

Draft agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 12-13 September 2002

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
  2. Approval of the agenda
  3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27-28 June 2002
  4. Procedural matters (if any)
  5. Multidisciplinary matters:
    - a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees;
    - b. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods:
      - Progress report on Task Force activities;
      - Report on the feedback received on the public consultations;
    - c. Emerging scientific issues:
    - d. Azole antibiotic resistance (editorial update)
  6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
    - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meetings of 25 July and 5 September 2002
    - 6.2. Reports on specific multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE:
      - a. Geographical BSE Risk: the GBR of certain countries (progress report and opinions).
      - b. Update of the SSC opinion on the safety of gelatine;
      - c. Update of the SSC opinion on the safety of di- and tricalcium phosphate from bones;
      - d. Quantitative assessment of the risk of tallow, gelatine and dicalcium phosphate including also the influence of vertebral column and threshold age for its removal);
      - e. Safety of the alkaline hydrolysis process for waste disposal (info; progress report);
      - f. BSE risk of the bovine autonomic nervous system (progress report);
      - g. Feeding wild fishmeal to farmed fish; intra-species recycling of fish;
      - h. Potential risks arising from the use of small incinerators (progress report)
      - i. Conditions under which (1) safe burial and (2) safe burning can be achieved (progress report)
      - j. Necrophagous birds as possible transmitters of TSE/BSE.
      - k. Chronic Wasting Disease.
      - l. The risks of contamination of bovine skulls/heads and of cheek meat
      - m. Alkaline hydrolysis for waste treatment (update of opinion : progress report)
- TSEs in small ruminants:
- n. Intestine and casings;
  - o. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk methodology to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep (progress report);
  - p. Experimental transmission of BSE by blood transfusion
- Rapid tests:
- q. Rapid tests
    - Rapid BSE (discussion)
    - Programme for the evaluation of rapid *pm* tests to detect TSEs in sheep (discussion)
7. Information on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at previous SSC meetings.
  8. Information by the Commission services on other matters related to consumer health.
  9. Any other business.