

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD ON 19 JUNE 2007 IN BRUSSELS
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

President: Eric Pondelet

All the Member States were present, except Malta.

1. Possible revision of sanitary rules regarding the import of fish oil for human consumption.

The Commission informed the Member States about the problems that Third Countries have to implement the new rules concerning the production and export of fish oil for human consumption. The Commission proposed to revise the rules, by limiting the application of the EU legislation only to the refinement of fish oil or by postponing the date of entry into force of the Regulation (31 October 2008 instead of 31 October 2007). The Member states agreed to postpone the date of entry into force, maintaining the current EU rules.

2. Recognition of Denmark as a region where the risk of Trichinella in domestic swine is officially recognised as negligible – presentation by the Danish delegation.

The Danish Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Preben Willeberg, gave a presentation in order to provide the Member States with sufficient evidence and arguments for Denmark to be officially recognised as a region with a negligible risk of Trichinella in domestic swine. FI made some additional comments on the monitoring programme. FR also made further comments. DK will address the comments and revise the report accordingly. The Commission explained the next steps in the procedure for officially recognising DK as a region with a negligible risk of Trichinella in domestic swine. Once a consensus is reached at the next SCFCAH meeting, the decision will be placed on the DG SANCO internet site as laid down in Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005.

3. Information on the progress of the discussion on the DG ENTR proposal for a Regulation setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products.

The Commission informed the Member States about the progress of the discussion in the Council working group on the DG ENTR "new approach" proposal. It was in particular explained that with regard to accreditation no exemptions from the scope of the Regulation were foreseen; that on market surveillance the compromise text excludes Regulations 178/2002 and 882/2004 from the scope; and that with regard to

import controls the compromise text excludes those areas for which Community legislation lays down more specific rules.

4. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision concerning a financial contribution from the Community towards a baseline survey on the prevalence of salmonella in breeding pigs to be carried out in the Member States – (SANCO/1077/2007 – Rev.2).

The draft Commission Decision was presented by the Commission. Comments were made by the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, France and Italy. The Commission announced that the draft will be further discussed with experts of the Member States early July and presented for an opinion of the Committee on 18 July 2007.

5. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision of 23/III/2007 (Reference: C(2007)1258 final) as regards a Community financial contribution for the year 2007, to the Community reference laboratories for the monitoring of *Campylobacter*. (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) (SANCO/1547/2007).

The draft Decision amends Decision of 23/III/2007 (Reference C(2007)1258final) by increasing the 2007 budget for the Community Reference Laboratory for *Campylobacter* by 27,000 €. This increase is requested to extend the CRL workshop in order to improve the skills of national reference laboratories on quantification of *Campylobacter* on broiler carcasses. (Right of scrutiny applies).

Vote: in favour at the qualified majority, Malta absent.

6. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2006/415/EC concerning certain measures in relation to high pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in poultry in the Community as regards the extension of period of application (SANCO/10137/2007).

Commission Decision 2006/415/EC lays down certain protection measures to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 including the establishment of areas A and B following a suspected or confirmed outbreak of the disease in poultry. That Decision currently applies until 30 June 2007. As outbreaks of the avian influenza virus of the subtype H5N1 continue to occur, the measures laid down in Decision 2006/415/EC should continue to apply until 30 June 2008. With the transposition into national law of Council Directive 2005/94/EC on Community control measures for avian influenza by 1 July 2007 the references to the transitional measures of Decision 2006/416/EC, which will elapse by 30 June 2007, must be replaced by references to that Directive.

(Please note that due to outbreaks of avian influenza H5N1 in the Czech Republic urgent safeguard measures were adopted on the Commission's initiative on 21 June 2007 and published on 22 July by means of Decision 2007/434/EC to add the restricted areas A and B on the Czech territory to the Annex of Decision 2006/415/EC.

Before its formal adoption the draft decision (SANCO/10137/2007) voted at the Committee on 19 June 2007 was therefore modified to take into account the zoning and fixation of the duration of the measures until 22 July 2007 in the Czech Republic. It was subsequently adopted on 29 June and published as Decision 2007/454/EC on 30 June.)

Vote: in favour at the qualified majority, Malta absent.

6A. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision granting exemptions to Italy under Council Directive 92/119/EEC for the transport of pigs for slaughter on public and private roads to a slaughterhouse within protection zones in Cremona (SANCO/10135/2007 Rev. 3).

Outbreaks of swine vesicular disease have occurred on 7 and 15 May 2007 in the municipalities of Salvirola and Fiesco (Lombardy region, province Cremona) in the North of Italy. The Italian authorities have immediately taken measures as provided for in Council Directive 92/119/EEC and established protection zones around the outbreaks in accordance with Article 10 of that Directive. The movement and transport of pigs on public and private roads within those protection zones are prohibited, but an exemption may however be granted for movements of slaughter pigs coming from outside the protection zone to a slaughterhouse situated inside that zone. The objective of this draft decision is to grant such exemption upon request by Italy for the movement of slaughter pigs to the slaughterhouse "2037 M/S", which is located in the protection zones in the municipalities of Salvirola and Fiesco. Control and precautionary measures are laid down to guarantee that there is no risk of the spread of the disease.

Vote: in favour at the qualified majority, Malta absent.

7. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision regarding a derogation of BSE eradication measures following confirmation of the presence of a TSE in certain Member States (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (SANCO/1703/2007).

Based on a favourable risk assessment taking particularly into account the control measures in Germany, this proposal provides Germany with a derogation allowing the use of at risk bovine animals until the end of their productive lives, and therefore, by way of derogation from general provisions, to defer their immediate killing and complete destruction. The Commission would like to be informed whether other Member States would also request such derogation. If the inter-services consultation can be concluded, this proposal will be presented for a vote at the SCFCAH meeting on 18 July 2007.

8. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex X to regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (SANCO/1715/2007).

This proposal will include a modified version (colorimetric detection method) of an approved rapid test to the list of approved rapid tests for use in the EU monitoring programme. This is based on a favourable report of the CRL for TSE stating that the amendment will not alter the sensitivity, specificity or reliability of the test.

9. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council updating certain references to standards for laboratories (Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) (SANCO/1675/2007).

According to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, the competent authority designates laboratories that may carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls. These laboratories must however be accredited in accordance with certain European Standards, in particular with the EN standard on «Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation system – General requirements for operation and recognition».

The previous EN 45003 standard on «Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation system – General requirements for operation and recognition» has recently been replaced by EN ISO/IEC 17011. Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 should therefore be amended accordingly.

It is intended to adopt this Regulation before the end of 2007.

10. Miscellaneous / Divers

The Belgian delegation provided information on the presence of vultures coming from Spain. It informed the Committee that Belgium will not use the derogation under Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 to feed those birds using category 2 or 3 material.