

Minutes of the extra-ordinary Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 27-28 November 2000

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest in relation to the current agenda

Prof. Dr.Pascal welcomed the participants. He apologised Prof. Dr.James, Prof.Dr. Kroes, Prof. Van Belle and Prof. Bories (for both 27 and 28 November) and Prof.Dr.Jones and Prof. Hardy (for 28 November). Prof. Bories was replaced by his vice-chairman Prof. Anadon. The list of participants is attached as annex 1.

Declarations of interest:

No member declared an interest that could prevent him from participating in the discussion on any of the items on the meeting agenda.

2. Approval of the agenda

This meeting was an extra-ordinary session of the SSC, convened on request of the Council of Ministers to address the questions listed under item 4.2.a. The draft agenda was approved without changes and is attached as annex 2.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 26-27 October 2000

These minutes were adopted without changes.

4.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE ad-hoc group

The meeting of 23 November 2000 the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group was entirely dedicated to the examination of the scientific bases of national measures recently adopted by some Member States in relation to BSE. The report of this meeting served as the basis for the SSC discussions, which are reported on under item 4.2.

4.2. Reports on specific issues:

a. Examination of the scientific bases of national measures recently adopted by some Member States in relation to BSE.

In the light of the recent evolution of the number of BSE cases on its territory, France, between September and November 2000, introduced or envisaged introducing a number of additional risk management measures in order to increase the protection level of consumers and animals. Austria, Italy and Spain also took or envisaged taking a number of measures to reduce the risk of being challenged by BSE infectivity possibly imported from France and, in the case of Spain, also from Ireland. Finally, a debate was launched by several countries on the desirability of a general ban of meat-and-bone meal from animal feed, applicable to all farmed animals including cattle, pigs, poultry, farmed fish and pet food.

Following a request from the European Commission, these 4 Member States submitted their scientific bases for these (envisaged) measures.

All the documents provided by these 4 Member States providing the scientific grounds for their (envisaged) decisions, were provided to the SSC members, both in their original version and translated into English.

The Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) was requested to prepare a scientific opinion on:

- (1) the scientific basis for import bans proposed by 3 Member States with regard to BSE risks in France and the Republic of Ireland;
- (2) the scientific basis for several measures proposed by France with regard to BSE risks;
- (3) the scientific basis for banning certain animal proteins from the feed for all farmed animals, including pig, poultry, fish and pet animals

Following detailed discussion and in-depth analysis by the SSC of these national documents and of the report provided by the TSE/BSE ad hoc Group, the SSC adopted the opinion attached as annex 3.

b. Safety of the bovine intestine.

The discussions on this issue were part of the discussions on the previous item 4.2.a. The outcome is included in the opinion attached as annex 3.

c. Update of the opinion of May 1999 on the evolution of the BSE epidemic in the UK.

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time. It was referred to a next meeting

5. Organisational matters

No organisational matters were discussed.

6. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health

No information was provided by Commission services on matters related to consumer health.

7. Any other business

No other business were discussed.

The meeting ended on Tuesday 28 November, at 12h00

Annex 1: List of participants in the Scientific Steering Committee meeting on 27-28 November 2000

Members of the SSC

Ing. Georges Bories (excused for 27 and 28 November 2000), Prof. Arturo Anadon (replacing Ing. G. Bories on 27 November 2000), Prof. James W. Bridges, Dr. Fulgencio Garrido Abellán, Prof. Michael Gibney, Prof. Anthony R. Hardy (excused for 28 November 2000), Prof. Philip T. James (excused for 27 and 28 November 2000), Dr. Keith H. Jones (excused for 28 November 2000), Prof. Fritz H. Kemper, Prof. Werner Klein, Dr. Ib Knudsen, Prof. Robert Kroes (excused for 27 and 28 November 2000), Prof. Albert Osterhaus, Prof. Gérard Pascal, Prof. Vittorio Silano, Prof. Marcel Vanbelle (excused for 27 and 28 November 2000), Prof. Martin Wierup

Participants from the Commission:

DG SANCO: B. Carsin, C. Berlingieri, P. Vossen, J. Kreysa, M. de Sola, G. Fracchia, F. Drion, A. Sanabria, J. Costa-David, A. Fokkema, S. Abildgaard, I. Rollier, G. Morrison, V. Van Haepere, A. Santuccioni (Stagiaire), S. Pottier (Stagiaire), S. Bernal Blanco (Stagiaire).

LEGAL SERVICE: A. Bormes

Annex 2: Agenda of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee of 27-28 November 2000

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda.
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 26-27 October 2000
- 4.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group
- 4.2. Reports on specific issues:
 - a. Examination of the scientific bases of national measures recently adopted by some Member States in relation to BSE.

If time permits:

Tissue infectivity

- b. Safety of the bovine intestine;

Geographical BSE-risk.

- c. Update of the opinion of May 1999 on the evolution of the BSE epidemic in the UK.

5. Organisational matters.

- a. Dates of next meetings

6. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health.

7. Any other business.

Annex 3:

Opinion of the Scientific Steering Committee

- (1) on the scientific basis for import bans proposed by 3 Member States with regard to BSE risks in France and the Republic of Ireland;**
- (2) on the scientific basis for several measures proposed by France with regard to BSE risks;**
- (3) and on the scientific basis for banning animal protein from the feed for all farmed animals, including pig, poultry, fish and pet animals.**

Adopted by the Scientific Steering Committee at its meeting of 27-28 November 2000

(Document made available separately)