



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Health Opinions
Unit C2 - Management of scientific committees

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH

Held on 27 March 2001 in Brussels

Adopted 26 June 2001

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
SUB COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH**

Held on 27 March 2001

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Dr. R. Ahl, Chairman
Dr. D. Alexander
Dr. M. Gunn
Dr P. Have
Prof. Dr. V. Moennig
Prof. J. Noordhuizen
Prof. G. Panina
Prof. A-L. Parodi
Dr M. Sharp
Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch
Prof. M. Wierup

COMMISSION

Dr. J. Moynagh

APOLOGIES

Prof. Dr. J. van Oirschot

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted after including a new item 3a; Discussion on the animal health situation in the EU.

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of the previous Sub-Committee meeting

The minutes of the meeting were adopted with minor amendments.

3. Declarations of interest

No member reported any conflicts of interest relating to the items under discussion

3a Discussion on the animal health situation in the EU.

A discussion on the present animal health situation in the EU took place after the chairman had presented introductory remarks. This focussed mainly on BSE and FMD. Concerning FMD, key issues were as follows;

- Controls at border posts, seaports and airports
- Control and possible prohibition of swill feeding
- Illegal swill feeding
- Certification that the FMDV did not originate from the IAH Pirbright
- Imbalance of regional prices and the effect on trade and animal movement
- Identification of sheep and the control of trade in sheep
- Surveillance and inspections on the farms
- Re-looking at local slaughterhouses

It was mentioned that at present on FMD affected farms in GB a 70-80 % mortality in lambs was observed. The question was raised if the SCAH or the SCAHAW should take the initiative and after discussing the matter in more

detail send an opinion to the EU Commission with a view to recent developments in animal husbandry, structural changes in the agriculture and adaptation of control programmes for infectious animal diseases. It was decided to raise this issue in the meeting of the Committee of 25 April

4. Discussion and possible approval by the Sub-Committee of the following report: Eradication of Brucellosis in sheep (Rapporteur: Dr. R. Ahl)

Following a brief review at the previous meeting, the sub committee held an in-depth discussion on the draft report on the eradication of *Brucella melitensis*. This is a detailed and comprehensive report which reviews brucellosis in sheep and goats with particular emphasis on diagnostic tests, the role of vaccination, eradication programmes and the zoonotic implications of the disease.

Members made several amendments to the draft report and approved the report. It will now be presented to the meeting of the Committee on 25 April for discussion and possible approval.

5. Establishment of Working Groups/Rapporteurs:

a) “Bovine wasting disease”

The committee is requested to examine epidemiological reports prepared by the authorities in the Netherlands concerning the possible disease condition ‘cattle wasting disease’. Following a discussion the sub committee requested Prof Moenning and Prof Parodi to review the material and report to the sub committee.

b) Psittacosis

The Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare is asked to review psittacosis, in the context of other zoonotic diseases and, if appropriate, to outline measures for dealing with the disease in animals (eg awareness, suitable tests, treatments, regulatory actions) which would result in a reduction

in human morbidity. The sub committee requested Dr Alexander to act as rapporteur. Members were requested to consider the possible composition of a working group.

c) Xenotransplantation

The sub committee was requested to nominate a member to participate in a working group being established by the Scientific Committee on Medical products and medical devices on xenotransplantation. Prof. van Oirschot was suggested as a possible participant.

The meeting closed at 17.10h: