

# **Summary Record of the Meeting of the Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare held on 23 June 1998 in Brussels adopted 21 October 1998**

## **List of Participants:**

### **MEMBERS**

Dr. R. Ahl , Dr. D. Alexander, Prof. S. Alexandersen, Prof. J. Badiola Diez , Prof. D. Broom, Dr. R. Dantzer , Dr. A. Dijkhuizen , Dr. F. Garrido-Abellan, Chairman, Prof. J. Hartung, Prof. P. Jensen, Dr. P. Le Neindre , Prof. Dr. V. Moennig, Prof. D. Morton , Prof. G. Panina , Prof. A-L. Parodi, Prof. J. van Oirschot, Dr. E. Vanopdenbosch, Prof. M. Verga

### **COMMISSION**

Mr. J. Moynagh, Mr H. Bazin, Mme A. Fabre, Mr B Verleysen, Mme A. Duysens

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr. M. Gunn

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

The agenda was adopted as proposed

## **2. Adoption of the record of the meeting of 24 March 1998**

The draft record of the meeting of 24 March was adopted without amendment.

## **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. Questions considered at these meetings included force feeding of ducks and geese, the use of certain gas mixtures for stunning poultry, standards for forced ventilation on animal transports and the welfare aspects of the use of bovine somatotrophin. A new working group had been established to look at the welfare of broiler chickens.

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

Dr Ahl reported that meetings of the Animal Health Subcommittee and several working groups had taken place since the previous meeting of the Committee. The main topics discussed at the meetings had been emergency vaccination against foot and mouth disease, eradication programmes for scrapie, possible link between paratuberculosis and crohns disease, swine vesicular disease and modifications to Council directive 64/432/EEC dealing with tuberculosis, brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis. At the last sub committee meeting experts were nominated as representatives on multidisciplinary committees on various topics .

## **6. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on the use of a gas mixture containing CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> for stunning poultry prior to slaughter. (Rapporteur Prof. Morton)**

Prof. Morton presented the report which had been approved by the Subcommittee on Animal Welfare on 18 May 1998. Prof. Morton also informed the committee that one member of the working group was not fully supportive of the recommendations in the report. Following discussion, the report was unanimously adopted by the Committee with some minor amendments.

## **7. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on criteria for the funding of eradication programmes for scrapie (Rapporteur Dr Vanopdenbosch)**

Dr Vanopdenbosch presented the report which had been approved by the Subcommittee on Animal Health on 19 May 1998. Following discussion the report was unanimously adopted by the Committee with minor amendments.

The Committee also noted that there was a need for advice on the policy of breeding and genotyping of sheep i.e. whether sheep should be bred to be resistant to scrapie with the risk of producing more silent cases of the disease or whether they should be bred to be susceptible, which would make the disease more evident.

## **8. Discussion and possible adoption by the Committee of a report on Swine**

Vesicular Disease (Rapporteur Prof. van Oirschot)

Dr. van Oirschot presented the report which had been approved by the Subcommittee on Animal Health on 19 May 1998. Following detailed discussion it was decided to make some amendments to the report, in particular by the addition of a general explanatory introduction. The new draft would be circulated for adoption by written procedure in accordance with Article 8. Of the Rules of Procedure. If not adopted the draft report will figure on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Committee.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

Prof. Dijkhuizen announced to the committee that he would be leaving academic life for a post in private industry from 1 September 1998. In consequence he would be leaving the Committee from that date. He thanked everybody for their co-operation in his time on the Committee and hoped to remain in contact with as many colleagues as possible.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee and the Commission, the Chairman Dr Garrido-Abellan thanked Prof. Dijkhuizen for his contribution both to this Committee and to the previous Scientific Veterinary Committee. Prof. Dijkhuizen's particular expertise had proved invaluable to the Committee in the past.

Dr Garrido also raised two issues from the Scientific Steering Committee. He noted that the Steering Committee had established a group to examine the question of antibacterial resistance. Two names had been supplied on behalf of the Committee as potential members of the group to examine this topic.

Dr Garrido also noted that in the absence of Prof. Dijkhuizen, it would be necessary to find a replacement for the Risk assessment group. He asked members to consider this at the next meetings of the subcommittees. He considered that it would be appropriate to nominate two experts, one each for animal health and animal welfare.

**The meeting concluded at 17.00h.**