

Summary record of the meeting held on 22 September 1998 in Brussels adopted 24 November 1998

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Dr. R. Ahl, Chairman, Dr. D. Alexander, Prof. S. Alexandersen , Prof. J. Badiola Diez, Dr. F. Garrido-Abellan, Dr. M. Gunn, Prof. A-L. Parodi, Prof. Dr. J. van Oirschot, Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch

COMMISSION

Mr. J. Moynagh,

APOLOGIES

Prof. Dr. V. Moennig, Prof. G. Panina

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to include the following additional points

- point 6(iii) - Composting of fish waste
- point 6(iv) - Virus inactivation using UV irradiation
- point 6(v) - Brucella melitensis

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 19 May 1998

The minutes of the meeting were adopted following minor corrections.

3. Declarations of interest

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

4. Discussion and possible adoption by the Sub Committee of a report on Bluetongue

Rapporteur: Dr. Alexandersen

Dr Alexanderssen made a presentation on the draft report to the Committee. This report covers two questions put to the Committee, the importation of animals from bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus endemic areas and secondly the definition of low risk areas for both diseases in Australia. Following discussion and minor amendments the report was accepted by the sub committee. The report will be proposed for adoption to the plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare on 21 October 1998.

5. Nomination of representatives to participate in multidisciplinary working groups with other

Scientific Committees

(i) - risk assessment

The Committee considered the nomination of an expert to this group. Members were requested to forward nominations to the secretariat in the following two weeks for circulation to the sub committee with a view to making a decision at the plenary meeting in October.

6 Review and follow up of questions put to the Sub-Committee - Fixing of working groups

(i) Classical Swine Fever in Wild Boar

The sub committee nominated experts to participate in a working group to examine this topic under the Chairmanship of Prof. Moennig. The secretariat will contact the nominees to ascertain if they are willing and able to participate in the group.

(ii) Bacterial Kidney Disease

The sub committee nominated experts to participate in a working group to examine this topic under the Chairmanship of Prof. Parodi. The secretariat will contact the nominees to ascertain if they are willing and able to participate in the group.

(iii) Effects of composting of fish waste on disease agents.

The sub committee nominated experts to participate in a working group to examine this topic under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gunn. The secretariat will contact the nominees to ascertain if they are willing and able to participate in the group.

(iv) Viral inactivation in animal blood by means of UV irradiation

The secretariat informed the meeting that the committee had been asked to examine a method for the inactivation of viruses in animal blood by means of UV irradiation. This concerned blood products, particularly foetal calf serum. The sub committee appointed Prof Van Oirschot to chair a group on the matter. The membership of the group would be decided at the next meeting of the sub committee

(v) Brucella melitensis

The secretariat informed the meeting that two questions had recently been received on Brucella melitensis. Both questions involved diagnostic tests and the effects of using vaccine. The requests would be redrafted into a single question to the Committee. The sub committee agreed to ask Dr Garrido-Abellan to chair a working group, which he agreed to do, subject to his availability. The membership of the group would be decided at the next meeting of the sub committee.

7. Miscellaneous

(i) Tests for TSE in Bovines

Following request of the members, the secretariat informed members that progress was being made in the organisation of the evaluation exercise of tests for TSE in bovines. It was anticipated that the exercise would be completed by early Spring.

(ii) Foot and Mouth disease

Dr. Ahl informed the sub committee of a meeting he attended in Pirbright from the 14th to 18th September concerning recent developments in Foot and Mouth Disease.

(iii) Scientific Steering Committee

Dr Garrido-Abellan informed the sub committee that he had written to the secretariat of the Scientific steering Committee nominating members of the Sub committee on Animal Health to participate in groups to assess BSE status of Member States and Third Countries. This was, of course, subject to the members availability and willingness to participate

The meeting was closed at 17:10