



News from Brussels

Wednesday January 11th 2012

FESASS has had some contacts with the DG SANCO and the Danish Presidency, about the most important topics and events for the first semester of 2012. Please find below a summary of all information I have collected so far.

1°) Danish Presidency

Among the Danish Presidency's priorities, there are two major issues for FESASS:

- Animal welfare (transport and action plan for 2011-2015),
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Besides the Presidency wants to work on the improvement of food safety through the harmonisation of standards. Of course, for Agriculture in general, the Presidency will give priority to the work on the reform of the CAP.

a) Animal welfare

The Presidency is planning to work on the follow-up of the Commission's report on the impact of regulation 1/2005 concerning the protection of animals during transport (you can find the report of the Commission here:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st16/st16798.en11.pdf>).

This document describes progress on the application of the EU regulation on animal transport, and identifies several ways to address the problems that have arisen. However, the report is not accompanied by a legislative proposal. The Commission pointed out the need for a correct enforcement of certain measures and insisted on the harmonisation in the implementation of this regulation within the EU. A first meeting of the experts group of the Council will be held on January 13th.

We expect that the Commission will adopt its five years action plan for animal welfare for January 19th. This step will be very important. DG SANCO wants to build a new animal welfare strategy and it will setup on an animal welfare law (like animal health law) which will be the corner stone of its future policy.

The Presidency has chosen to have a first discussion on this communication during the next meeting of the Council. It has planned to organise expert meetings on the action plan on 14 February 2012, 23 March 2012 and 25 April 2012 and would like to get a position of the Council on June 15th-16th meeting of the Ministers.

FESASS will have to prepare a reaction about the report and the action plan as soon as possible and not later than March 23rd experts group meeting.

b) Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

The Commission's communication on the European action plan against AMR is expected to be discussed on March 29th and April 17th in the Health Experts group of the Council. The Presidency will also organise a conference on AMR "Combating antimicrobial resistance – time for a joint action". It will take place on March 14th and 15th in Copenhagen (in English only, please find the description enclosed).

And the Presidency is planning to get a Council's position during the meeting of June.

FESASS will have also to prepare a position paper about this action plan (if possible for March 29th) and to evaluate if it would be necessary for us to attend this conference.

c) Other dates:

- **February 2nd and 3rd : Conference on future meat inspection (Copenhagen)**

The Conference is to bring together officials from the EU and 3rd countries to discuss the future of EU's meat inspection system.

- **June 6th to 8th : Informal meeting of Chief Veterinary officers (Horsens, Dk)**

2°) Vaccination against Bluetongue: the proposal of directive amending directive 2000/75/EC is likely to be adopted by the European Parliament on the February 13th.

A Council's position was pre-negotiated with the European Parliament with a view to reaching an early second reading agreement to allow the entry into force of the new rules in time for the vaccination campaigns of 2012 (you can find Draft statement of the Council's reasons here <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st16/st16696-ad01re01.en11.pdf>). The Council adopted this position on December. The Parliament could adopt it on February 13th (in second reading) without any amendment and after the vote, the project of directive will be officially adopted with the signature of the President of Parliament during the March Session.

In the light of this calendar, the DG SANCO will present to the SCOFCAH the proposal of regulation amending the Commission regulation (EC) 1266/2007 during its March 8th meeting. The dead line targeted by the DG SANCO for the enforcement of the new rules is the July 1st 2012.