



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Health Opinions

Unit C2 - Management of scientific committees II; scientific co-operation and networks

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
SUB COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE**

Held on 26 March 2001 in Brussels

Adopted 25 June 2001

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List of Participants

MEMBERS

Dr. P. Le Neindre

Dr. H. Blokhuis

Prof. D. Broom (first vice chair)

Dr. D. Morton

Prof. M. Verga

APOLOGIES

Dr. R. Dantzer

Prof. P. Jensen (chairman)

COMMISSION

Mr. J. Moynagh

**MEETING OF THE
SUB COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE**

26 March 2001

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting of the subcommittee

The summary record of the meeting of the sub committee of 26 September 2001 was adopted with minor amendments.

3. Declarations of interest

No member reported any conflicts of interest relating to the items under discussion. One member mentioned that he had been contacted by lobby organisations concerning the future work of the Committee.

4. Discussion and possible approval of draft report on the animal welfare aspects of the keeping of cattle for beef production (Rapporteur: Dr P Le Neindre).

The sub committee reviewed the draft report which had been prepared by a working group under the chairmanship of Dr Le Neindre. This is a large and comprehensive report. The sub committee examined the draft report in detail and made several amendments and suggestions for improvements. The subcommittee will meet again on 3 April to complete this task and to review the modifications suggested, with a view to the approval of the report at that meeting.

5. Transport of animals – establishment of working group.

Following a general discussion on this topic the sub committee agreed on the composition of a working group to draft a report under the Chairmanship of Prof. Broom. The sub committee also agreed on the possibility of splitting the question, if appropriate, dealing with general transport issues (travel times and loading densities) first and then more specific issues such as roll-on roll-off ferries and transport of horses. Animal health issues were also important, particularly in the light of the current foot and mouth disease outbreak and the role played by the movement of animals.

6. Miscellaneous

Several items were discussed under miscellaneous.

a. Risk analysis working group

Dr Le Neindre reported on the working group of the Scientific Steering Committee dealing with the harmonisation of Risk Assessment methods. The subcommittee discussed the general principles of risk assessment. In particular, the possibility of including factors other than mortality and morbidity in risk assessment, in fields other than animal welfare where this is already the case, was felt to be an interesting development.

b. Foot and mouth disease

A short general discussion took place on the current foot and mouth epidemic. Several aspects had implications for animal welfare. It was important to ensure that animals were killed in a humane manner. The decision on whether and how to use vaccination also had animal welfare implications. As explained in an earlier report of the Committee, emergency vaccination could have an important role to play, but this very much depended on the epidemiological situation and the resources available. The most important point was to bring the outbreak under control as quickly as possible.

c. Laboratory animal welfare

Dr Le Neindre reported on discussions in the Steering Committee on the issue of laboratory animals. From an animal welfare perspective there were two aspects of concern, the methods of keeping these animals and the experimental procedures involved. The former may be more important, particularly since more transgenic animals were being kept.

d. Visit to fur farm

The sub committee also discussed an invitation that had been received to visit a fur farm prior to discussing the report on the welfare of animals kept for fur production. The sub committee noted that the working group which is responsible for preparing the draft scientific report had already carried out such a visit. In addition all members of the sub committee were familiar with these farming systems. Consequently it was decided to decline the invitation.

e. Xenotransplantation

The sub committee agreed to the nomination of Prof. Morton to participate in a working group of the Scientific Committee on Medical Products and Medical Devices dealing with xenotransplantation.