



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 MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

Held on 12 July 2001 in Brussels

Adopted 17 October 2001

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COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Held on 12 July 2001 in Brussels

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Dr. R. Ahl,
Dr. D. Alexander
Dr. M. Gunn
Dr. P. Have
Prof. P. Jensen
Prof. Dr. V. Moennig
Dr. D. B. Morton
Dr. P. Le Neindre, Chairman
Prof. G. Panina
Prof. A-L. Parodi
Dr. M. Sharp
Prof. Dr. J. van Oirschot
Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch
Dr. M. Wierup

COMMISSION

Ms. M. Marini, Mr. J. Serratoso, Mr. R. Horgan

APOLOGIES

Dr H. Blokhuis
Prof. D. M. Broom
Dr. R. Dantzer
Prof. M. Verga
Prof. J. Noordhuizen

ABSENT

None

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH
AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

Held on 12 July 2001 in Brussels

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies and attendance is listed on page 2.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Point 8 and 9 of the agenda were amended, a report on “Chronic Wasting in Cattle” was proposed for discussion and possible adoption, and harmonisation of procedures was also included for discussion. The agenda was adopted accordingly.

3. Declarations of interest

No member reported any conflict of interest relating to matters under discussion at today’s meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee

The record of the meeting of 25 April 2001 was adopted with some minor editorial change.

5. Report from the Sub-Committee on Animal Health (Dr. Ahl)

The subcommittee on animal health met on 26 June. Two draft reports were presented for possible approval.

The draft report on “Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) and its diagnostic tests was introduced by the chairman of the working group. The document was discussed in details and proposal for amendments were made. As this report represents an update of a previous opinion on CBPP, the sub-committee asked if it would be possible to add the previous document as an annex. It was also asked to include the statements on CBPP as reported in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic standards version 2000. To clarify if the isolation of the causative agent from sheep and goats leads to official control actions and to mention the period required for officially declared free from infection as stated in the OIE Code. The sub-committee will re-discuss the document at its next sub-committee meeting of 25 September.

The progress report on “Chronic Wasting in Cattle” was presented by Prof Moennig and Prof Parodi. The report is based on a inquiry carried out by the Dutch authorities and the suspicious contamination of batch of vaccines with extraneous viruses. No conclusion could be drawn that a transmissible (new) disease was introduced in those herds. The report was discussed and some improvements suggested. The report was approved subject to minor editorial changes.

Members of the Committee presented the recent results on the ongoing FMD epidemic in the United Kingdom, where almost 1800 cases had been reported.

Dr Vanopdenbosch briefed the sub-committee about recent development in BSE, including the update on GBR, new cases and new legislation.

A request of clarification for participation of External Experts either to the sub-committee meeting or to the plenary was requested.

6. Report from the Sub-Committee on Animal Welfare (Prof. Jensen)

The subcommittee on Animal Welfare met on 25 June. The main subject of the meeting was the discussion of the draft report on the welfare of fur animals kept for fur production. The report is a very comprehensive report, and the Committee has allocated a coming two-days meeting for further discussion of the report. The report can possibly be presented to the plenary meeting of the 17th of October for possible adoption.

The working group on welfare aspects of animal transport, chaired by Prof. Broom, started its work.

Following a new question from the Commission, the subcommittee has appointed Prof. Morton as chairman for a new working group on welfare aspects on the use of primates in laboratory research. Appointment of members of the working group is undergoing.

Dr D. Morton as a member to the working group on xenotransplantation of the Scientific Committee on Medicinal Products and Medical Devices briefed the sub-committee on the state of the art and expressed worries in relation to retrovirus contamination, a draft report is expected to be presented for the plenary of October.

7. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on the eradication of Brucellosis in sheep and goats (Rapporteur: Dr. R. Ahl)

This report was introduced by Dr Ahl. Brucellosis caused by *Brucella melitensis* occurs in sheep and goats in the mediterranean countries. It is a serious zoonotic disease which can be spread to man by direct contact or via products such as unpasteurised milk. Diagnostic tests are generally inadequate, especially in vaccinated animals. Eradication is extremely difficult to achieve using the currently available technology. Vaccination renders total eradication difficult because of interference with test results, but may be the only option in a region where the disease is increasing in man.

The report was discussed and some suggestions for amendments made to the rapporteur. The discussion focused particularly on the conclusions and recommendations. The document was adopted unanimously, subject to editorial changes.

8. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on chronic Wasting in cattle (Rapporteur: Prof. V Moennig and Prof. AL. Parodi)

Prof Moennig introduced the draft report. The document is a summary of the reports, publications from scientists and inquiries made by the Dutch authorities. No new disease could be identified. The report was adopted subject to a few editorial changes.

9. Harmonisation of risk assessment procedures

The chairman of the Committee, as representative of the Committee in the task force for harmonisation of risk assessment procedures, requested comments on the draft document. A lively discussion took place and showed two different approaches/views. Several members did not agree that the risk assessment approach be the framework of all reports of the Committee. However, it was recognised that external experts, being members of the working group, should receive more attention/recognition for the work done that is proposed. After listening to the different views, it was agreed that the Chairman would summarise the outcome of the discussion in a document and circulate it to the members of the Committee for possible remarks.

10. Miscellaneous.

Review and possible amendments of the rules of procedures

At the previous meeting members were asked to raise any items in the internal rules of procedure that they wished to discuss. The discussion was focused on a request of clarification for the participation of external expert to the sub-committee or to the plenary meeting. On the basis of the present rules of procedure that is possible if a real need for clarification is seek.

CV to be published in the Internet

The members of the Committee were asked to send a brief CV for possible publication. A template was agreed to be circulated via e-mail to all members the day after.