifying for a

financial contribution from the Community in 2005 and to set the rate and the maximum amount of those contributions.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

20. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2004/666/EC OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2004 ON INTRODUCING VACCINATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE MEASURES TO CONTROL INFECTIONS WITH LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN ITALY AND ON SPECIFIC MOVEMENT CONTROL MEASURES (DOC. SANCO/10584/2004) (MP)

The Commission indicated that since mid September 2004, there is evidence that low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N3 has been reoccurring in the areas of Italy previously affected. Up to present time the infections seem to be contained within a defined area under the restrictions provided for in Decision 2004/666/EC. Nevertheless, the Commission proposed to authorise Italy to re-introduce vaccination also in bordering areas to prevent possible further spread of the disease.

See also point 5.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

21. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2004/614/EC CONCERNING PROTECTION MEASURES IN RELATION TO HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (DOC. SANCO/10541/2004-REV.1) (MP)

The Commission recalled that protection measures in relation to HPAI in ratite flocks in South Africa were adopted by Decision 2004/614/EC. The last report sent by RSA to the OIE on the avian influenza situation in the country was dated 27 August 2004. At least six months should pass after destruction of the ratites and disinfections of the infected holdings before imports of meat of ratites and their eggs from RSA can be allowed again. The Commission therefore proposed, in view of the current situation, to prolong the measures in place until 31 March 2005.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

22. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTATION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS FOR CERTAIN DESTINATIONS (DOC. SANCO/10515/2004-REV.5) (JF)

The Commission explained that import conditions for cats, dogs and ferrets must be at least equivalent to the conditions on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals (Regulation (EC) No 998/2003). The intention of this equivalency between conditions applying to non-commercial and commercial movements of these species was to avoid fraud on pets trade. The Commission considered that the risk of fraud is negligible as regards movements of these species between bodies, institutes or centres approved in accordance with

annex C to Council directive 92/65/EEC. The Member States were therefore presented a draft Decision laying down specific conditions and setting out the model health certificate for the importation of cats, dogs and ferrets when they are destined for laboratories. This derogation applies only for the importation of dogs, cats and ferrets coming from a third country or territory listed in Section 2 of part B or in Part C of Annex II to Regulation (EC)No 998/2003.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

23. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 93/52/EEC AS REGARDS THE DECLARATION THAT CERTAIN PROVINCES OF ITALY ARE FREE OF BRUCELLOSIS (BRUCELLA MELITENSIS) AND DECISION 2003/467/EC AS REGARDS THE DECLARATION THAT CERTAIN PROVINCES OF ITALY ARE FREE OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS, BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS AND ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS (DOC SANCO/10408/2004-REV.2) (HK)

The Member States considered a draft Decision to recognise certain regions in Italy as officially free of certain animal diseases:

- brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) as regards ovine or caprine holdings in the provinces of Firenze, Livorno, Lucca, Massa-Carrara, Pisa, Pistoia, Prato and Siena in the region of Toscana and in the provinces of Perugia and Terni in the region of Umbria
- tuberculosis as regards bovine herds in the province of Como in the region of Lombardia and in the province of Prato in the region of Toscana
- brucellosis as regards bovine herds in the province of Brescia in the region of Lombardia, the province of Prato in the region of Toscana and the provinces of Perugia and Terni in the region of Umbria
- enzootic bovine leucosis as regards bovine herds in the province of Pavia in the region of Lombardia, the provinces of Massa-Carrara in the region of Toscana and the provinces of Perugia and Terni in the region of Umbria.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

24. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 92/452/EEC AS REGARDS EMBRYO COLLECTION TEAMS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (DOC. SANCO/10516/2004-REV.1) (HK)

The purpose of the proposal was to add one embryo collection team in the USA to the list laid down in Decision 92/452/EEC.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

25. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COMMISSION DECISION 2003/881/EC CONCERNING THE ANIMAL HEALTH AND CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTS OF BEES (*APIS MELLIFERA* AND *BOMBUS* SPP.) FROM CERTAIN THIRD

COUNTRIES AS REGARDS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (DOC. SANCO/10583/2004-REV.1) (PB)

The Commission informed the Member States that the US authorities have requested to provide a derogation authorising the exportation of live queen bees from Hawaii, where presence of small hive beetle and Tropilaelaps mite are notifiable. Taking account of the particular geographical situation of Hawaii and its health status as regards bee diseases, the Commission considered that a regionalisation mechanism for isolated territories should be established allowing for appropriate derogations. The Member States were therefore presented a proposal granting such a derogation to Hawaii in order to allow the importation of live queen bees and live queen bumble bees exclusively from that part of the USA.

See also point 7.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

26. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF AN EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH POLICY AND THE FINANCING OF A STUDY ANALYSING THE COSTS OF, AND CONDITIONS FOR, A LIVESTOCK EPIDEMICS RISK FINANCING INSTRUMENT IN THE EU (DOC. SANCO/10030/2004-REV.1) (MPD)

The aim of the draft Decision was to approve the following actions for the purpose of their financing:

- 1) External evaluation of the Community Animal Health Policy and adequate impact assessments to define adequate policy option for the future in this area
- 2) A study on “costs and conditions analyse for a risk financing instrument for livestock epidemics in the EU”.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

27. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING THE FUNDING BY THE COMMUNITY OF A SURVEY ON THE ATTITUDES OF CONSUMERS TOWARDS THE WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS (DOC. SANCO/10587/2004) (RH)

The Member States considered a draft Decision concerning the funding by the Community of a survey on the attitudes of consumers towards the welfare of farmed animals.

