

Summary record of the meeting of the sub-committee on Animal Welfare held on 23 and 24 February 1998 in Brussels, adopted 18 May 1998

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Prof. D. Broom, Prof. Dr. J. Hartung, Dr. P. Le Neindre, Prof. M. Verga (23 Feb), Dr. R. Dantzer (24 Feb), Prof. P. Jensen, Dr. D. Morton

COMMISSION

Mr. J. Moynagh, Mrs. Valerie Brown, Mr P Van Houwelingen DG VI, Mr N. Pipiliagkas DG VI

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

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

The summary record of the meeting of the subcommittee of 17 December was adopted without amendment (see doc. XXIV/B3/AW/01/98 attached).

3. Election of two vice chairpersons of the sub-Committee

Following a secret vote Prof. Broom was elected first vice chairperson of the sub-Committee and Prof. Hartung was elected second vice chairperson. They will hold office for an initial period of one year.

4. Review and follow up of questions put to the sub-Committee – Fixing of working groups

(i) The effects of using Bovine Somatotrophin.

Several names were suggested for inclusion on this working group. It was noted that the Chair of the Working group, Prof. Broom, would attend a meeting of the working group of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Public Health who are chef de file for this question. Following this meeting, when there will be a clearer idea of the expertise needed and the exact task of the working group, the group could be constituted. This could be done at the next meeting of the sub committee or in advance of that by agreement between the members of the sub-Committee.

(ii) Standards for forced ventilation for animal transport vehicles for journeys of more than eight hours for the bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine species.

A working group was established to report on this issue under the chairmanship of Prof. Hartung. A report is requested by June.

(iii) Advice on the use of a gas mixture containing CO₂, O₂ and N₂ for stunning poultry prior to slaughter.

A working group was established to report on this issue under the chairmanship of Prof. Morton. This report is also requested by June.

(iv) Welfare requirements for broilers with emphasis on housing systems

Several names were suggested for inclusion on this working group which will be chaired by Prof. Jensen. Because the formal question had not yet been received by the Committee, it was decided to postpone the activation of this working group to a future meeting.

(v) Relationship between animal welfare and product quality.

Dr Verga presented an initial framework on how this broad question could be dealt with by the sub-Committee. It was suggested that the report initially be limited to specific topics such as eggs or pig meat. The constitution of a working group was postponed pending the receipt of the formal question from DG VI.

5. Miscellaneous

(i) Council of Europe discussions on Laboratory Animals

It was noted that the Council of Europe were currently holding discussions on the welfare of laboratory animals. The secretariat undertook to contact the responsible DG for information and to see if there was a possible role for the Subcommittee in this area.

(ii) Future Research in Animal Welfare

The Committee expressed its willingness to assist in definition of suitable research themes in the field of Animal Welfare. It was noted that many of the past reports of the Scientific Veterinary Committee (Animal Welfare Section) contain sections on future research needs.

(iii) Style of Future Reports

While reports adopted by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare are the sole responsibility of the Committee, the sub-Committee noted that it was important to give recognition in the adopted reports to the work of members of the working groups who have assisted in drafting documents on which these reports are substantially based.

(iv) Follow up of Past Reports

The Representative from DG VI reported on progress made in acting on previous advice from the Committee, particularly as regards the Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens where a proposal was expected in the near future.

(v) Future Meetings

The secretariat distributed a provisional timetable for Committee and Subcommittee meetings for 1998. It was noted that the timetable was subject to change, particularly relating to the meetings planned for September.