

# **Summary record of the meeting of the committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare held on 10 March 1999 in Brussels, adopted 23 June 1999**

## ***List of Participants:***

### **MEMBERS**

Dr. R. Ahl, Dr. D. Alexander, Prof. S. Alexandersen, Prof. D. Broom, Dr. R. Dantzer, Dr. F. Garrido-Abellan, Chairman, Dr. M. Gunn, Prof. P. Jensen, Prof. D. Morton, Dr. P. Le Neindre, Prof. G. Panina, Prof. A-L. Parodi, Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch, Prof. M. Verga

### **COMMISSION**

Mr. J. Moynagh, Mr. O. Rohte, Mr. J. Perez-Lanzac, Mr. A. Gavinelli, Mr B Verleysen

### **APOLOGIES**

Prof. J. Badiola Diez, Prof. J. Hartung, Prof. Dr. V. Moennig, Prof. J. van Oirschot

## **MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE held on 10 March 1999 in Brussels**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

### **2. Adoption of the record of the meeting of 16 December 1998**

The draft record of the meeting of 16 December was adopted with minor corrections.

### **3. Declarations of interests**

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

### **4. Report from the Sub-Committee on Animal Welfare (Dr Le Neindre)**

Dr Le Neindre reported that one meeting of the Animal Welfare Subcommittee and several meetings of various working groups had taken place since the previous meeting of the Committee. Work in the subcommittee and working groups had concentrated on the welfare aspects of the use of Bovine somatotrophin in cattle, the rearing of chickens for meat production (broilers) and ventilation standards during transport.

The report of the working group on BST was now complete and for discussion later today. Good progress was also being made on the report on broiler welfare. Work continued on the issue of ventilation standards on animal transports. It was expected that this question would be modified to examine the ventilation requirements in cases where animals were not unloaded at staging posts.

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

Dr Ahl reported that a meeting of the Animal Health Subcommittee and several working groups had taken place since

the previous meeting of the Committee. The main topic discussed at the meetings had been emergency vaccination against foot and mouth disease. A new working group had been established to look at the diagnosis, prevention and eradication of brucella melitensis and a first meeting took place earlier in March. Meetings had also taken place of working groups looking at the updating of Council directive 64/432/EEC, links between Crohns disease and paratuberculosis, classical swine fever in wild boar, and the eradication of bacterial kidney disease.

## **6. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on the Animal Welfare aspects of the use of Bovine Somatotrophin.**

### **Rapporteur Prof. Broom**

Prof. Broom explained the background to this question. The use of BST was currently prohibited in the EU under a moratorium which expires at the end of the year. The legislation bringing in the moratorium required that it be reviewed on the basis of a scientific report. In fact two reports were being produced by the scientific committees; the current report on animal health and welfare and a report by the Scientific Committee on veterinary measures relating to public health which deals with the possible effects of using the product on public health.

The report had been approved by the Subcommittee on Animal Welfare on 1 March 1999.

Prof. Broom described the report in detail and responded to questions. Following considerable discussion and a number of amendments the report was adopted unanimously by the Committee.

## **7. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on the Use of Emergency Vaccination for Foot and Mouth Disease.**

### **Rapporteur Prof. Panina**

Prof. Panina introduced this report which had been approved by the Sub-committee on Animal Health at its meeting of 17 February 1999.

Following detailed examination and discussion leading to some amendments, the report was adopted by all members with the exception of Prof. Alexandersen who did not agree with certain aspects of the report. Prof. Alexandersen will produce a minority report which will be added to the document.

## **8. Miscellaneous.**

Dr Garrido-Abellan gave an account of the recent meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee, in particular concerning discussions that were taking place on geographical risk assessment for BSE.

It was also noted that a meeting on co-ordination of risk assessment methodologies between the various disciplines represented by the scientific Committees would take place in the near future.