This is the first EUROBAROMETER survey to be carried out in the field of animal welfare and a budgetary allocation of 200.000 EUR is envisaged.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

28. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE

COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE ORGANISATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EC-CHILE AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES APPLICABLE TO TRADE IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS AND OTHER GOODS AND ANIMAL WELFARE (DOC. SANCO/10588/2004) (RH)

The Member States considered a draft Decision concerning the financial contribution by the Community towards the organisation of an international seminar on animal welfare in the context of the EC-Chile Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures applicable to trade in animals and animal products, plants, plant products and other goods and animal welfare.

A maximum budgetary allocation of 50.000 EUR is foreseen to facilitate the participation of European scientific experts to the seminar and to communicate and disseminate the outcome of the seminar by publishing the conference proceedings.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

29. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION APPROVING ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ON SANITARY MEASURES APPLICABLE TO TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS (DOCUMENT SANCO/10467/2004-REV.1) (NG)

The Commission presented a draft decision for changing the annexes to the EU-Canada agreement on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products.

Equivalence ('Yes-1 status') for pig meat on public health measures and for bovine semen on animal health measures has been concluded on reciprocal basis. For Canadian exports to the EU some special conditions are laid down in the Canadian Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures. As regards equivalence for Canadian exports of pig meat to the EU ante and post mortem provisions, the definition of market hogs and other hygiene requirements are to be reviewed when the new EU Food Hygiene Regulations will be applied. Similarly as regards equivalence for EU exports of pig meat to Canada some provisions are to be reviewed when the Canadian Meat Inspection Regulation will be amended.

Based on the Community experience with products imported from Canada, and animal welfare considerations, the Community agreed to reduce the frequency of EU identity and physical import checks for certain Canadian fish and fishery products.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

30. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND POSSIBLE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATES FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND ANIMALS FROM CANADA (DOCUMENT SANCO/10468/2004-REV.2) (NG)

The Commission presented a draft decision for establishing simplified certificates for bovine semen and pig meat (public health) based on the model attestation for a 'Yes-1 status' in Annex VII to the Agreement.

The purpose of this draft decision is also to amend Decision 2004/639/EC laying down animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the importation of bovine semen from third countries in order to clarify that the use of the model certificate laid down in Decision 2004/639/EC is required without prejudice to specific certification requirements based on Community agreements with Third Countries.

Votes: Unanimous vote in favour

31. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION FIXING THE ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR THE COMMON CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS AND THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AS MENTIONED IN COUNCIL DECISION 90/424/EEC (DOC. SANCO/56/2004) (LVDB)

The Commission presented a draft regulation laying down rules on the eligibility for Community financing of emergency action and measures to combat FMD as referred to in the Council decision 90/424/EEC.

32. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EC) No 1774/2002 AS REGARDS OTHER USES OF CATEGORY 3 MILK MILK-BASED PRODUCTS AND MILK-DERIVED PRODUCTS (DOC. SANCO/2379/2003-REV.11) (VP)

Pending the advice of the European Food Safety Authority and in the light of current scientific opinions, the Commission presented a draft Decision to lay down, provisionally, specific measures for the processing, collection, transport and uses of Category 3 milk, milk-based products and milk-derived products.

In order to prevent a risk to animal and public health appropriate control systems should be put in place in the Member States and the competent authority should supervise effectively the safety of the dairy products concerned in accordance with all applicable control provisions. In addition Member States should also take into account their risk assessments for the best and worst cases scenarios carried out in preparation of their contingency plans for epizootic diseases, when deciding about the number of registered holdings that can use Category 3 milk, milk-based products and milk-derived products.

33. MISCELLANEOUS

- (1) The Commission informed the Member States that document SANCO/10490/2004-Rev.1 (Draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/526/EC as regards classical swine fever control measures in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany and Slovakia) has been unanimously voted at the last SCFCAH but has not yet been adopted by the Commission. It was also explained that Decision 2003/526/EC runs out on 31 October 2004. The Commission proposed to include an extension of validity of that Decision until 30 April 2005 and therefore presented Revision 2 of document SANCO/10490/2004. The Member States agreed to this approach.
- (2) France requested to be updated on the implementation of TRACES. The Commission provided the requested information, in particular as regards the off-line system and the data warehouse.
- (3) The Netherlands requested to be informed about the cleansing and disinfection facilities present in the Member States. Hauliers seem to have reported that there are insufficient places for disinfection of cattle trucks in certain new Member States. The Commission said that the point will be put on the agenda of the next SCFCAH.
- (4) Norway reported findings of paramyxovirus-1 in imported broiler chickens from Sweden. Antibodies were found in routine screening tests.
- (5) The Commission updated the Member States on export problems with Uruguay and in particular of pig derived products from Italy.
- (6) The Commission distributed document entitled "*Australian Ratite Industry On-Farm Surveillance Plan*" (ARIOFSP), document SANCO/10543/2004.

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