

Draft agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 6-7 March 2003

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 16-17 January 2003.
4. Procedural matters
  - Update on EFSA and the current transitional stage.
5. Multidisciplinary matters:
  - a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees;
  - b. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods: final discussions on the reports on:
    - Ecological Risk Assessment of Chemicals
    - Risk Assessment for Animal Populations
    - Setting Scientific Criteria for the Assessment of Quality of Life
  - c. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods: final opinion.
  - d. Emerging scientific issues.
  - e. Guidance document on the information needed for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed.
6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
  - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meetings of 20 February 2003
  - 6.2. Reports on specific multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE:
    - a. Geographical BSE Risk: the GBR of certain countries.
    - b. Update of the SSC opinion on the safety of di- and tricalcium phosphate from bones;
    - c. Safety of gelatine: update in the light of recent research results.
    - d. Quantitative assessment of the risk of tallow, gelatine and dicalcium phosphate;
    - e. BSE risk of the bovine autonomic nervous system;
    - f. Chronic Wasting Disease.
    - g. BSE cases born after the reinforced feed ban in the UK (BARBs)
    - h. BSE-related culling in cattle.
    - i. The feeding of wild fishmeal to farmed fish and recycling of fish with regard to the risk of TSE.
    - j. Rapid tests: Information
    - k. New developments in the field of TSEs, possibly requiring further attention from the SSC or to be transferred to EFSA.
    - l. Summary overview of 1997-2003 opinions and reports.
7. Information on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at previous SSC meetings.
  - the Commission's current strategy with regard to the introduction of resistance to TSEs in small ruminants via breeding strategies;
  - the follow-up given to the SSC's *Suggested strategy to investigate the presence of BSE in small ruminants (adopted on 04-05 April 2002)*.
8. Information by the Commission services on other matters related to consumer health.
9. Any other business.