

# **Summary report of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health held on 25 May 1998 in Brussels (approved at the meeting on 22 June 1998)**

List of Participants

## **MEMBERS**

Prof. A. Osterhaus (chairperson), Prof. R. Gilbert (first vice-chairperson), Prof. J-L. Jouve (second vice-chairperson), Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels, Prof. O. Kaaden, Prof. A. Macri, Prof. E. Nurmi, Prof. E. Quinto Fernandez, Dr. J. Schlundt, Dr. I. Vagsholm, Dr. D. Vuitton, Prof. F. Van Knapen, Prof. P. Willeberg

## **APOLOGIES**

Prof. V. Caporale, Prof. A. Johnston, Prof. A. Mantis

## **ABSENT**

None

## **COMMISSION**

Mr. R. Vanhoorde (DG XXIV), Mr. B. Verleysen (DG XXIV), Mr. H. Winter (DG VI/BII-2)

### **1. Declarations of interest**

No declarations of specific interest, which might be considered prejudicial to the independence of the members, were made.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 27 April 1998**

The minutes were adopted with some minor amendments.

### **4. Feed-back by the chairman on subjects discussed in the SSC which are of interest to the Committee**

The chairman provided a detailed update on the items which are under discussion in the SSC. He informed the Committee about the state of progress on the following issues:

- antimicrobial resistance,
- concept opinion on exposure to electromagnetic fields,
- harmonisation of the format and the structure of scientific opinions,
- Multi-disciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
- bi-calcium phosphate,

- BSE in sheep,
- organo-phosphates,
- blood, bloodproducts,
- geographical risk (sourcing and modelling),
- monitoring

## **5. Feed-back by members of the Committee having attended working group meetings of other Scientific Committees**

Three members reported on their participation in the following multi-disciplinary working groups:

### **5.1 Johne's / Crohn's disease (Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare)**

The working group's draft scientific opinion is in a progressed stage and is expected to be discussed soon in the plenary of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare.

### **5.2 Hygiene / microbiology (Scientific Committee on Food)**

The working group hygiene will meet on 29 May.

### **5.3 BST**

The Committee was informed about the progress in the second working group that is concentrating on the animal health and the animal welfare aspects.

## **6. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning the equivalence of two protocols for the detection of trichinella larvae in horse meat and in pork with the methods approved in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC**

The rapporteur presented his draft report. The Committee had a discussion on the sensitivity of various methods used for the detection of trichinella and addressed the risk for consumers in various Member States and third countries.

The Committee agreed upon the draft opinion as amended during the plenary. The rapporteur was invited to include these amendments in the report with a view to its transmission to the members of the Committee for its formal adoption through a written procedure.

## **7. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning the modification of the methods approved in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC for the detection of trichinella larvae in horse meat**

The Committee discussed the draft report. It was recognised that the methodology has an impact on the technical practicality in tracing positive samples. Although it does not directly affect consumer health aspects, it was recognised that sourcing is important to avoid the spread of this zoonotic agent.

The Committee agreed upon the draft opinion as amended during the plenary. The rapporteur was invited to include these amendments in the report with a view to its transmission to the members of the Committee for its formal adoption through a written procedure.

## **8. Discussion and possible adoption of a scientific opinion concerning cooling of carcasses during transport**

The rapporteur explained to the Committee that the members of the working group have not yet agreed on the wording of the draft opinion on this since long time outstanding question. In case that it would not be possible to come to a common opinion in the working group, then both views will be submitted to the plenary for discussion.

## **9. Progress report on the request for a scientific review concerning the use of antimicrobial treatments of poultry carcasses, the various methods of carcass rinsing including trisodium monophosphates (TSP), organic acids and hyperchlorinated water**

The rapporteur informed the Committee that the working group is going to finalise its draft opinion in a three day meeting on 26 – 28 May. It was agreed to circulate the draft opinion to all members of the Committee with a view to its discussion at the next plenary which is expected to concentrate on items 9 and 10.

## **10. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the 9th code of Federal Regulations Part 304, et al. Pathogen reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems; Final rule**

The Secretariat informed the Committee that, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, the US proposed to explain the Megareg to the Committee and to answer any possible questions. This however, would be without participation in the scientific debate or in the drafting of the final opinion. The Committee agreed with this suggestion.

Cf. point 9.

## **11. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the use of Bovine Somatotropin;**

The rapporteur thanked the members of the working group for their contributions and informed the Committee that the next meeting of the group was scheduled for 16 June. It was explained that the timetable of progressing with this question has to take account of the ongoing work in the separate working group addressing the animal health and the animal welfare aspects.

## **12. Progress report on the request for 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.**

The rapporteur explained the next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 18 June and that, considering the comprehensiveness of the exercise, a final draft report should not be expected before autumn.

## **13. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the prevalence and methods of control of cysticercosis**

The rapporteur will contact one of the members proposed by the Committee concerning his personal participation or the participation of one of his collaborators in the working group. He will inform the secretariat about the result in order to

organise a working group meeting.

#### **14. Progress report on the request for a scientific opinion concerning the revision of ante- and post- mortem inspection procedures for an alternative inspection system for the slaughter of pigs**

The secretariat updated the Committee on the first working group meeting that took place on 11 May. A draft opinion is being prepared and will be circulated amongst the members of the group.

#### **15. Information by the secretariat on the state of progress on the creation of the multidisciplinary steering group on antimicrobial resistance**

A short overview was given on the state of progress. The Committee was asked to communicate all relevant data and reports issued by national and international scientific bodies to the secretariat and to the member of the Committee that will attend the multidisciplinary steering group. The secretariat was asked to provide the Committee with a copy of the information obtained.

#### **16. Information by the secretariat on the state of progress on the creation of the multidisciplinary working group on:**

16.1 recycling of pig, poultry and fish waste (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSC's ad hoc group on TSE);

16.2 fallen stock (in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and with experts of the SSC's ad hoc group on TSE);

The secretariat informed the Committee about the scientists that were appointed by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and by the SSC's ad hoc group on TSE in this multi-disciplinary working group. The members of the group will be contacted soon concerning the organisation of the first working group meeting.

#### **17. Miscellaneous**

None