



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions

C2 - Management of scientific committees; scientific co-operation and networks

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SCVPH PLENARY MEETING OF 10-11 APRIL 2002

(APPROVED ON 19 JUNE 2002)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee.

For apologies and absences, see the attached attendance list.

No conflicts of interest with the items proposed for discussion in the agenda were declared.

In view of the discussion on “hormones” the Chair of the Committee was given to the first Vice-Chairman in order to allow the Chairman of the WG (also Chair of the Committee) to present the document in conjunction with the rapporteur of the WG. The Committee agreed upon this.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A small change in the order of discussion of items 4.1 and 4.2 of the agenda was agreed. The agenda was adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 30-31 JANUARY 2002

The proposed minutes were adopted.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A SCIENTIFIC OPINION CONCERNING :

4.1. “Hormones”

The Committee was asked to review its previous opinion in the light of the 17 studies, launched by the Commission in early 1998, and of recent scientific data. The Chairman of the WG and the rapporteur briefed the Committee on the work prepared by the working group and presented the draft document. A page by page approach was agreed.

Main discussion was focused on the general conclusions and the part of the text related to the environmental aspects. Regarding the environmental

data from some of the 17 studies the Committee commented that these aspects were not considered in its previous opinions. Therefore it was agreed to include a short introduction and a final conclusion to this issue in the body of the document and detailed discussion of the related studies in an Annex. Further to the discussion an updated version of the general conclusions was tabled to the members of the Committee for final agreement.

After a re-appraisal of these data, the SCVPH confirmed the validity of its previous opinions and stated that no amendments to its previous opinions are justified. The Committee adopted the document unanimously, pending minor editorial changes to be made by the Chairman and the secretariat.

4.2. Working group on Criteria on methods for *Salmonella* detection

Following the discussion of the previous plenary meeting, the Chairman of the group presented the draft document and the amendments which were made since the last presentation, taking into account previous comments of the Committee. The Committee in recognising the effort made by the working group, complimented them for the work done. The Committee commented upon the document and proposed developments and amendments to some sections. No final approval was possible and it was agreed to present a revised document for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

5. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE:

5.1. Working group on *Salmonellae*

The draft document was presented by the Chairman of the working group to the Committee. The working group considered the mandate constituted by three terms of references. The first is a list compiling food-commodities important for *Salmonellae*, based on the associated risk. The Committee asked to clarify this part and comment on the criteria considered for the ranking. Regarding the impact of microbiological criteria on potential reduction of risk to Public Health, this was discussed and commented upon. Further comments were made to the document in view of the scheduled joint WG meeting of the two groups (*Salmonellae* and VTEC). An amended draft document will be tabled for discussion at the next plenary meeting.

5.2. Working group on VTEC

A draft document was presented to the Committee. Although the terms of references were similar for VTEC and salmonellae, the Committee recognised different problems linked to the micro-organisms considered. Comments were made to the document. A joint working group meeting and a VTEC working group meeting are planned. A new draft document is expected to be presented at the next plenary meeting of June.

5.3. Working group on honey

The Chairman of the working group informed the Committee on the progress made. A draft document was presented to the Committee. The members of the Committee complimented the working group for the draft presented and were briefed about the future steps to be made. The working group will meet again at the end of April.

6. INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON POSSIBLE NEW QUESTIONS

The members of the *ad hoc* working group on “revision of meat inspection in veal calves” were presented to the Committee, who endorsed the composition of the group. The Working Group will meet next month. Upon request of a Member of the Committee, it was agreed to possibly consider an additional *ad hoc* expert, if needed by the group.

A new question on “Staphylococcal enterotoxins in milk products, particularly cheeses” was presented to the Committee. The Committee agreed to accept the mandate. Regarding the setting up of the new *ad hoc* working group the Committee gave mandate to the Chairman of the working group together with the secretariat to identify appropriate working group members. The members of the Committee were also requested to propose experts in the field of interest. It was agreed that the proposals should be sent to the rapporteur with copy to the secretariat within two weeks.

7. FEED-BACK BY THE CHAIRMAN ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE SSC WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

None.

8. FEED-BACK BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVING ATTENDED WORKING GROUP MEETINGS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

The SCVPH member of the current SCF *ad hoc* working group on “Fruit and Vegetables microbiology” reported that the opinion was adopted at the last plenary meeting of the SCF.

The SCVPH member of the *ad hoc* working group on TSE briefed the members on the progress made by the group.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

The committee agreed to discuss and forward an overview on possible new areas of research for the Sixth Framework of research.

Annex I: Attendance

Members

Dr. A. Baars,
Prof. J. Brugere-Picoux,
Dr. P. Colin,
Prof. J. Fink-Gremmels (chairman),
Prof. R. Fries,
Dr. P.Gerner-Smidt (11 April),
Prof. A. Johnston (I vice-chairman, 10 April),
Dr. H. Kruse,
Prof. A. Macri,
Dr. R. Maijala,
Prof. C. Martinez Bordenave-Gassedat,
Dr.W. Pfau,
Dr. T. Roberts,
Prof. F. Smulders,
Prof. J. Van Hoof.

Apologies

Dr. P.Gerner-Smidt (10 April),
Prof. A. Mantis,
Dr. I. Vågsholm,
Prof. A. Vuitton(II vice-chairman).

Absent

Prof. V. Caporale

COMMISSION

Mrs R. Diez (SANCO/C2),
Mrs M. Marini (SANCO/C2),
Mr R. Horgan (SANCO/C2),
Mr B. Verleysen (SANCO/C2).