

Summary record of the meeting of the sub-committee on animal welfare held on 18 May 1998 in Brussels, adopted 21 September 1998

List of Participants

MEMBERS

Prof. D. Broom, Prof. Dr. J. Hartung, Dr. P. Le Neindre, Prof. M. Verga, Prof. P. Jensen, Dr. D. Morton

APOLOGIES

Dr. R. Dantzer

COMMISSION

Mr. J. Moynagh, Mr P Van Houwelingen DG VI

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting of the sub-Committee

The summary record of the meeting of the subcommittee of 23 and 24 February was adopted without amendment.

3. Discussion and possible adoption of reports of the Sub-Committee

(i) Advice on the use of a gas mixture containing CO₂, O₂ and N₂ for stunning poultry prior to slaughter.

Professor Morton circulated the draft report to the members and explained it and the position of the members of the working group in detail. Following discussion, a number of amendments were made to the report which was then approved by the sub committee. It will now be presented for adoption to the plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare on 23 June.

(ii) Standards for forced ventilation for animal transport vehicles for journeys of more than eight hours for the bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine species.

Professor Hartung explained the progress that had been made on this question to date. The matter was proving to be much more complex than it had first seemed. It was hoped to have a first working document ready for circulation in the near future.

4. Review and follow up of questions put to the Sub-Committee - Fixing of working groups

(i) The effects of using Bovine Somatotrophin.

Professor Broom reported to the sub committee on a meeting of the working group of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Public Health which he had attended and which was examining the public health aspects of the issue. Two items in particular seemed to be giving cause for concern, the effects of IGF1 and the consequences of increased

antibiotic use resulting from higher mastitis levels in treated cows.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the working group on Animal Welfare on 8 June. It was also agreed to contact scientists and research workers in the field to obtain up to date information.

(ii) Welfare requirements for broilers with emphasis on housing systems.

The formal question put to the Committee is now available. The sub committee discussed the setting up of the working group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Jensen to examine this topic. Several names were suggested as participants in the working group. Members were also asked to consider additional participants and to communicate the this information to the secretariat and to Prof. Jensen. It is anticipated that work on this topic will commence in the Autumn a target for completion in late spring 1999.

(iii) Relationship between animal welfare and product quality.

DGVI had asked the Committee to consider the links between animal Welfare and Product quality. Following discussion, it was apparent that this issue was extremely broad and to be manageable needed to be more focussed. It was suggested that the question initially concentrate on a specific product such as eggs or pigmeat. The representative of DGVI undertook to reconsider the wording of this question.

5. Progress report - Force feeding of ducks and geese.

This matter was briefly reviewed. A meeting of the working group set up to examine the question would be held on 10 June.

6. Miscellaneous

Council of Europe discussions on Laboratory Animals

The secretariat conveyed apologies from DGXI on their non availability and conveyed some information received from them concerning the adoption of the laboratory animals Directive.