

# **Summary record of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare held on 16 December 1998 in Brussels, adopted 10 March 1999**

## **List of Participants:**

### **MEMBERS**

Dr. R. Ahl, Prof. D. Broom, Dr. F. Garrido-Abellan, Chairman, Dr. M. Gunn, Prof. J. Hartung, Prof. P. Jensen, Prof. Dr. V. Moennig, Prof. D. Morton, Prof. J. van Oirschot, Dr. P. Le Neindre, Prof. A-L. Parodi, Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch

### **COMMISSION**

Mr. J. Moynagh, Mr S. Beukema, Mr B Verleysen

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr. D. Alexander, Prof. S. Alexandersen, Dr. R. Dantzer, Prof. G. Panina, Prof. J. Badiola Diez, Prof. M. Verga

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

The agenda was adopted as proposed. The Chairman noted that interpretation facilities had not been provided on this occasion and thanked the members for their willingness to proceed without these facilities on this occasion.

## **2. Adoption of the record of the meeting of 21 October 1998**

The draft record of the meeting of 21 October 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 production of foie gras, the welfare aspects of the use of BST in dairy cows and on the welfare aspects of the rearing of chickens for meat production (broilers).

The report of the working group on foie gras was now complete and for discussion later today. The report on BST was at an advanced stage and should be ready for the next meeting of the Committee in March whereas the report on broilers was scheduled to be complete before the end of the year. The subcommittee has also been examining the issue of ventilation standards on animal transports and work on this question is ongoing.

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

Dr Ahl reported that two meetings 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. Meeting had also taken place of working groups looking at the updating of Council directive 64/432/EEC and at the possible links between crohns disease in man and paratuberculosis in animals and on classical swine fever in wild boar. It was estimated that the report on foot and mouth disease would be ready for the next meeting of the Committee and those on 64/432 and paratuberculosis for the following meeting.

## **6. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee:**

### **(i) Report on the Welfare aspects of the Production of Foie gras in Ducks and Geese**

Rapporteur: Dr. Le Neindre

Dr Le Neindre presented the report which had been approved by the Subcommittee on Animal Welfare on 23 November 1998. The Commission informed the Committee that they had received a letter from a member who could not be present, indicating that there were aspects of the report that he could not support. Following detailed examination and discussion the report was adopted by all members present, with minor amendments. It was agreed that the dissenting member be given the opportunity to express his views, as a minority opinion for inclusion in the report.

### **(ii) Report on the Use of Emergency Vaccination for Foot and Mouth Disease.**

Rapporteur: Prof. Panina

This item was postponed to a future meeting (see item 5 above)

## **7. Discussion and possible approval by the Committee of a report on the effects of using Bovine Somatotrophin (animal welfare contribution to Report of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health). Rapporteur Prof. Broom**

This item was postponed to a future meeting (see item 4 above)

## **8. Miscellaneous.**

Dr Garrido-Abellan gave an account of the recent meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee. He noted, in particular that the handbook on the evaluation of BSE status of Member States and Third Countries had been placed on the internet for comment.

It was noted that several members were unable to attend the next meeting provisionally scheduled for 17 March because of a clash of schedules with another event. It was agreed to try to hold the meeting one week earlier.